

Course Catalog McPhillips Studio, 2007

Drawing Deeper Series, Fundamentals of Drawing

Section 1: Relating to Proportion

The first section will focus on Proportion, an element of both design and perception, which underlies all art forms regardless of medium. You will learn techniques for finding the center of a form, basic and advanced measurement, balance of light and shade, simplicity and selection, as well as composition.

Section 2: Illuminating Light and Shade

The second section deals with the mystery of light. Drawing principally with tone rather than line, you will come to understand the role that well-assessed and well-arranged values play in a successful composition. Together we will explore not only how to arrange values, but also how to perceive them correctly.

Section 3: Space and Volume

The third section deals with the ideas of space and volume as related to drawing. In this workshop you will develop the conceptual skills needed to convincingly portray subjects "in the round". Through a series of exercises designed to awaken a sense of space in your drawing, you will learn how to give your drawings a solid, sculptural integrity.

Section 4: The Gist of Gesture

The fourth section deals with Gesture Drawing, or the practice of making quick, essential studies from life. Gesture drawing can be useful in a multitude of ways, from laying out your composition to capturing a subject which refuses to stand still. In this workshop you will progress through various drawing approaches that privilege different qualities in your subject. We will discuss Principle Lines, Weight, Volume, and Tension. There will be the option of hiring a life-model for the final session.

Section 5: Composition

The Fifth and final section of the series deals with putting it all together. Working from a reproduction of a favorite work of art, you will first analyze its formal structure, then create work which draws on this experience. You will be introduced to various types of composition and ways of composing, including using tension and release, idea generation, dynamic symmetry, and the golden mean.

* See materials list

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Other Workshops (Extended)

Elements of Perspective

This workshop is intended to provide you with a basic understanding of how to use Perspective creatively. There will be an introductory lecture on the development of perspective and its relevance in art history. You will first learn how to draw objects in Plan and Elevation views, then project them into virtual space. You will create an original composition, placing perspective in a personal context.

Using Toned Papers, a gateway to Painting

The practice of Drawing on toned paper has served artists for centuries. This technique has often been called a gateway to painting, in that it allows for the subtle suggestion of color, and requires the artist to think tonally. In this class you will be introduced to various approaches to drawing on a toned ground. Each lesson will reveal to you another aspect of this exciting and time-saving approach to drawing.*

Drawing in Clay, Relief Sculpture

The study of relief sculpture can bring a greater awareness of space into your drawing and painting. Working from a simple still-life, you will model a relief in oil-based clay from start to finish. We will discuss the various voices of relief as well as how relief is related to drawing and painting.

The Portrait

(coming soon)

Figure Drawing

(coming soon)

Introduction to Artistic Anatomy

(coming soon)

Other Workshops (Short-session, weekend or one-day subjects)

Figure Drawing Weekend Practicum

Photographing Your Artwork

Head and Hands

Clothing, Drapery, and Fabric

* See materials list