

COURSE OUTLINE FOR 6-WEEK DRAWING CLASS

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WEEK ONE

Introduction to Drawing

This drawing class uses six different mediums to explore the wide range of drawing possibilities.

1. Week One: Charcoal
2. Week Two: Pencil
3. Week Three: Conte
4. Week Four: hard and soft pastel, oil pastel, colored pencil
5. Week Five: pen and ink
6. Week Six: student's choice of medium

Choosing the right papers for each medium

Still Life Set-Ups

Each week there is a different still life set-up of bottles and other objects to help the students work on growing their skills with contour drawing, tonal drawing, lifting out, etc.

CHARCOAL

Using newsprint and charcoal paper with texture

Exploring the different properties of willow and compressed charcoal.

Contour drawing

Shading

Using a kneaded gray eraser to remove charcoal and make marks

Drawing Methods

Linear drawing

Contour or outline drawing

Hatching/cross hatching

Side strokes with charcoal stick

Building up depth of tone

Direction of light

Using kneaded eraser to lift out

Pulling out the highlights

WEEK TWO: WORKING WITH PENCIL

Pencils are graphite enclosed in cedarwood. Graphite is a mixture of clay and the mineral graphite.

Discussion and looking at different types of pencils including graphite sticks

Sharpening pencils with retractable x-acto knives

Different papers to use with pencils: smooth vs textured

Holding the pencil

Making different pencil strokes using the point and side

Expressive strokes using the hand/wrist/arm

Creating different marks on the paper with varying degrees of pressure.

Pencil and colored pencil drawings of still life set up.

WEEK THREE CONTE

Conte – made from a mixture of graphite and clay – brown, sanguine (red-brown), black and white.

Ideal for outlines and linear shading.

Working with still life objects to create a finished drawing that includes working with compositional aids such as: rule of thirds, open and closed drawings, light source.

Drawing with conte on textured paper dampened with sponge.

Working on toned or colored paper

WEEK FOUR

Colored Pencils, Hard and Soft Pastel, Oil Pastel

While continuing to work on drawing skills of proportion, creating depth by overlapping, etc., we will explore 4 different drawing mediums in this class.

Colored Pencils

Papers that work best with colored pencils have a “tooth” or texture. Mi-teintes from France comes in many colors both cool and warm

Working light to dark

Trying out colored pencils by building up layers of crosshatching and varying the direction of the strokes

Building up colors and tones

Achieving depth of tone and shading

Surface mixing vs pre-mixed

Hard and Soft Pastel – Using dry sticks of pigment individually to make a series of marks which are then overlaid or blended. Pastels are chalk mixed with pigment and a binding medium. Hard pastels are better suited to linear work and their hardness depends on the proportion of gum to chalk. Easily blended. Textured paper is provided by the teacher.

We will use them to complete a small drawing from the still lifes.

Oil Pastels

Made with oil rather than gum which makes them more translucent and sticky. They adhere to paper easily. They don't require fixing unlike pastels. Work light to dark is best as paper clogs easily if too much oil pastel is put on. Hard to blend. Construction paper and black paper provided by the teacher.

We will use them to complete a small drawing from the still lifes.

WEEK FIVE

Working with Inks

Students will work three different ways and create three drawings during the class:

Linear drawing with pen and nib - We will explore one of the oldest drawing media using the traditional pens with a wooden handle and interchangeable nibs.

Pen drawing + washes of diluted ink. We will aim for a sensitive, expressive line.

Students can bring in bamboo pens and water-soluble fiber tipped pens which run slightly when the washes are applied. Watercolor paper is best for inks when combining water with the inks. Bring old watercolor brushes but not good ones.

Brush and ink – drawing with a brush using diluted ink.