

# NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

## OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Spring 2024

Drawing Marathon – IN-PERSON

Still Life as Gateway

**Instructor:** Avital Burg and Xico Greenwald  
**Class Hours:** 9am - 1pm = morning session / 2pm - 6pm = afternoon session  
**Dates:** Tuesday, January 16 - Friday, January 26 (daily 9am - 6pm, excluding Sunday, January 21)  
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### Course Description

In this Drawing Marathon, students will immerse themselves in the living tradition of still life, striving to accurately convey the light and forms they perceive in tabletop arrangements while simultaneously organizing shapes, tones and lines into compelling compositions on paper. Instruction will be methodological and tailored to individual students within the group. Participants will work with instructors to assemble exciting still life arrangements in the studio. Working from direct observation, instruction will address formal issues, including scale, geometry, spatial relationships, perspective and measuring, composition, line, form, light, value ranges and mark-making techniques. Drawing inspiration from across art history, we will explore the narrative implications of still life, researching the art historical precedents of the objects we draw. Students will be able to work on both longer-term still-life arrangements as well as faster drawings of perishable items like fruits, flowers, and vegetables. Drawings will be enriched by daily class critiques and discussions.

### Course Outline

Students will begin each drawing by selecting an appropriate still life set-up, then explore the various compositional possibilities of their motif using charcoal, graphite, ink, gouache or acrylic paint and paper collage. We will make still life drawings with line, modulated tones (no lines), and combinations of tones, lines and collaged shapes. Group critiques, class discussions and independent research will supplement studio work. Students will be asked to establish a specific value range in advance of each tonal drawing.

### Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will:

- be able to draw from observation using a variety of media, translating their experiences of three-dimensional space onto paper.
- have gained a knowledge of relevant art history, researching still life examples from antiquity to the present day.
- be able to discuss their work in relation to art historical references and within a contemporary art context.
- have strengthened their understanding of formal drawing concepts.

### Assessable Tasks

Drawings on paper will be developed during each class session; participants should expect to complete a combination of long works and short works during this two-week marathon. Students will demonstrate fluency in a variety of drawing media.

### **Evaluation and Grading**

NYSS MFA students participating in this course will receive grades. Grading is on a High Pass/Pass/Low Performance/Fail basis. To achieve a Pass grade, students must attend class regularly, engage with their work in the studio on a consistent basis, perform out-of-class research when appropriate, participate in group discussions, demonstrate understanding of core concepts.

### **Suggested Readings and Resources**

"Lives of Velázquez," Antonio Palomino and Francisco Pacheco

"A Giacometti Portrait," James Lord

"Man with a Blue Scarf," Martin Gayford

"Giorgio Morandi: The Art of Silence," Janet Abramowicz

Xico and Avital will lead a trip to see Manet/Degas (Optional)

### **Materials and supplies**

Please choose at least one of the following (you are welcome to bring more than one):

- o Ink (black, sepia and/or colored)
- o Acrylic (Large tubes of black and white)
- o Gouache
  
- Brushes for whichever material you will be using of those listed above (at least 3 brushes covering small (1/4 inch or smaller), medium size (about 3/4 inch wide), and large (a 1"- 2" chip brush is fine)
- Containers for water, at least two (can be clean jars or other plastic cups)
- Chamois cloth
- Boxes of vine charcoal, including thin, medium and thick sticks (soft to medium)
- Graphite crayons and pencils in a range of HB to 8B
- Your favorite erasers
- A range of paper; please bring at least 10 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.

Brands recommendations: Strathmore charcoal pad (300/500 series), Arches 100% cotton sheets (for longer drawings), watercolor paper (coldpress), newsprint (for quick sketches)

- Glue (elmers, a glue stick, jade glue, 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, as well as any specific instructions given by the instructor.