

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Spring 2024
Thursday Evening Drawing – IN-PERSON
The Figure in Context

Instructor: Sam Levy
Class Hours: Thursdays, 6:30pm-9:30pm ET
First Class: February 1, 2024
Last Class: April 11, 2024

Course Description

Drawing is a personal language with shared observable abstractions; It is the most direct response to looking at the visual world. In this class, students will develop their individual means of describing observable forms in space in relationship to one another. The class will explore drawing as transformation and experience: Structural imagery found through process, working from direct perception.

Course Outline

Each week students will draw from the model in a variety of short and/or long poses, in constructed setups. The size and scale of drawings will vary between the intimate to potentially life-sized. Students should expect to have many drawings made by the end of the semester. Past and contemporary artists and artworks will be presented as examples for discussion guiding the classwork. We will share observations and discuss each other's work. At times, critiques may extend beyond the 9:30pm end time of working with the model.

Learning Outcomes

Students will better understand the language of drawing, develop relational awareness, and how to better describe forms in space. Abstraction of time and geometry will be explored in depth. This class will consider the architecture of the overall rectangle and how to construct a figure in that dimension. Physicality in drawing, linearity, mark-making, mass, scale, rhythm, relationships between the parts to the whole, light, and all aspects of how to draw intuitively and analytically will develop. Students will use a variety of materials and increase their knowledge of artists, art history, and images.

Assessable Tasks

Individual development of visual language in formal and artistic terms is the primary basis of assessment. Attendance, participation in group discussion, and/or individual dialogues are also very important.

Evaluation and Grading

Grading is on a High Pass/Pass/Low Performance/Fail basis for NYSS MFA students. To achieve a Pass grade, students must maintain attendance, participate in discussions, and demonstrate an overall engagement with material in drawing.

Suggested Readings and Resources:

The Human Figure, Albrecht Dürer
Cézanne Drawing, Jodi Hauptman

George Seurat, The Drawings, Jodi Hauptman
Vincent Van Gogh: The Drawings, Colta Feller Ivés
Rembrandt the Complete Etchings, by K.G. Boon
Drawings of Rembrandt: Volumes I & II Slive
Master Drawings, by Terisio Pignatti

Materials and supplies

A Variety of soft and hard Pencils B, 2B, 3B, 4B suggested

Vine Charcoal (As needed over the course of the semester):

1-2 Bags of Bob's Fine Vine Charcoal

Or an assortment of sizes: boxes of 4; boxes of 12; boxes of 25 (I recommend Coates brand)

3 Plastic Staedler Erasers

A chamois cloth (cheaper, large sizes are available at hardware stores)

A handheld pencil sharpener

Sumi Ink w/nibs

Black and blue Ballpoint pens

2 Sanguine Conté Crayons

Paper Options:

Good Quality Paper is recommended, 20 to 25 sheets

Paper suggestions:

- Fabriano 1264 Sketch Pad, 18" x 24", Glue Bound, 100 Sheets, Landscape
- Strathmore 400 Series Drawing Paper - 19" x 24", 100 lb, Single Sheet
- Any 22" x 30" Studio Watercolor Paper, cold or hot Press, 90 or 140 lb (300 gsm)

A small sketchbook: 9"x12" (get the paper quality you prefer, light or heavy weight, hot or cold)

A metal ruler 18" or 36"

Pushpins or a staple gun

Masking or artist tape

Scissors or box knife

Glue

A ball of string

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's website, as well as any specific instructions given by the Instructor. All students will follow the School's current COVID-19 guidelines and procedures to maintain a healthy and safe working environment for the NYSS community.