NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL
OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Fall 2023
Friday Evening Painting on Paper – IN-PERSON

Instructor: Kaitlin McDonough
Class Hours: 6:30pm – 9:30pm ET
First Class: Friday, September 22, 2023
Last Class: Friday, December 15, 2023
No Class: November 11 AND November 24, 2023

Course Description
With an emphasis on perception and engagement with materials, this course will expand one’s ability to see relationally. Participants are invited to use a range of water-based materials such as ink, watercolor and acrylic, along with collage and/or other materials to translate what they perceive (including, but not limited to, what one perceives through sight) into a visual system of organization, creating works that will range in duration and scale. Through painting, we will explore: relationships, looking and perceiving, light and value, mark-making and touch, color and vibration, scale and materiality, atmosphere and air, meaning, organization and mystery, tone and energy. This series will also focus on the cultivation of each participant’s respective motivations, methods and subsequent meanings in painting. All levels of experience are welcome.

Course Outline
Class meetings will present visual situations and themes, typically including a live model, and the majority of class time will be spent making paintings from observation or through a suggested alternative strategy. Formal aspects of drawing and painting will be emphasized so as to better integrate these elements within the overall content and emotional tenor of the work. Works on paper will vary in size, media, strategy, duration and focus.

Learning Outcomes
This course is designed to heighten attention and sensitivity to one’s actions during the act of painting on paper and to heighten attention and sensitivity to the viewing of works. Participants will learn to translate three-dimensional space into two-dimensional marks; to respond energetically as well as analytically to observed space and form; to cultivate studio habits that will lead to self-sufficiency; and to begin to recognize strategies for art-making which bring them joy and elicit a response of ‘yes’.

Assessable Tasks
Paintings on paper will be developed during each class session; participants should expect to complete a combination of long works and/or multiple short works during each session. It is suggested that all students keep a sketchbook in which they build, independently, upon the class strategies which they find to be the most useful to their own practice.

Evaluation and Grading
For NYSS MFA students, grading is on a High Pass/Pass/Low Performance/Fail basis. To achieve a Pass grade, students should demonstrate engagement with their work, strong participation and attendance, and a striving
to find a balance between effort and ease in making. A grade of High Pass will be reserved for students who demonstrate the above to an exceptional degree. Please refer to the Student Handbook for the attendance policy; three unexcused absences will result in a lower grade and possibly failure/automatic withdrawal from the course.

Materials and Supplies

- Please choose at least one of the following (you are welcome to bring more than one):
  - Watercolors (a tray set is great)
  - Ink (black and/or colored)
  - Acrylics (please bring black and white and at least three colors)
  - Gouache
- Containers for water, at least two (can be clean jars or other plastic cups).
- Brushes for whichever material you will be using of those listed above (at least 2 or 3 brushes, if not more, of varying sizes, [one sable recommended for watercolor and/or ink])
- A range of paper; please bring at least 3 sheets of paper to each class. Recommended weight 140lb. or more, recommended size (approximately) 18” X 24”.
  You are welcome to experiment with different types of paper during each class & throughout the course.
- Old magazines (or similar) to be used for collage (optional)
- Glue (elmers, a glue stick, matte medium – please bring whichever you are most comfortable using) (optional)
- Artist tape or masking tape
- Paper towels
- Drawing board (recommended; there are boards available at the School, but you may prefer to have your own)

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 and on the School website, as well as any specific instructions given by the Instructor.