

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

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DRAWING
JOHN LEES
Spring 2017

Class Hours: Thursdays, 6:30pm – 9:30pm
Dates: February 2 – April 13, 2017
Contact Details: TBA

Course Description

This class will offer a concentrated drawing situation working from life models in a studio situation, with the aim of using drawing as a means of analyzing one's own work in any media, in all stages of development. A wide range of mediums will be explored to allow drawings to grow and radically change over a brief but intense period. The session will emphasize the importance of choosing one's influences; of trusting oneself, and of keeping sketchbooks.

Weekly talks and demonstrations will be held at the beginning of each session. Promptness required.

Course Outline

Participants will explore the complex nature of the following themes in relation to constructing drawings: the sensual beauty of ink; drawing and writing, with both pen and brush; drawing for gesture, building a drawing and considering scale; the colors of drawing, including the color of paper, tonal elements and value range; the response of materials as responding to fingertip pressure, and the use of erasure to lighten a value and make further work possible. Participants will consider responses to drawing organic and inorganic elements, within the studio.

Students will experience the importance of keeping a sketchbook that is constantly carried, and which allows the freedom to allow one to get lost in a drawing. Participants should decide which type of sketchbook best satisfies their needs, and become acquainted with a range of papers and mediums to find what suits their style.

A variety of artists will be looked at including, but not limited to, Guercino, Rembrandt, Cezanne, Samuel Palmer, Van Gogh, Eva Hesse and outsider art, Kokoschka, Scuola Romano, Rodin, Daumier, Bonnard, Giacometti, Medardo Rosso, Antonin Artaud and Victor Hugo.

Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to assess, through classroom drawing experience, which mediums and attitudes they wish to add to their drawing practice. Hopefully students will become acquainted with and enthusiastic about some of the artists introduced to them through the class, or artists discovered on their own during the process. Hopefully students will consider the value of developing sketchbook habits.

A class portfolio should reflect an intense involvement with drawing in the classroom and out.

Assessable Tasks

Students will produce drawings reflective of the class experience. Drawings will range in size and will include sketch books.

Evaluation and Grading *[For full-time MFA students only]*

Grading is on a High Pass/Pass/Low Performance/Fail basis. To achieve a Pass grade, students must exhibit full participation in the theme of the class and in executing necessary works. Attendance at 90% or above is mandatory.

Readings and Resources

Suggested: "The Voices of Silence" by Andre Malraux.
"Vanished Splendors" – Balthus

Materials and Supplies

- Erasers – 'Pink Pearl' or whatever kind you prefer
- Conte crayon sticks – black, sanguine, bistre & white
- Pencils: Hard - 3H or 4H, Medium - HB medium or "No 2", Soft - 4B- 6B
- Pencil Sharpener
- Pen Point – (Don't get tiny croquille points. If you get a "Speedball Point", get an 'A5')
- Specific Brands: "Esterbrook 369" or "Spencerian 31", can be bought from New York Central Art Supplies
- Pen Holder
- Inks
 - Black (sumi or Indian)
 - Sepia (Pelican)
- Scissors
- Variety of medium sized, cheap pointed watercolor brushes or Japanese brush
- Cheap flat 1" or 2" brush
- Container for water, with lid
- Variety of empty jars or ink bottle to allow to make mixes or for diluting inks
- Palette knife
- Glue (acrylic matt medium) ½ pint
- Paper/Sketch books:
 - Cheap drawing paper for quick gesture drawings, e.g: "Biggie sketch" 11" x 14" or 14" x 17" (**DO NOT** get 'Newsprint')
 - Strong, inexpensive drawing paper. E.g. Strathmore Pads, 14" x17" (**DO NOT** get 'Newsprint', you'll want paper to have some strength to this paper)
 - A very small (5" x 3 1/2" range) with lots of thin paper for 'entry level' visual notes. E.g. Moleskin small Plain notebook or little lined /gridded notebooks sold at Drug Stores or Supermarkets

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 Instructor.