

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Fall 2022

Thursday Evening Drawing – IN-PERSON

The Figure in Context

Instructor: Sam Levy
Class Hours: Thursdays, 6:30pm-9:30pm ET
First Class: September 22, 2022
Last Class: December 8, 2022
No Class: November 24, 2022

Course Description

Drawing is the most direct response to what and how we see. In this course, we will develop our ability to describe and construct the figure spatially by working from a model. We will explore the language of drawing and image-making by working from direct perception.

Course Outline

Each week students will draw from the model in a variety of short and/or long poses, in constructed setups. The size of drawings will vary, sometimes very small, and sometimes life-size. Students should expect to have many drawings made by the end of the semester. Many artists and artworks will be presented as examples and for discussion guiding the classwork. Generally, we will critique each other's work at the end of class, sometimes going beyond the 9:30pm end time of working with the model.

Learning Outcomes

Students will better understand the language of drawing, the idea of seeing relationally, and how to spatially describe forms in space. This class will consider the architecture of the overall rectangle and how to construct a figure in that dimension. Considerations such as time and the ability to work on one sustained drawing will be part of our practice. Physicality in drawing, linear versus mass, scale of parts to the whole, light, and all aspects of how to draw intuitively and analytically will develop. Students will also increase their knowledge of artists, art history, and images.

Assessable Tasks

Individual development, of visual language in formal and artistic terms, is the primary basis of assessment. Attendance, participation in group discussion and/or individual dialogues are also very important.

Evaluation and Grading

Grading is on a High Pass/Pass/Low Performance/Fail basis for NYSS MFA students. To achieve a Pass grade, students must maintain attendance, participate in discussions, and demonstrate an overall engagement with material in drawing.

Readings and Resources

The Human Figure, Albrecht Dürer

Cézanne Drawing, Jodi Hauptman

George Seurat, The Drawings, Jodi Hauptman
Vincent Van Gogh: The Drawings, Colta Feller Ivés
Rembrandt the Complete Etchings, by K.G. Boon
Drawings of Rembrandt: Volumes I & II Slive
Master Drawings, by Terisio Pignatti

Materials and supplies

A Variety of soft and hard Pencils B, 2B, 3B, 4B suggested A handheld pencil sharpener
Black and blue Ballpoint pens
2 Sanguine Conté Crayons

Charcoal Sticks (I recommend Coates brand) 2 boxes of 4
3 boxes of 12
3 boxes of 25

3 Stadler Erasers
A chamois cloth (cheaper, large sizes are available at hardware stores)

Paper Options:

Good Quality Paper is recommended, but can be costly, and any brand of 22" x 30" is best. Try to have 20/25 sheets of paper and a sketchbook.

Some suggestions: 22" x 30" *Fabriano Studio Watercolor Paper*, cold or hot Press, 90 or 140 lb (300 gsm) or *Legion Stonehenge White* 22" x 30"; A large Drawing pad 18" x 24" is ok, or individual sheets of Canson Classic Cream Drawing Paper 18" x 24" 90lbs. Anything similar to this that works for you is fine.

A small sketchbook: 5" x 7" or 8.5" x 11" ish (get the paper quality you prefer, light-weight / heavy / hot / cold)

A metal ruler 18" or 36"
Pushpins or a staple gun
Masking or artist tape

Scissors or box knife
Glue
A ball of string

School, Department & Class Policies Please refer to the Student Handbook for information regarding the School's policies on academic integrity and plagiarism. All students must abide by the general health and safety regulations laid out in the Student Handbook, as well as any specific instructions given by the Instructor. All students will follow the School's current COVID-19 guidelines and procedures to maintain a healthy and safe working environment for the NYSS community.