

The Course Outline

Drawing

- Introduction to drawing tools

- Basic drawing technique

 - arm and shoulder

 - vase face exercise (right brain left brain)

 - formatting and simultaneous contrast

 - angles before curves

- Rendering skills, understood in a visual way of seeing patterns

 - measuring

 - establishing a unit of measure

 - viewfinder

 - sight sizing

 - grid and pointing

 - simple grid

 - halves, thirds and angles (aka the pizza technique)

 - photoshop drawing correction technique

 - measuring faces

 - measuring figures

 - figure gesture drawing

Values

- managing values, thumbnails (establishing value keys)

- value simplification, Value Families

Edges

- hard, soft and lost

- dominant edge

- cone-al edge technique

- multiple hard edges

Direct light (light and shadow)

- front lit, 3/4 lit, side lit, back lit

- rules of light and shadow

- form shadows, cast shadows and eclectic shapes

- highlights, light, mid-tone and shadowed planes, reflected light

- mottling (with value)

Direct observation

- viewfinder

Working from photographs

Cartooning skills, understood in a physical way of cubes, cylinders and perspective

- cubes and cylinders

- depth

 - linear perspective

 - 1 point, 2 point, 3 point

 - Compression

 - foreshortening

- overlapping shapes
- Notan Theory
 - 4 basic Notan designs
 - Notan Thumbnails

Color

- Color Matching (subtractive colors)
 - Intro to color, why they have these crazy names like cerulean and cobalt
 - the color wheel (and where your colors fit in)
 - pallet preparation
 - basic color matching
 - value, hue, and intensity
 - mottling with color
- Light, north (cool), sun (warm)

Painting

- Introduction to painting tools
 - brushes, brush care
- Brush Techniques
 - hard edge, soft edge, fade, outside shaping, dry brushing, wash and glaze
 - overlapping and edge setup
 - transparency
 - illusion of detail
 - special soft edge with no drag when blending compliments
- Transition from drawing to painting exercises
 - Monochromatic, focus on brush technique
 - Color match, usually with pallet knife
 - toning a canvas
- Approaches to Painting
 - Ala Prima
 - flat block in
 - 2 layers, 2 paintings

- Layered Impressionist (the basic approach I teach most students)
 - loose to tight, back to front, big to small
 - re-drawing
 - variety and harmony
 - size (spacing), color, value, texture, hard, soft, brushwork,
 - depth
 - aerial perspective
 - color interpretation (additive colors) “Even in nature, the painter must interpret.” Degas
 - depth
 - aerial perspective
 - center of interest (in some but not all works)
 - shape (fractals)
 - surface, painterly, thin, thick, thin & thick

- oiling
- mixing on the painting
- Pointillist, visual blending (optional)
- Conal Richard Schmid (optional)
- Light Temperature Underpainting
- Flattening and abstracting (optional)

Color theory

- monochromatic schemes
- analogous schemes
- complimentary schemes
 - complimentary, split complimentary, triads, tetrads
- dominant color
- Betty Edwards complimentary variations
- color sensitivity exercises the jeweled ring and color parade

Creativity

- Push ego aside/embrace the process
- List your painting layers
 - Is your painting about a barn, or color, nature?
 - do you want to tell a story?
 - do you want to express a feeling or emotion?
- destruction
- risk, failures and epic disasters
- experiment
- your first grouping