

Wesleyan / Spring 2010

Basic Drawing

GLSP, Saturdays

Instructor: Peter Waite

Topical Outline

Drawing has always been considered the backbone of art. When done successfully it is a direct line to creative expression, observation and poetic visual communication. True drawing functions as a way to plot further endeavors (working sketches for more “finished” pieces), but it can also stand boldly alone – warts and all – distinctly separate from the other disciplines. For this, drawing is often lively, honest, raw and sometimes a step ahead of its own creator.

The course will cover such considerations as line (gesture, directional, contour and lines emotionally charged – how line is used to establish a pure graphic “language”); perspective and sighting as well as ellipses will be studied. Value and mass with line as an understudy, composition and proportional drawing with intent will complete the study. Students can expect to work from and interpret the still life, natural forms, the figure and also work from the imagination.

Course Objectives

- To draw: the production of drawings. Basic principles of the technology of drawing will be stressed through the representation of life drawing (abstraction, still life and figure). Students will hopefully gain a degree of familiarity with materials and some inkling into what it takes to come to some kind of “manual override” – when the hand takes over from the eye, and conversely, when the mind and eye can work the hand with assurance.
- To expose students to the practical use and application of a variety of drawing materials and surfaces, using both wet and dry techniques, as well as collage.
- To realize that drawing is a process in which the page or surface is manipulated through mark making to create the illusion of space. To understand that the surface is a malleable and pliable medium.
- The most fundamental skill to develop in drawing is the discipline of actually working and seeing: learning to see and react technically and creatively to depict whatever is intended. Also the notion of accident, salvage, adding, subtracting – to struggle and physically engage in art.

Requirements

- Attendance: students must attend every class. This class is interactive as well as individual, with everyone participating. Excuses will only be given in extreme circumstances.
- A commitment to getting the art materials and to bring in specific materials when asked by the instructor.
- An openness and willingness to commit to each project.
- Completion of both in-class and outside-of-class assignments.
- Active involvement in group and individual crits.
- Clean up: each student is expected to clean up his/her work area and help clean up the studio for the next class.
- Each student is responsible for maintaining a portfolio, protecting his/her work and presenting it properly.

Materials List

Note: This is only a basic list, there will be specific items students will need to get throughout the term when asked by the instructor.

Paper:

- 18" x 24" Bristol or heavy weight (60 lb.) white paper / 30 or 60 sheets, *Bienfang* or *Strathmore*
- 6 sheets of colored pastel paper (to be announced)
- quality paper (to be announced)

Charcoal:

- vine charcoal: packets of soft/medium
- 4 sticks of compressed graphite ("general"): soft and medium
- box of 12 compressed "bricks". Brand name: *Alphacolor* (cheap) or *Nupastels* (better)
- box 12 assorted grey pastels
- 6 sticks of white pastels (buy a box of 12 and perhaps split it with someone)
- 6 *Conte* crayons: medium, soft, an assortment of browns, sienna, dark brown and black

Pencils:

- H, HB, 2B, 3B, 4B, 6B

Misc. Supplies:

- toolbox / artbox
- assorted brushes, rounds, flats, 1¹/₂"
- portfolio with cardboard stiffener
- box of 5 single-edge razor blades
- utility knife / X-acto knife
- 2 large kneaded erasers
- 1 white plastic eraser
- rubber eraser
- scissors
- 2 or 4 *Bulldog* clips
- box of pushpins
- 1 roll of 1" white artist's tape
- glue stick
- 1 can spray fixative, *Krylon* matte finish (always check with instructor before spraying)
- sketch book
- pencil sharpener
- spray adhesive

Note: Drawing can be a messy business, so wear appropriate clothing. The materials are not toxic (except for spray fixative), but they can get messy. We also need to leave the studio clean for the next class, so plan on time to clean up before the class ends.