

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Spring 2023

Thursday Evening Drawing – VIRTUAL

Instructor: John Lees
Class Hours: Thursdays, 6:30pm – 9:30pm ET
First Class: February 2, 2023
Last Class: April 13, 2023
No Class:

Course Description

The Virtual Drawing class is designed specifically for Zoom and Padlet. We will explore the sensual beauty of the formal elements of drawing interacting with the seen and imagined world to build visual images. The class is open to students from all drawing backgrounds – beginning through advanced. The only prerequisite is a willingness to keep an open mind regarding the classroom experience.

Course Outline

We will examine master drawings, observing how a small selection of materials (graphite, conte crayons, chalk, charcoal, ink, gouache) have been used to create visual images; how they have been used to establish proportions; the qualities and range of the materials; the roles of line, value, and the spaces between things. Students will apply the foregoing to drawings of their own, working by transcription (interpretations of master drawings), from perception (working from living things, objects, interior or exterior spaces), and improvisation (finding images in marks made without reference to things outside of the drawings themselves). Participants will explore the complex nature of the following themes in relation to constructing drawings: the sensual beauty of ink; drawing and writing, with both pen and brush; drawing for gesture, building a drawing and considering scale; the colors of drawing, including the color of paper, tonal elements and value range; the response of materials as responding to fingertip pressure, and the use of erasure to lighten a value and make further work possible. Students will also experience the importance of keeping a sketchbook that is constantly carried, and which allows the freedom to allow one to get lost in a drawing. Participants should decide which type of sketchbook best satisfies their needs, and become acquainted with a range of papers and mediums to find what suits their style.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will learn to assess which materials and approaches they wish to incorporate into their personal drawing activity; they will noticeably expand their drawing skills; they will further develop their critical capacity; and will cultivate a greater aesthetic pleasure from the sensual, musical qualities of drawing. Assessable Tasks Students will produce drawings reflective of the class experience. Drawings will range in size and will include sketch books.

Evaluation and Grading

[For NYSS MFA students only] Grading is on a High Pass/Pass/Low Performance/Fail basis. To achieve a Pass grade, students must exhibit full participation in the theme of the class and in executing necessary works. Attendance at 90% or above is mandatory.

Readings and Resources Suggested

A Giacometti Portrait by James Lord

The Voices of Silence by Andre Malraux

Film: The Artist and the Model (French ,2012) Directed by Fernando Trueba

Film: Camille Claudel (French, 1988) Directed by Bruno Nuytten

(This list will be expanded and diversified by classroom discussion and suggestion)

Materials and Supplies

- eraser (Pink Pearl or whatever preferred)
- Conte crayons – sticks or pencils (black, sanguine, bistre, white)
- vine charcoal – (optional)
- pencils – hard – 4H medium – HB (or #2) soft -4B
- hand pencil sharpener
- pen holder
- pen points (usually sold now in small plastic bags –a few to a bag ---pointed, but not the tiny croquille kind ---)
- bamboo pen
- inks ----black (Indian or sumi ----Black Magic by Higgins is reliable) Walnut or sepia (Pelikan sepia if you can find it) AND/OR Higgins Neutral Grey (a forgiving ,lighter alternate to India Ink).
- medium sized, cheap pointed watercolor brush (Japanese calligraphy brush recommended)
- container for water with lid (peanut butter jar)
- variety of small jars with lids (baby food size) or empty ink bottles for diluted ink mixtures
- scissors
- cheap, flat 1 in. brush
- acrylic Gel medium ----small jar, to be used as glue
- palette knife, or a butter knife, or plastic knife ---- for spreading Gel Paper, sketchbooks
- spiral bound Strathmore 400 Series 9 x 12, or 11 x 14 ---off –white-----a good, strong basic drawing paper. Further suggestions will be made during the class, or bring any papers you like or are curious about.
- pocket size sketchbook, inexpensive with at least 50 sheets of paper for quick entry level sketches.... Moleskin type, or spiral bound type found in drug stores or markets
- 5 x 7 or 8 x 10 sketchbook that appeals to you as a visual journal

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.

NYSS Student Conduct for Virtual Learning

In order 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