

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Spring 2023
Drawing Process – IN-PERSON

Instructor: Ilse Sørensen Murdock
Class Hours: Thursdays 9am - 1pm
Dates: February 2, 2023 – April 27, 2023
No class: April 6, 2023 (Spring Break)
Contact Info: see Program Office

Course Description

Drawing is the aspect of unearthing one's own art and ideas, of finding movement through this evolving sounding board, of being in a mode of interior thinking and receiving next steps. This course poses drawing as a question or search that will enrich each individual's particular art context and contemporary perspective. With a strong emphasis on "looking", at both subjects and drawings themselves, students will work to expand their visual language and strengthen their individual approach through a question they set up for themselves. Returning to this question, as the parameters broaden, becomes a connective thread towards the weaving of a personal paradigm within one's work.

Course Outline

Assignments and class hours "workshopping" approaches to perceptual drawing are intended to understand observation within the context and development of one's individual "studio" work. Using live models and other varied life-drawing situations, we will parse out formal focal points like scale relationship to the body, relational language, how mark-making operates, types of space, the function of the rectangle and tonal structure. We will work with figure drawing within a modern framework that is as much about the act of seeing and representing as it is about a vehicle for opening form in a way that allows for abstraction, prompts responses and spurs on the act of reflective making. Contemporary approaches will also be explored such as performative and conceptual drawing, attention to surface and the picture plane, and working with the line of resistance and pacing. Students will work both inside and out of class hours to generate source material and/or define their sources by identifying areas ripe for expansion. Other required participation may include creating a class set-up and curating class padlets and more. Students will be supported while widening the circumference around what they assume is possible in drawing, using consistent feedback from peers and the Instructor to root their discoveries and interests.

Learning Outcomes

Students will gain an understanding of how to use drawing to work through new directives in their work as they arise, to use drawing as a means to expand their work as a whole. They will be able to describe their primary interests in drawing in terms of application. Students will come away having a new body of drawings expressing their development within their own particular vision as an artist.

Assessable Tasks

Assignments will be given on a regular basis, and students should be prepared to develop their work both inside and outside of class. Students are expected to participate in critiques and are each responsible for at least one set up day.

Evaluation and Grading

It is expected that students enrolled are committed to rigorous involvement and taking risks. Failure in art-making is inevitable, however continual "showing up" is how one's failures might be used for edification. For NYSS MFA candidates to achieve a pass grade, students must attend all class hours or make up the content equivalent; fulfill all assignments to at least satisfactory level; show a commitment and willingness to explore class material covered; make an effort to participate in group discussions and critiques.

Readings and Resources

Reading and recourses will be selected and compiled within the group on class days 1 and 2.

Materials and supplies

This class seeks to expand the idea of what in fact might be used to draw with, and what indeed, might be a drawing. It is suggested students be prepared with the following basic drawing materials while remaining open to adding other materials that might serve exploration within a personal direction.

- - 18"x 24" drawing pad, decent quality (at least one)
- - Individual sheets of quality watercolor paper 22" x 30" or larger
- - Arches 140lb watercolor paper roll made from 100% rag, Cold Press, 44" x 10 yd or other roll of good quality drawing paper (this is not required, but good to have at least half a roll handy. Students could partner to split a roll.)
- - At least one sketchbook
- - 2H 2B 4B pencils
- - Graphite sticks
- - Vine charcoal - soft, medium, hard
- - White erasers
- - A sharpening tool
- - Paper towels or shammy
- - Staple gun and/or push pins
- - Artists tape
- - Drawing ink and brushes
- - Black and white acrylic paint tubes, large
- - Brushes for water based paint
- - Small surface for paint mixing

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. Students are expected to be on time and to attend all classes. Classes missed due to Covid related precautions will be excused. All students must follow Covid related guidelines and entry protocols established by the School.