

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Fall 2023 Intersession
Drawing Marathon - VIRTUAL
Pathways to Abstraction

Instructor: Fran O'Neill
Class Hours: 9am – 1pm ET & 2pm – 6pm ET
Dates: Thursday, November 9 – Monday, November 13, 2023

Course Description

This Drawing Marathon will explore pathways, literal and metaphorical roads, to the creation of abstract works. Participants will be encouraged to make many works and studies, with the idea of traveling beyond the threshold of what they might consider to be the final product, into new arenas of abstraction. Beginning with a pre-existing historical image (this could be a work chosen ahead of time, or a selection of works will be presented during the first session to choose from) participants will be encouraged to enact ways of shifting this image further into abstraction, focusing on how one image can inform the next. Various approaches via drawing will be explored; not limited to, but may include explorations of: shape, line, intersections, scale, collage and mark making.

Students should be committed and care deeply enough to be willing to recreate or destroy a work in order to allow a new and different process to come into play. This will be a jumping off point to explore abstraction and how to achieve a new exploration of an image(s) based on pre-existing geometry and exploring subtle (and not so subtle) shifts that can occur, via scale and a variety of mark making, which could result in a very different image than what the original source. This course is for anyone with a curiosity to explore and may develop differently for each participant. The first few days will solely focus on drawing and collage, with students having the option to work with a limited palette in paint during the last two days.

Course Outline

A study on the first day will begin the process, with an emphasis being placed on producing a substantial quantity of drawings to find surprising images from the source material. Studies maybe reworked, reinvented, combined and/or are the starting point for a series of images. These works maybe reinvented over time; furthering mark making, collage and extreme scale change. Students may find that they bring in one of their own previously produced images to work from as the source material.

Various artists contemporary and historical will be discussed and analyzed as to their working habits and developments of bodies of work. Individual and group discussions will occur on an as needed basis. Students may (if they wish) use their own subject matter as the catalyst.

Learning Outcomes

Students will come away with a very broad idea of the variety of approaches to abstraction and with a sense of how they may approach abstraction on their own terms.

Assessable Tasks

The final number of works produce may vary from one student to the next. Students will be encouraged to talk about their own work via their thought process and explore various approaches that they may otherwise not try. Additionally, it is expected that they will participate in group discussions.

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 attend all sessions for the full duration. Showing an interest in their participation as well as others, participate in discussions, and become obsessed with their own process.

Readings and Resources

Suggested reading:

Pictures of Nothing: Abstract Art since Pollock – Kirk Varnedoe

The Painted Word – Tom Wolfe

Materials and supplies

Please note each student's needs may vary. Some may need to purchase extra materials, depending upon production.

- 20 Sheets (20" x 30") cold press paper
- Sketch book (suggested 16" x 20")
- Charcoal
- Variety of grey lead pencils
- Biro
- Glue (Matt or Gloss medium)
- Sumi ink
- Sticks
- Brushes (variety, flat, round, calligraphic)
- Black and white acrylic paint
- Staple gun
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Magazines/pamphlets to be used collage
- A material of your choice
- A surface of your choice

Students may choose to work with paint during the last 2 days. This could be a decision that is made as the course unfolds. If this is your decision, you may work with watercolor, oil or acrylic painting depending upon your set up.

***Suggested colors as follows, if you choose to work in paint:**

- Titanium White
- Flake White
- Lemon Yellow
- Yellow Ochre
- Cadmium Yellow Medium
- Cadmium Red Light OR Medium
- Quinacridone Magenta
- Caput Mortem OR Indian Red
- Ultramarine Blue
- Viridian
- Raw Umber
- Ivory Black
- Peach Black or Payne's Grey

***Please note, not all colors will be available in all mediums, it should be noted, that the course will allow for you to work with which ever range of colors you have.**

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.

