Visual Art Classes

Course: Drawing the Figure
8 Tuesdays, June 2-July 21, 2015, 7:15-10:15 pm
Program # 3403-16-LAAS
Humanities Building, Rm 6231, 455 N Park St.

Instructor:
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A welcome note from your instructor:

Although there are a myriad approaches to figure drawing, the underlying theories remain constant. I was trained in the classical tradition, and believe that a comprehensive understanding of these fundamental principles is paramount to sincere, proficient self-expression in drawing. By learning to understand and interpret the visual experience, by developing and reinforcing fundamental skills, and by cultivating a sincere, lifelong devotion to one's work, a mastery of drawing is available to anyone willing to embark on the journey.

Feel free to email or call me regarding any questions that you may have regarding materials, procedures, or anything at all.

Tips for success:

Have an open mind.
In order to learn, you have to be willing to try new things and to step out of your comfort zone. Success doesn't happen without failure, and if you're afraid to fail, then you will be limiting the possibility of your personal growth.

Practice drawing before the class.
Working on a few drawings prior to the class will be immensely valuable in that you will naturally feel more fluent with the pencil. Additionally, stepping into this class with a foundation and some recent experience will inform you as to what questions to ask, and what issues you might be having.
Study master drawings.  
If you know what you like, and why you like it, it will be much easier for you to make skillful, rhythmic drawings with clear goals in mind.

Show up ready to work.  
Drawing requires all of our mental faculties. When you are fully attentive and immersed, your work will be filled with a sense of clarity, energy, and purpose.

Most of all, have fun with it!  
“Pretend you are dancing or singing a picture. A worker or painter should enjoy his work, else the observer will not enjoy it.” - Robert Henri

Please bring all painting supplies to the first lass. Optional supplies will be discussed.

Supply List:

Note: All supplies are suggestions. Mention of a brand or retailer should not be considered UW-Madison endorsements. Students may make substitutions.

Materials Fee: None

Required Supplies:

- Strathmore Series 400 Drawing pad 18" x 24" Several drawing pencils 2H, HB, B, 2B
- Pencil sharpener or razor blade and sandpaper
- Kneaded eraser
- Large knitting needle or equivalent instrument for comparative measuring. Small handheld mirror

Optional Supplies:

- Strathmore Series 400 Sketch pad 18" x 24" (for short poses)
- Drawing board (or any board) that will accommodate your drawing pad
- Clips to clip paper to drawing board (bulldog clips work well) Hat, visor, or baseball cap (I will explain on the first day of class)

Recommended Reading:

Harold Speed, The Practice and Science of Drawing
Anthony Ryder, The Artist's Complete Guide to Figure Drawing
Robert Henri, The Art Spirit