

DRAWING I

COWPER-SMITH

Catalogue Course Description:

Drawing from nature, still-life, the model, and the imagination in a variety of media. Students will be introduced to fundamental aspects of drawing compositions, techniques and concepts. Outside the studio, students will maintain a drawing book and will be required to visit galleries, museums and pertinent exhibitions. Participation in group critiques is required.

Course Objectives:

Students will gain knowledge and dexterity in drawing 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 minutes 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