Visual Art Classes

Course: Drawing Fundamentals
Program #3405-17-LAAS
6 Fridays, June 10-July 15, 2016, 9:30 am-noon
Capitol Lakes Retirement Center, Encore Room, 333 W Main St.

Instructor:
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A welcome note from your instructor:
Although there are a myriad approaches to drawing, the underlying theories remain constant. I was trained in the classical tradition, and believe that a comprehensive understanding and execution of these principles is paramount to sincere, proficient self-expression in drawing. Expect an overview of the most fundamental concepts associated with both learning to see and also in using your medium.

This class is ideal for beginners, however anyone seeking a classical foundation and an understanding of how to see and interpret the visual experience will benefit. 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 anything, 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 workshop 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 class: Optional supplies will be discussed.

Materials Fee: (Fees paid directly to instructor for course materials provided by instructor.)
    Basic fee: None
    Optional materials for purchase: None

Supply List (Bring your own)Note: All supplies are suggestions. Mention of a brand or retailer should not be considered UW-Madison endorsements. Students may make substitutions.

Required supplies:
    - Strathmore Series 400 Drawing pad. Either 11”x14”, 12”x18”, or 14”x17” Several drawing pencils 2H, HB, B, 2B
    - Pencil sharpener or razor blade and sandpaper
    - Kneaded eraser
    - Small handheld mirror
    - Large knitting needle or equivalent instrument for comparative measuring.
    - Drawing board (or any board) that will accommodate your drawing pad. No larger than 18”x18”
    - Clips to clip paper to drawing board (Bulldog clips work well)

Optional Supplies:
Hat, visor, or baseball cap (I will explain the first day of class)
Sketchbook for work at home, and for quicker sketches in 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