

# NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

## OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

### MARATHON: SCULPTURE & DRAWING

Jon Isherwood

Spring 2012

**Instructor:** Jon Isherwood  
**Class Hours:** 9:00AM – 6:00PM  
**Dates:** Week 1 – Tuesday January 17 – Saturday January 21  
**Contact Info:** jisherwood@bennington.edu  
**Office Hours:** By appointment

### **Course Description**

#### **Spatial Thinking and Making**

Objects guide and define human activity and interactions. On a daily basis, we encounter and navigate thousands of manipulated spatial conditions, from highways, to landscapes, to tableware. How our dimensional reality shapes our experiences is defined by our ability to engage, understand, assimilate and even alter these conditions.

This is a one week intensive workshop. We will observe, interpret, and make objects investigating human interaction through spatial behaviors.

This Marathon offers demanding exercises that provoke exciting dialogues between two and three-dimensional interpretation. In the past, completion of this course has resulted in important breakthroughs for painters and sculptors of all levels of development.

The class meets everyday for one week from 9:00AM – 6:00PM, Monday through Friday. Critiques will be held during the week. Times of the critiques will be announced during the session. Attendance to each session is mandatory.

The course is an introduction to working in three dimensions for those students who have no experience of doing so. For the student who has some experience, the course will provide additional experience which will be integrated with important aspects of the language of sculpture. For the more advanced sculpture students, it will facilitate a reconsideration of their practice.

The instructor will be present for all, or part, of each scheduled day-time session. Students will be expected to continue doing some work on their own in the evenings.

#### **Course Outline**

During the week, students will work in both two and three dimensions, using drawing to investigate the potential for sculptural responses.

The assignments will require careful analysis of complex forms, and there will be related drawing assignments. The work produced for each assignment will be discussed in a group critique. Readings may be assigned and complimented with slide lectures.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

Students will acquire or extend practical skills in the manipulation of materials. They will develop or improve their understanding of structure. They will develop or improve an ability to make constructions from a variety of materials.

#### **Assessable Tasks**

While there will be a fresh assignment given at the beginning of each work period, morning and afternoon, each day during the week and students are required to work on that assignment during the particular work period in which it has been assigned. Students will be required to have finalized their

efforts on any particular assignment by the end of the session. The students will be expected to participate in group discussions of the works. There will, in addition, be individual critiques, consultations and instructions given as the instructor deems appropriate. A final discussion and critique will take place in the late afternoon on the last day of the course.

### **Evaluation and Grading**

Grading is on a High Pass/Pass/Low Performance/Fail basis. In order to obtain a Pass for this Marathon, a student must complete all the assignments and have a satisfactory record of attendance and participation in group discussions. In assessing the quality of a student's work, the extent of their previous experience will be taken into account. However, in determining grades, more emphasis will be placed on the level of the student's effort and the seriousness of their involvement than on the quality of the results. Imagination, enterprise, inventiveness and ambition will be rewarded but great value will also be placed on persistence and determination. A student's capacity to try, to try again, to try something, to work with both energy and rigor will be given great weight.

### **Materials and supplies**

A full materials list is included with this description. Some tools will be available from the Sculpture Department. Clay, plaster and some wood and wire will be supplied by the School.

A variety of materials will be used including, but not limited to: wood, plaster, cardboard, wire and clay, as well as paper, pencil, ink and paint. Clay and plaster and some wood and wire can be supplied by the school. Clean cardboard can be found in the trash locally, along with other useful materials.

Students will provide their own drawing materials. They are also expected to have some basic tools, such as good pair of pliers, a hot-melt glue gun, a plumb line, a hammer and a screw driver. More tools, such as an electric drill, will be useful - especially in the second week. The Sculpture Department has a limited quantity of serviceable tools.

### **School, Department & Class Policies**

Please refer to the Student Handbook for information regarding the School's policies on academic integrity and plagiarism. All students must abide by the general health and safety regulations laid out in the Student Handbook, as well as any specific instructions given by the Atelier Head.

Students participating in this Marathon must observe all instructions given for the safe use of any equipment and may not use any power tools unless they are experienced in their use or until they have been instructed in their safe use by the Sculpture Technician or the Instructor. Students must, at all times, conduct themselves with care and with due consideration for their own and their fellow students' safety. To this end, the studios must be kept clean, tidy and in good order throughout the duration of the course.