

# NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

## OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Spring 2023

Monday Evening Sculpture – IN-PERSON:

New Images of Man

**Instructor:** Brandt Junceau  
**Class Hours:** Monday 6:30pm – 9:30pm ET  
**First class:** January 30, 2023  
**Last class:** April 17, 2023  
**No Class:** February 20, 2023  
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### Course Description

In 1959 the cold war was a black mirror, in which Mankind as proposed by the Greeks, the Renaissance and the Enlightenment hardly recognised itself.

That shows in the sculpture of the fifties. MoMA's *New Images of Man* exhibition, we see now, was a first look at our future.

This course is a round of twentieth Century sculptural "problems" rooted in the mid-century. What Picasso, Moore, Giacometti, DeKooning and Noguchi had on their minds then, is the basis of sculpture in Chelsea and uptown, now. By trying out their personal, obsessive go-to working methods, we can see the world through their eyes. And over the shoulders of artists working today.

We will work in clay with and without a model. Previous experience in working from life, is welcome, but not at all needed. You might be surprised at how much sculpture from life depends on a problem, rather than the model.

You'll walk away with a suite of various and peculiar terra cottas. Each is a permanent imprint of a thought, a feeling, a deed and a moment: terra cotta remembers *everything*. How basic are these "problems?" Let's start with the skull - we investigate the cabinet of the soul. Believe me, you'll have plenty to think about these Monday evenings, and for a long time to come.

### Course Outline

We start with a slide talk and I will lead off each new exercise with pictures. They start a conversation that continues all the way thorough. It proceeds on topic, with a life of its own. Looking back, the course seems an ensemble chamber piece, with a script we read as went. Doing and talking, talking and doing.

We meet 11 times. Do be punctual, because our time is short, unique and unrepeatable.

The hands-on work will be in clay. With and without a model, depending on the problem. We have a kiln in-house, so you will take away what you make, in terra cotta (Italian for baked earth). Terra cotta last forever. I insist each piece is signed and dated, which believe me you'll get a kick out of 10, 20 years and more from now. Terra cotta is like a fingerprint of a moment in time and place. A bit like Proust's madeleine, except you'll always have the terra cotta.

### **Learning Outcomes**

I tell people that with a lump of fresh clay in your hand, you hold western civilisation itself.

Working with your hands *is* thinking. You'll learn basically modelling skills, which are essentially grammar and rhetoric. Learning to state an issue and speak clearly, to a point.

Beyond that, I could tell you lots of what's possible, but ultimately what *you* learn depends on what you want to know, what you ask, who else is in the room, and the chemistry between us all. Sometimes the things you walk away with are an answer to someone else's question, or simply the well-shaped open question, itself.

### **Evaluation and Grading**

For NYSS MFA students, grading is on a High Pass/Pass/Low Performance/Fail basis. To achieve a Pass grade, students must be present, punctual, produce sculptures in accordance with the prompts, participate.

### **Readings and Resources**

Our Reading List is the powerpoints noted above. I'll mention and quote texts. After class, I send out the Powerpoint, or an email, so you will have all the images we discuss. Many are unpublished elsewhere.

### **Materials and supplies**

You'll need a few basic wooden modelling tools. Buy what you can off the shelf (Compleat Sculptor is an easy source, in-person or online) but the rest will be borrowable here. Do bring an "elephant ear" sponge, and some throwaway bath towel or other nappy cloth.

We'll talk about tools later, as need arises.

NYSS supplies clay, armatures, and select firing. You take home terra cottas.

### **School, Department & Class Policies**

Please be punctual. We have only so much time. Never enough. *Please do not listen to devices in class.* What's said in the room is invaluable. So is the quiet between—it should not be filled up. 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.