R Y M A N   A R T S  
Spring Semester 2022
Instructor: ROBIN PALANKER
Foundation Level
Sunday morning session at Otis College 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM
rpalanker@ryman.org

This is a college level class in observational drawing. Respectful behavior is expected and required. Join the class on time and be prepared to work. Always have all supplied materials which are for Ryman use only. Students are expected to be self-motivated and disciplined. There will be mandatory weekly homework assignments and class critique of these assignments. Each homework assignment will be preceded and explained by class lesson. Along with a study of the elements of art (composition, value, line, texture, color, form) and the use of various media, students will employ planning, critical thinking, risk-taking and problem-solving to create quality college-level artwork, all in a uniquely supportive environment.

PLEASE pay attention to your e-mail and read your syllabus. Videos viewed in class are linked.

AVAILABLE! I am available to communicate with you during the week at rpalanker@ryman.org.

All COVID-19 rules of conduct must be honored.

WEEK 1       February 20th
Composition: structure of all elements
We introduce ourselves
Introduction to course and materials with handouts
Composing objects, defining shapes, balance
Thumbnail sketches and using a view finder
Working from observation, introduction to value

Homework assignment:
Using three or more objects, make thumbnail sketches of different compositions on half a sheet of your large paper. Create depth by arranging objects, don’t just put objects in a line. Avoid a linear horizon line! Make a finished drawing on the other half of the same piece of paper in graphite (HB - 6B) from the strongest thumbnail composition. Know why you made your compositional choice! Define the composition by creating a border. Utilize the relative value of the objects in the drawing. Avoid outlining. Don’t let objects float in space: shadows and negative space are an equally important part of the composition. Control value by shading, not by smearing.
RULE OF THIRDS
THUMBNAIL
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLTC_wENj1U

WEEK 2       February 27th
Value:  the relative degree of light and dark
Critique of composition homework
Creating and drawing a still life, light, shadow, symmetry, with handouts
Observational drawing

Homework assignment:
Continue in the same manner as the previous week by planning your drawing first but this time DO NOT include the thumbnails on the final drawing. Create a composition of at least two or three objects with special consideration of their relative value. Use graphite (HB - 6B) and a single strong light source. Observe light and shadow carefully to give objects mass and weight. Avoid smearing and outlining! Use a complete range of values, from black to the white of the paper.
SYMMETRY
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQugNvXCMdY
PENCIL VALUE OLD SHOE
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIS_XKCVIUY&list=PLS5T8UnBtsSRVubUjYp9Di7QdUSYOuVI1&index=2
WEEK 3    March 6th

Texture: surface quality
- Critique of value homework
- Discussion on texture with handouts
- Drawing in charcoal from objects with contrasting textures, experimenting with a new medium

Homework assignment:
Plan a drawing composed of at least two objects with very different textures. Work very lightly in graphite to plan your drawing but the final drawing will be completed in charcoal. Enjoy the relative speed of working in charcoal! As always, take time to plan your drawing including composition and value. Let the viewer know what the objects feel like.

CHARCOAL DRAWING SUBTRACTIVE TECHNIQUE PLUS SIGHTING
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6C1adQJG39Y

CHARCOAL DRAWING, ADDITIVE TECHNIQUE
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRy5SQqQ9PM&t=36s

WEEK 4    March 13th

Chiaroscuro: dramatic light and dark
- Critique of texture homework
- Discussion on chiaroscuro with handouts
- Canson paper is supplied and needs to be cut in half

Homework assignment:
Don’t procrastinate! Spend time making sure you have a strong idea and composition before you start. Choose rough or smooth side of the paper carefully. Drawing will be on toned paper to create dramatic lights and darks. Work with a single light source. Use black and white charcoal and white Conté crayon but remember to use white sparingly. Combine texture, value and composition. Chiaroscuro drawings are so beautiful!

CARAVAGGIO
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1lc_7pj5k

CHIAROSCURO, water drops
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLDAbUxkZj4

CHIAROSCURO, Spoon
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMYfu-LNZhU

WEEK 5    March 20th

Line and introduction to Figure Drawing
- Critique of chiaroscuro assignment
- Discussion about line, line in different weights and media with handouts
- Learning to draw from a live model

Homework assignment:
Draw a family member or friend in an interior space. Figure out a way to have your model hold still! Include elements of the room in the drawing. Always plan your drawing first. This time you will be drawing with line only. No shading. Draw from life. DO NOT USE PHOTOS. Be sure to vary line weight and to work in fluid lines. It is okay to draw lightly in pencil first, then finalize with a different medium such as pen, etc. Artist’s choice.

DAVID HOCKNEY sketchbook
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYK94FUpqEY
WEEK 6  March 27th

Color and color theory
- Critique of line assignment
- Discussion and handouts on color theory and atmospheric perspective with handouts
- Extended drawing with color

Homework assignment:
Make a drawing using colored pencils. All colors must be mixed by layering; no black may be used. Choose objects with strong primary and secondary colors. One object must be transparent, such as glass or plastic. Utilize light, shadow, color temperature, atmospheric perspective and depth with color. Work lightly so that you can layer. This is a time-consuming assignment, take care to plan your picture first. Colored pencils take time.

3 APPROACHES
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DG36Ne7P1e0
PIKACHU
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvz-IHsI9J0

WEEK 7  April 3rd

GUEST SPEAKER
Perspective: creating the illusion of 3 dimensions
- Critique of color assignment
- Discussion and demonstration on perspective with handouts
- Warm up with simple perspective exercises. Questions are welcome!
- Extended perspective drawing

Homework assignment:
Make a one- or two-point perspective drawing of the exterior of a building. Chart it out lightly with 4H pencil. If you are working in two-point perspective, work horizontally so the vanishing points will be far apart. Remember that perspective is a tool to create an illusion of space. The media of the finished drawing is artist’s choice: graphite, colored pencil, charcoal etc. Because of the pandemic, inventing a building exterior while indoors is acceptable.
ONE POINT INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USWy8BtRzyM
TWO-POINT EXTERIOR
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESpRTYlEydk

WEEK 8  April 10th

Self-Portraiture
- Critique of perspective drawing
- Discussion with handouts on facial anatomy and proportion with special attention to portraiture
- Warm up drawings
- Extended drawing of face and figure from model

Homework assignment:
Make a self-portrait using any medium, including graphite, colored pencil, charcoal, etc. Artist choice! Carefully chart facial proportions. Find a way to capture a strong representation of yourself. You have two weeks on this very important assignment. Use this opportunity wisely.
FRIDA KAHLO
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N14yiJ9y-o

☞ NOTE:  April 17th  Spring Break  NO CLASS
Week 9    April 24th
Working with sequences, drawing from a moving model, creating motion
Critique of self-portrait assignment
Discussion with handouts on creating implied motion in a static format
Warm up story board drawings sequences with dancer model
Drawings of motion with dancer model: in sequences, in continuous line, blurring and implied movement

Homework assignment:
Create an image with movement: a single image, a sequence, a continuous line, a blurred image or anything that implies motion. Use an observational source, but creativity is encouraged. Humans, pets, objects may be used. Due to the ephemeral nature of movement, photography is allowed as a reference. But never work from a single photo.

☞ NOTE: All outstanding homework MUST be turned in on Week 10, NO exceptions!

Week 10    May 1st
Combining everything we’ve learned so far with Interior Perspective
Critique of motion assignment
Lecture w/ handout on interior perspective
Warm up drawing exercises
Extended drawing of interior perspective

Homework assignment:
Make a drawing in one-point, two-point or observational perspective of an interior. Medium is artist’s choice. As always, plan a strong composition first. Apply any and all things that you’ve learned with color, texture, chiaroscuro, value, perspective and motion. Start early, this is your last assignment. Make it memorable! You do NOT have to work from observation on this assignment. Creativity is encouraged.
ONE POINT INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USWy8BtRzyM
INTERIOR PERSPECTIVE
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRsXVYjZYVY

Week 11    May 8th
Last Class
Critique of creative interior perspective homework
All homework MUST be finished and submitted, absolutely no exceptions
One-on-one discussion with instructor
Last class, sob!
Drawing from surprise subjects
Student DJs encouraged
SPRING 2022 SUPPLY LIST

Art Toolbox, containing:

Prismacolor Colored Pencil Set
Compressed Charcoal 4B
Peel & Sketch Charcoal Pencil set
Tombow Mono Drawing Pencil 2B
Tombow Mono Drawing Pencil 6B
Tombow Mono Drawing Pencil HB
Tombow Mono Drawing Pencil 4H
General’s Charcoal Pencil WHITE, water-soluable
Conté Crayon WHITE HB 2 PC
Conté Crayon BLACK 2B 2 PC
Conté Crayon SANGUINE 2 PC
General Factis Eraser
AA Sanding Paddle
Blending Stump
X-Large Kneaded Eraser
Sharpener - Tonic 2 Hole
Chamois Cloth 4 x 6
Winsor & Newton Soft Vine Charcoal 1 PC

Mesh Bag 24 x 32 inches, containing:

Art Alternatives Sketchbook 5 x 8 inches
Strathmore 300 Series Drawing Pad 14 x 17 inches 70 lb 25 Sheets
AA Artist Tote Boards
Art Alternatives Ruler 12 inch
Student Handbook