

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Spring 2024

Monday Evening Drawing – IN-PERSON

Instructor:	Charity Baker
Class Hours:	Mondays, 6:30pm - 9:30pm, ET
First Class:	January 29, 2024
Last Class:	April 15, 2024
No Class:	February 19, 2024

Course Description

“What you want is the experience of making something that you haven’t seen before.” – Philip Guston

The purpose of this course is to draw from observation to experience the power of nature; to study it, recreate it, and then regard it in a new light. Each week the students will work on creating two- and three-dimensional space ‘simultaneously’ within their drawings by practicing formal elements of art. We will work from the model, still life, interior spaces, and landscape. The students will learn how to use the experience of drawing as a fundamental means to express their experiences of seeing and to grow as artists. We will look at relevant artwork as a guide through each lesson, with a focus on figuration and the impact of scale and composition. One sustained project toward the end of the course will be based on inspirations from class up to that date.

Course Outline

The ongoing push through this 11-week course is to deepen the idea of pictorial narrative. The class will study from nature with intense concentration, alternating with experimentation in order to forge a new path. We will have short term and long-term projects of different sizes. The focus each week stems from basic formal considerations, through sustained investigations of nature (direct observation): design, composition, scale, proportion, gesture, light on form, value, tonal construction, practical and interpretive application of anatomy, and perspective. We will work with other artists' drawings and paintings, as well as our own. We will have discussions and critiques, and look at art together.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to ask themselves the right questions about art in hopes to shape their own path as artists. They will have covered the basic concepts of formalism and figure drawing in western art--and considered their personal narratives allowing them to embark on an independent journey in art making. They will discover working very large and very small, from memory, imagination, life, and in a group allowing them to conceive of everything from the study of light on a fold of drapery to multi figure composition of their own design. They will create work that they have never seen before.

Assessable Tasks

Each class will contain exercises which lead to fully realized drawings, in some cases sustained drawings, all of which can be used later in the semester for larger, even more involved drawings. There is a chance we could work together as a group on rare occasions.

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 show up each week and on time, put forward a consistent effort, remain open and willing to work among others on the assignments at hand, and as such make progress in their drawings.

Readings and Resources

The Art of Drawing, Bernard Chaet

The Teachings of Nicolas Carone, Master Artist, Noreen Naughton

The Red Tenda of Bologna, John Berger.

Letters to a Young Painter, Maria Rilke

The Letters of Vincent Van Gogh

Self Portrait, Celia Paul

Philip Guston (collected writings, lectures, and conversations)

DOCUMENTARIES: "Philip Guston; A Life Lived", Michael Blackwood Productions

MUSEUM SHOWS:

"Van Gogh's Cypresses" May 22 to August 27, 2023, Metropolitan Museum of Art (MMA)

"Picasso: A Cubist Commission in Brooklyn". September 14th, 2023 - January 14th, 2024. MMA

"Project for a New American Century," Josh Kline, Whitney Museum

Joaquín Sorolla, Hispanic Society Museum & Library

GALLERY SHOWS: (will be announced in class as they come up)

ONLINE ART CRITIQUE: Sculpture Forum (<https://sculptureforum.net>)

Materials and supplies

DRAWING MATERIALS

Pencils 6B-H (or a standard set).

Charcoal: (either below is fine)

- Bob's Fine Vine Charcoal (bag of medium and large) best value for the money
- Vine charcoal, willow: Thin-10 box, Medium-10 boxes, Extra-large-3 box

Chamois Cloth

Hand Held Pencil sharpener

Erasers - Staedtler Mars Plastic Erasers, large and small. (There is a cheaper/generic version too)

BLACK AND WHITE Acrylic paint and cheap brushes

Staple gun - heavy duty (with staples)

Staple remover hand held - Arrow (or similar)

Blick Premier Snap Off Knife and Blades (or similar)

Yard stick/straight edge ruler for cutting

Cheap spool of string

Masking tape /and or/ Drafting tape, both medium size

PAPER

make it affordable, we will be doing large and small drawings

OPTIONS:

- Large roll of paper to cut to specific sizes. (Paper can range in price according to what you are comfortable getting. (10 yards x 60" roll of paper, 90-140 lb., cold press would be the high-end version)
- Large sketchbook 18x24
- individual sheets of good paper i.e.: 10-20 sheets of 22" x 30", 90lb, cold press

Small sketchbook either 11x14", 6x8"

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, and as posted on nyss.org.