

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Spring 2023

DRAWING MARATHON – VIRTUAL

Duel/Dual: Abstraction in the Process of Drawing & Figuration in the Abstraction of Looking
with Graham Nickson & Guests

Instructor: Graham Nickson & Guests
Class Hours: 9am – 6pm ET (plus occasional evening critiques)
Tuesday, January 17 - Friday, January 27
(class meets daily excluding Sunday, January 22)
Office Hours: By appointment, please email bchessman@nyss.org

Course Description

In the Drawing Marathon, students learn the importance of drawing as the basis for understanding their experience of the world. Drawing is seen here as the most direct route to the examination of our perceptions. Unorthodox tools and exercises will be introduced to broaden the student's drawing vocabulary. The class meets every day from 9am to 6pm ET, five days a week. Evening critiques will be held occasionally throughout the two weeks and times of the critiques will be announced during respective sessions. We will utilize Zoom as our virtual "studio" and Padlet as our virtual "studio walls" during this virtual Marathon. All sessions are led in real time with the Instructor and Teaching Assistants.

Course Outline

In this Drawing Marathon, we will approach the meaning of images and investigate what contributes to a "powerful image". We will discuss 'pictorial' subject versus 'narrative' subject as we employ diverse structures: the grid, the organic spiral, and geometry, all of which can function as essential strategies in the language of drawing.

This course will investigate many implications of drawing as a physical and cerebral activity, as well as drawing as a philosophy. We will discuss key issues, including those of scale; the use of different formats; the use of the rectangle; the vertical axis and its significance; the nature of distortions; the compression of space and depth; the search for 'form' and its consequences; space and its meaning, functions and the different kinds of space; and the nature of relational drawing.

Each day produces an intense working mode, utilizing the vitality of everyone's purpose. Students work very hard and are offered individual criticism on a one-to-one basis. The average day usually contains a variety of group critiques and different drawing projects. Students are encouraged to participate and understand the visual language of drawing.

Materials and supplies

- Black acrylic paint, 32 oz.
- White acrylic paint, 32 oz.
- Acrylic gloss medium, 32 oz.
- Acrylic paint, 8 oz. each
 - Yellow ochre
 - Cadmium Yellow Medium
 - Quinacridone Rose or Magenta
 - Indian red
 - Cobalt or Cerulean blue (no pthalo)
- Hard pastels/Conte, 2-3 of each
 - Indian red
 - Burnt umber
 - Yellow ochre

- Colored pencils, 2 of each
 - Indian red
 - Prussian blue
- Set of Watercolors (Optional)
- Set of Colored Pencils (Optional)
- Pencils, a selection of 6B through 2h (a standard set of drawing pencils works well)
- Vine charcoal, willow:
 - Thin –3 boxes
 - Medium – 6 boxes
 - Extra-large – 2 or 3 boxes
- Paper (recommended brands are Fabriano, Montval, Saunders, Stonehenge, Canson, Dick Blick Student Watercolor Paper): 100 sheets of 22" x 30", **90lb, cold press**
 - Paper Rolls are an Option for working large if you have space. We recommend a combination of 40 sheets of 22" x 30" paper and One paper roll approx.10 yards x 60" roll of paper, **140 lb, cold press**
- Brushes:
 - Large housepainters or chip brushes- 1" or 2"
 - Bristle rounds- a selection of small to large, at least 3
- Sabeline or other fine synthetic- small and medium for fine edges, at least 2
- Staedtler erasers, at least 3
- Chamois cloth (old soft t-shirt or rag works as well)
- Pushpins, one box
- Staple gun & at least one box of staples (we recommend the T-50 for the best heavy-duty stapler)
- Staple remover
- Scissors
- Masking tape & white (artist's) tape
- *Ball of string*
- Measuring tape and yard stick or T-square
- Paper towels
- Large surface for palette (recommended 20" x 20", can be plastic or thin wood sealed)
- black ink

Useful Items:

- Palette knife – med/large blade for mixing
- Spoon for getting paint out of jars
- Latex gloves
- Water spray bottle
- Containers for acrylic paint (Large yogurt containers or something similar)

*****Please Keep All Receipts*** *Due to the improvisational nature of the marathon, some materials may not be utilized in full. If you would like the option of potentially returning un-used materials, please do not open them.***

***NO CHARCOLE OR COMPRESSED CHARCOAL**

***NO PADS OR NEWSPRINT**

Evaluation and Grading

NYSS MFA Students will be evaluated based on their studio practice, their participation in and contributions to the class, as well as the assignments listed above. Grading is on a High Pass/Pass/Low Performance/Fail basis. Visiting participants will not receive grades or evaluations for this course.

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(s). We expect excellent studio practice from all students. This encompasses respect for models, fellow students and faculty.

NYSS Student Conduct for Virtual Learning

To maintain a virtual space wherein participants feel at ease to share and learn openly with one another, the New York Studio School prohibits participants in virtual classes from recording, taking screenshots, or otherwise copying any portion of New York Studio School's online courses. While participants are free to share images of their own coursework, sharing or posting images or recordings from a virtual class on social media is prohibited without the consent of the instructor, models, and students from class. Course content is solely for registered students of the class and cannot be shared with others. By participating in virtual courses, students are aware that the New York Studio School may record and archive Zoom meetings, Padlet pages, and other content from the course.