

Mentored Drawing Studio

Mentored Drawing Studio is for anyone who wants to learn the time-tested methods of traditional drawing in a disciplined and progressive manner.

The principles taught are broad-based and are applicable across media and subject matter. It's mainly informed by the classical tradition without excluding the insights of contemporary approaches. The goal is to:

- Deepen and refine drawing and painting skills in a progressive and disciplined manner.
- Develop and improve powers of observation, visualization, & communication.
- Offer a focused personal learning environment.
- Discuss the work of artists, historical trends, methods and art theory.



Commitment: 9 hrs per week of drawing including class time.

Syllabus:

Each week will cover lesson plan, demos and critique; along with in-depth discussions of artists, methods and historical trends. On occasion we'll go on field trips to draw from nature or visit the Portland Art Museum to draw from their collection. There are also brief reading assignments to inform your drawing practice.

There are a number of in-depth drawing projects to complete so I recommend balancing this with gesture drawing. The combination of fast gestural drawing (intuitive) and longer observational drawings (analytical) will deepen and help to integrate your perceptual and manual skills (eye, brain, hand). Keep a small sketchbook handy for sketching or gesture drawing on-the-go. With sketching allow yourself to be bold, make mistakes and have fun with it!

It will benefit your drawing practice greatly to focus on enjoying the *process rather than result*. Having a small area dedicated to your art practice at home, a regular drawing schedule, and working with like-minded students will help you progress and build momentum.

Topics include:

- Master copies: learning from the masters.
- Drawing ergonomics.
- Intuitive vs analytical drawing.
- Organizing what we see: The Block-in, Contour, Drawing on the Inside
- From 2D to 3D, essentials of modeling form.
- Chiaroscuro.
- Creating space: one, two and three point perspective.
- Materials and methods.
- Sighting Strategies: comparative measurement, sight-size and optical reduction method.
- Mindset: staying fresh and inspired..
- Gesture.
- Forms in nature.
- Constructive or Synthetic Drawing.
- Cours de Dessin

Drawing Projects:

- Bague Plates
- Master copies in different media.
- Finished drawings of a cast, drapery, figure or still-life.
- Poster and compositional studies
- Using principles of perspective to create an interior space.
- Creative exploration.
- Drawing biomorphic forms
- Drawing in color: Aux Trois Crayon

Materials (to start)

- Drawing media: Pencils (HB – 6B) and/or vine charcoal soft, medium and hard.
- Strathmore 400 Series drawing paper: 14 x 17 or larger.
- Drawing board
- Kneaded eraser, plastic eraser,
- Plumb line, small mirror, knitting needle.
- Utility knife, sandpaper #220 grit.
- Artist tape

Don't worry if you don't have all your materials at the beginning. I'll go over materials in-depth and demo basics such as pencil sharpening, making your own drawing board(s) and using other tools.

Casts



Cast drawings take a considerable amount of time to finish and are technically demanding so it's important to like and be inspired by the cast you're drawing. There are several casts to work from in the studio but they may not inspire you the same way they inspire me. Consider owning one you would really enjoy drawing and spending time with. One that you

would enjoy having in your home, for example. Quality casts can be purchased at Giust Gallery, Fine Art Store and Sculpt Shop.

Recommended Reading & Links:

- **Drawing from Observation***** by Brian Curtis
- **Keys to Drawing** by Bert Dodson
- **Charles Bague Drawing Course** by Gerald Ackerman
- **Bridgeman's Life Drawing** by George Bridgeman
- **Perspective Made Easy** by Ernest R. Norling
- **Design Basics** (fourth edition) by David A. Lauer & Stephen Pentak
- Any drawing books by **Andrew Loomis**. You can read or download them for free at: <http://fineart.sk/index.php?cat=1>
- **The Art and Science of Drawing** by Harold Speed
- The **Metropolitan Museum of Art** is now offering high resolution prints of their collection you can download for free. This is a great resource for master copies and for building an image of high quality images for your library.

* The only required reading is Drawing from Observation by Brian Curtis's book. Many used inexpensive versions are available from Amazon.