

ADVANCED PAINTING

COWPER-SMITH

Course Description:

The advanced class covers information beyond the introductory level. Students will tailor their knowledge of composition and formal painting to suit their conceptual and thematic interests. Individual and group criticism will be emphasized. Students are required to complete all structured assignments and to participate in regularly scheduled discussions.

Course Objectives:

Learning will focus on conceptual development with an emphasis on personal solutions to painting problems. Visual and technical issues will be addressed as needed. Students will:

- Express a willingness to move beyond comfort zone and maintain an explorative attitude
- Develop ambitious ideas, concepts, and strategies
- Utilize their technical and formal knowledge to achieve their conceptual aims
- Experiment with painting mediums and surface supports, taking advantage of the unique characteristics of chosen materials
- Establish and build a complex and unique visual language
- Participate in meaningful discourse with their peers
- Become fluent in a variety of critique methods both for works in progress and for finished paintings
- Gain an understanding of their position within art history and contemporary painting culture

Materials:

- Acrylic or oil painting pigments, mediums, brushes...etc.
- Appropriate painting supports: canvas, stretched canvas, linen, wood, glass or plexi-glass, metal
- Drawing materials: pencil, sketchbook

Critiques:

Students will participate in class, peer, and individual critiques. Critiques will be structured to provide the students with constructive feedback, suggestions, contextual framing, and fertile debate. Students will use descriptive, interpretative, explanatory, evaluative and theoretical modes for critique. The class will also explore many approaches to critique such as: comparative, archetypal, feminist, psychoanalytic, formalist, semiotic, biographical, intentionalist, technical...etc.

Problems:

Students will explore their art-making practice through a set of 5 painting problems.

(1) Self-portrait: Create two self-portrait paintings. Consider mirrors, photographs, objects, spaces, symbols, memories...etc. Work in the medium of your choice including collage, oil, acrylic, mixed media, watercolor...etc.

(2) Choose one of the following process painting problems:

(a) Create a painting a day for one month

(b) Develop a set of instructions for the creation and completion of a painting or paintings and then have the painting completed to your specifications (either by yourself, someone else, or by a group).

(c) Document the development, or stages of creation, of an artwork (either your own, or someone else's. Could be any medium: sculpture, painting, photography, digital media...) through a series of paintings or in a single painting.

(3) Entertainment and Interactivity: Develop a painting or paintings exploring concepts related to the internet, interactivity, e-mail, social networking, on-line gaming, dating, or shopping, digital information, web script...etc.

(4) Box Maquette: create a sculptural scene in a box. The scene can be abstract/ or representational. Consider colors, textures, light, space, objects...etc. Make a series of drawings of the box before beginning to paint.

(5) Metaphor Series: Develop a series of small paintings exploring a single metaphor. Select a metaphor and explore possible interpretations. Consider language, knowledge, culture, and history. For example, explore the metaphor: "A heart of stone"

Weekly

* Class time will be divided into a **motivation** (slides, readings, trips), **studio time** (in-class and independent), and **critique** (self, teacher, peer, group: written and oral). Students will sign-up for two critiques (approx. 20 minutes for each) during the semester. On critique days the class will look at 4 students works.

Week 1

Introduction: Review of syllabus, materials, and studio rules. Review studio health & safety.
Introduce first painting problem: Self-portrait. Look at slides and discuss self-portraits.

Weeks 2-4

Introduce second painting problem: Process painting. Look at slides related to process painting.

*no critiques until week 4

Museum or gallery trip. Written assignment.

Weeks 5-7

Introduce third painting problem: Entertainment and Interactivity Slides & discussion
Self-portraits due.

Weeks 8-10

Introduce fourth painting problem: Box Maquette. Slide presentation
Entertainment and Interactivity painting due.

Weeks 11-12

Introduce fifth painting problem: Metaphor Series. Slide presentation
Box Maquette painting due.

Week 13

Process paintings due.

Individual portfolio review begins

Week 14

Final group critique and continue individual portfolio review