

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Spring 2024

Friday Evening Painting on Paper – IN-PERSON

Instructor: Kaitlin McDonough
Class Hours: Fridays, 6:30pm – 9:30pm ET
First Class: February 2, 2024
Last Class: April 12, 2024
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Course Description

With an emphasis on perception and consideration of materials, this course will expand one's ability to see and work 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 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 (or other format) in which they build, independently, upon the class strategies which they find to be the most useful for 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.

Suggested Reading List

- Writings of Bridget Riley

- Writings of John Berger
- Turps Banana Painting Magazine

Materials and Supplies

- Please choose at least one of the following (you are welcome to use more than one):
 - Watercolors (a tray set is great)
 - Ink (black and/or colored)
 - Acrylics (a range of colors, including black and white)
 - Gouache
- Old magazines / scrap paper (or anything similar) to be used for collage
- Glue (Elmer's, PVA, a glue stick, matte medium – whichever you are most comfortable using)
- A range of paper; please try to have approximately 2 to 5 sheets of paper on hand for each class. (Suggested weight 140lb. or more, suggested size (approximately) 18" X 24". You are encouraged to experiment with different types of paper during each class & throughout the course. Additionally, some artists may prefer to work on non-traditional supports such as plaster, cardboard, wood, etc – experimentation is welcome.)
- 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])
- Artist tape or masking tape
- Paper towels
- Drawing board (there are drawing boards available at NYSS, but you may prefer to use 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.