

Fundamentals of Drawing:

Instructor: Jo Watson

Essential Concepts presented in this class:

Form: Essentially the volume and shape of an object. The vague appearance of an object without all of its details

Gesture: The “energy” of an object expressed by the kinetic motion of the artist’s mark

Value: The light-ness or dark-ness of an object relative to its surroundings. The color of an object and the amount of light striking the surface are two factors that affect value. In this class the term is used to signify the range of tones from white to black used in a drawing.

Drawing Strategies:

This is not a list to do in order, but rather a handful of ideas to keep in mind as you work on a drawing

- 1) Simplify the Whole—don’t focus on the details at first, but rather look for larger areas of light/dark and sketch them in roughly
- 2) Find the center of the composition—it may not be the center of the object
- 3) Work the whole composition—don’t overwork one area, but rather work on all areas equally
- 4) Work Larger Shapes to Smaller Shapes
- 5) Work Light areas to dark areas—It’s easier to make lighter areas darker if need be, but more difficult to erase dark back to very light if you made the mistake of over-darkening an area
- 6) Look for main structural lines—emphasize them, possibly embellish them
- 7) Measurement—use your hand or tools at hand (pencil, brush, cardboard window) to compare real image to drawing
- 8) Use negative shape drawing (object is defined by not be drawing it, but by drawing what is around it
- 9) Pay attention to angles and curves—draw what you see, not what you think you see
- 10) Stay loose—remember that unless you are attempting to replicate a photo your drawing will be more interesting if you allow your individual style (your “mark”) to show through