

## **Intro to Figurative Drawing**

Fall 2019, Ocean County Artists Guild

Teacher: Caitie Kohl

### **Short Class Description:**

Explore self-expression through drawing, with the figure as your muse.

Through observational and expressive figure drawing, students from any skill level, beginning to advanced, will learn the step by step approach to figure drawing. The goal is to develop the ability to draw the figure with skill and imagination. Upon completion of this class, students will create quick gesture drawings as well as finished pieces of artwork to take home with them.

Capacity: 2 minimum, 15 maximum

Duration: 6 weeks

Age: 18+

### **Material List\*:**

- 6B, 4B, and 2B graphite pencils
  - A pencil sharpener
  - 18x24 Newsprint/Drawing pad
    - You may upgrade the paper to something archival, such as a Strathmore Drawing paper, or individual sheets of a paper of your choice.
  - 18x24 drawing board
    - OR 18x24 sanded wood and canvas clips (cheaper option)
  - White eraser
  - Kneaded eraser
  - Generals white charcoal pencil
  - Generals black charcoal pencil
  - Vine charcoal
- Optional supplies: Prismacolor Nupastel (set of 12), Set of color pencils (PrismaColor is the best), Conte Crayons

*\*If you are purchasing your supplies from Michaels, make sure to check out their online coupons before you shop.*

### **Long Class Description:**

Understanding the human form on a structural level leads to improved proportion, more dynamic and energetic figures, and will greatly improve drawings done from imagination. Working from the live model, students will learn to draw the figure, aiming for strong gesture and draftsmanship. Through observational and expressive figure drawing, you will leave this class with knowledge of the most important drawing techniques, along with finished pieces of artwork to take home with you.

This class will focus on proportions, balance, volumes, rhythm, light, shadow and color. Poses will range from short to long, to focus on capturing the movements and fundamental construction of the figure, and understanding the abstract rhythms that make the figure such an important and captivating subject.

There will be constant demonstrations, examples, and fun exercises.

## Syllabus\*:

### Week 1: "Welcome and Portraits"

- **Presentation:** Goals of the class, Prehistoric to contemporary ways of seeing the figure
- **Presentation:** Portraits
  - Formula for drawing the head and face
  - **Blind Contour Exercise: Drawing one another**
    - Introduction to your toolbox
- Pretend you're a sculptor
  - **Students will use clay to learn to see the figure as a series of shapes.**

### Week 2: "Leaving the Stick Figure in the Past: Gesture"

#### **Live Model: Unclothed**

*To capture the beauty and grace of the human body, view the figure as a collection of planes and shapes, and pay close attention to light, shadows, and line quality.*

- **Presentation:** Through a combination of techniques, students will learn the anatomy on the structural level without having to memorize names or medical terms.
  - Basic theories artists use to draw the human figure
  - Basic Anatomy (simple system of bone and muscle groups)
  - Gesture Drawing: Find the model's gesture and learn how to use it as a guide in your drawing process.
- **Combination of short gestural poses w/ Emphasis on Accurate Proportions**

### Week 3: "The Rhythm Within the Body"

#### **Live Model: Unclothed**

- **Presentation:** Examples of figurative artists utilizing rhythm in their work.
- **Gesture warm-up exercises**
- **Combination of short and long poses w/ focus on hip structure and gluteus**
  - **Emphasis on Proportions, Rhythm, and Form**

### Week 4: "Foreshortening"

#### **Live Model: Unclothed**

- **Presentation:** Examples of foreshortening w/ artist techniques and tricks
- **Gesture warm-up exercises**
- **Combination of short and long poses w/ focus on arms, legs, hands, and feet.**
  - **Emphasis on Value, Foreshortening, and Balance**

### Week 5: "Body Landscape: Light and Shadow"

#### **Live Model: Unclothed**

- **Presentation:** Examples of contrast, light, shadow, and introduction to *unexpected* color
- **Gesture warm-up exercises**
- **Combination of short and long poses w/ focus on the shoulders, chest, torso, and breasts**
  - **Emphasis on Volume, Value, and Light**

### Week 6: "Narrative: Let Your Drawings Tell a Unique Story"

#### **Live Model: Clothed**

- **Presentation:** Discover ways to make your narrative drawings speak eloquently to the viewer. View examples.
- **Combination of long poses w/ focus on capturing fabric and face**
- **Revisit your drawings, give your figures character**

*\*Out of respect for the model, please be 5 to 10 minutes early for each class session.*