

Drawing Fundamentals

Course Overview:

Learn the fundamentals of drawing and draw the viewer's eye into your artwork! In this course, students will be introduced to the elements and principles of design as they explore an array of drawing techniques. Students will experiment with different media in creating art projects as they develop their own personal vision.

Course Description:

In Drawing Fundamentals, students will analyze, discuss, and experiment with drawing in its many forms: contour drawing, using negative space, perspective, value, foreshortening, abstraction, and illustration. One critical aspect of the assignments will be to use a variety of materials in order to gain an understanding of the different expressive qualities of those materials. The concept that art is driven by aesthetic considerations, expressive intentions, and the “magic” that the creative use of materials can bring is one key element in the class.

The class will analyze art from different periods to provide the understanding that artists have been faced with the same problems and have been applying similar principles to address those problems. As the students become more comfortable with one another and as they become more familiar with the vocabulary of art, the concept of critique will be introduced. Students will apply their understanding of the elements and principles of art to their own work and to the work of classmates. The initial assignments will focus on various drawing techniques. Each early assignment will use a specific medium. As the class progresses, one or two of the later assignments will be about personal expression.

The student will be asked to draw an idea or an object of personal importance. The student will be allowed to use the medium of their choice. Throughout the course, observational drawing skills will be applied and criticized. However, the emphasis in all assignments will be experimentation. The development of the facility will be important but secondary to the development of the confidence required to take risks. The student will learn to present their work in a professional manner and keep a record of their work.

The last week will include a summation of the continuing discussion of the value of art and its connection to society and the individual: art as it anticipates, reflects, and responds to trends in society; art as a mode of personal expression.

Course Materials:

- All students should come with pencils, erasers, a ruler, and a 3-pronged folder.
- The materials fee covers all other supplies and will be provided by SAEP.

Course Goals and Objectives

What Is Art?

Students will look at a variety of different art in regards to answering the question: “What is Art?” Students will also discuss different concepts of why and how we express ourselves through visual art. The Elements of Art was created to identify and analyze said art.

Exercises:

Create a collage and present explaining why their piece is art.

Line

Students will complete a series of line drawings from a single object to show understanding and skill.

- Technical elements they need to demonstrate include:
- Overlapping planes to give the illusion of depth.
- Understand and utilize proportion.
- Variety of line quality within each form
- Compare and contrast different uses and roles of gesture drawing and sketches.

Exercises:

Pencil explorations and line-making practice of contour, blind contour, continuous contour, cross-contour, and gesture drawings.

Research:

Students explore the variety of different sketches by Leonardo da Vinci, Diego Rivera, and current artists.

Finished project followed by a class critique.

Texture

Students will create drawings that focuses on actual and visual textures through the use of different pencils and motifs.

Technical elements they need to demonstrate include:

- Using original motifs to create patterns & textures. - Dynamic composition choices. - Understand the purpose of range on a value scale.
- Variety of value in different textures.
- Compare the difference between actual & visual texture.

Exercises:

Value scale. Texture rubbings. Thumbnail exercises. Pencil Practice.

Research:

Students look at the artwork of Bob Ross, Van Gogh, and current artists.

Finished project followed by a class critique.

Still-life Drawing

Students create a value drawing from a still-life set up, using charcoal and direct observation. Using a variety of hard and soft charcoal pencils, multiple sketches, they will

render a realistic drawing.

- Technical elements they need to demonstrate include:
- Use of lights and darks to convey 3-dimensional objects
- Overlapping: the correct use of proportions when placing objects in foreground and background.
- Indicating light source through shadow, core shadow, light, highlight and reflected light.
- Creating volume of objects through values.
- Deliberate composition choices in using balance of symmetry, a-symmetry, and radial.

Exercises:

Charcoal practice of shapes. Composition: balance. Contour and Gesture sketches. 6- step value scale.

Research:

Students look at the artwork of Georgia O'Keefe, Vincent van Gogh, and explore traditional still-life paintings. Students will also look at the artwork of current artists.

Compare and contrast how value is used by different artists.

Discuss how the way that an object is painted can communicate the artist's feelings.

Finished project followed by a class critique.

Architectural Landscape

Students will create a one-point perspective architectural landscape using observational skills. Technical elements they need to demonstrate include:

- Proper use and placement of horizon line and vanishing point.
- Use of overlapping to indicate space or depth in the drawing.
- Multiple elements or structures (ex: buildings and trees)
- Line quality to indicate aerial perspective (lighter in the distance, darker in the front)
- Field trip to various places on-campus.

Exercises:

One-point boxes. Name perspective.

Research:

Students will look at the exterior and interior scenes of Raphael, Edward Hopper, M.C.

Escher, and other artists whose work focuses on linear perspective.

Finished project followed by a class critique.

Personal Triptychs

Students will create a 3-panel drawing using an image of personal significance. They will choose three sections of the image to re-produce using soft pastels. Each section will be enlarged and framed.

Technical elements they need to demonstrate include:

- Dynamic composition choices of each section and arrangement of the three sections
- Color and/or textural choices that enhance the composition
- Blending and shading of colors or textures in the images
- Use of lights and darks to convey 3-dimensional objects

- Enlargement process (grid)
- Three drawings of different parts of the original image
- Discuss the value and use of cropping in art and in triptychs in particular.

Exercises:

Soft pastel practice. Cropping and enlarging to create a dynamic composition.

Research:

Students will look at the artwork of Masaccio and religious icons.

Finished project followed by a class critique.