

DRAWING

COWPER-SMITH

Catalogue Course Description:

Drawing from nature, still-life, the model, and the imagination in a variety of media, A continuing series of outside assignments emphasized. Visits to galleries and museums and pertinent exhibitions may be undertaken. The portfolio of the individual students will be the basis of evaluation. Great emphasis is put on classroom participation.

Course Objectives:

Students will gain knowledge and dexterity of painting in three areas of learning: basic visual principles, technical skills, and conceptual development.

Visual Studies

- Line
- Contour drawing: continuous, blind
- Gesture: mass, line, sustained
- Value & light
- Proportion
- Negative space
- Perspective: atmospheric, schematic and linear

Technical Skills: instruction and demonstration

- Media: pencil, ink, charcoal, conte, non-traditional/experimental
- Surfaces: paper, non-traditional/experimental
- Using a viewfinder
- Blending, hatching and stippling techniques
- Image transfer: projection, carbon paper, tracing paper, grid drawing, free-hand drawing
- Systems of proportion and perspective

Conceptual development: language, subject matter & content

- Still-life, animation, nude model, self-portrait, nature, and the imagination
- Point-of-view
- Collaboration
- Documentation: writing, photography, on-line blog
- Approaches to critique: Descriptive, interpretative, evaluative, comparative, archetypal, feminist, psychoanalytic, formalist, semiotic, biographical, intentionalist, technical

Weekly Syllabus

August 30

Class Introduction and material explanation

HW: Purchase all materials

September 6

Contour Drawing

HW: Start semester-long daily sketchbook drawings

September 13

Contour Drawing in Central Park

HW: Make a large contour drawing of your closet

September 20

Gesture Drawing. Students take turns posing for each other

HW: Gesture drawing of a crowd scene with many events going on simultaneously

September 27

Gesture drawing. Live model with poses one minute to ten minute in length.

HW: See the MOMA drawing show and make a copy of one of the works in the show using the exact materials and scale.

October 18

Ink: using brush, twigs & sticks as tools. Branches and flowers as subject matter.

October 25

Ink: Crosshatching using pen and nibs as drawing implements. Still life with bottles. See Morandi drawings.

HW: See the Van Gogh drawing show at the Metropolitan and make two drawings based on the show

November 1

Negative Space

Black and white drawings of eggs. Various views of chairs and chair combination still life.

HW: Finish Van Gogh drawings

November 8

Shading & Composition

Geometric forms still life using viewfinder in 3 exaggerated picture plane formats: a square, a long vertical rectangle and a long horizontal rectangle.

HW: Finish and/or redo the 3 drawings based on drawings from class

November 15

Abstract Composition

Make contour drawings of 5 small items and transfer them multiple times using tracing paper to create an all over composition. Delineate the drawing into black and white. Midterm review of sketchbooks this week.

HW: Finish in class drawing and make a drawing using a thousand lines

November 22

Perspective

Demonstration of a dozen types of perspective

HW: Finish class work including a schematic plan demonstrating a route from Studio to your home.

November 29

Class takes turns posing for each other using a variety of the previously learned techniques.

HW: Studies for the final project

December 6

Final project demonstrating what you have learned in the class.

December 13

Final Portfolio Review