

2017 Summer Art Institute

Painting A

Instructor: Tristan Unrau

TA: Lucia Zezza

Course Description:

In this class we will work towards building a foundation in painting practices and discourse. This will include basics in color, and composition as well as learning how to use different tools and techniques in paint handling. We will cover a variety of the aesthetic modes found in painting (gestural, narrative, abstraction, representational) as well as discussing contemporary and historical painters.

The practice of painting provides an endless and ongoing relation with the world. In this class we hope to provide both practical instruction and space to develop your own interests within the medium. We will challenge and broaden our understanding of what painting can be today as well as providing tools for discussing, critiquing and thinking about each others work and work we see in museums and galleries.

Evaluation†(Pass/No Pass grade): 60% Attendance and Participation 20% Projects completed in the first week
20% Projects completed in the second week

Week 1

Monday 7/10 Introductions and Color

11:00 - 12:00: Review syllabus, make introductions, icebreaker.

1:15 - 3:30: Color mixing demo, introduce aspects of color theory, color wheel assignment, review daily studio clean up

3:45 - 5:30: Demo in preparing surfaces, "Mud assignment", continued work on color wheels and Mud assignment.

Homework: - Assigned reading and 5 quick (5 minute) observational drawings

Tuesday 7/11 What to paint?

9:00 - 11:00: Discuss methods of choosing subject matter, introduce relevant artists. Set up still life.

1:15 - 3:30: Using only browns and chromatic blacks students will paint multiple (20 minute) still life studies.

3:45 - 5:30: Using a surface prepared on Monday students will work on a sustained still life painting (1hr) without the use of black.

Homework: Assigned reading, find and/or take photographs to paint from. Choose one photo and write down why it would make for a good painting.

Wednesday 7/12 Rendering (LATE STUDIO NIGHT)

9:00 - 12:00: Discuss methods of rendering, mimetic impulse, introduce relevant artists. Students make painting from photograph chosen in homework assignment

2:00 - 4:45: Non traditional rendering exercises using chosen photograph: Blind painting, painting with non dominant hand, etc

5:15 - 7:00: We will collectively make new painting tools out of the tools that we already have available. Students will paint from chosen photograph with new tool

Homework: Sketch three of each of the following - a character, a setting, and an object

Thursday 7/13 Narrative and Symbolism

9:00 - 12:00: Discuss how narrative and symbolism can function in painting, introduce relevant artists. Trade sketches from homework assignment, Make view finders of various sizes.

1:15 - 4:00: Museum Trip to Getty Center, using view finders make 10 quick compositions from paintings or sculptures seen at the Getty (5 using line and 5 using tone)

4:00 - 5:30: Students use the drawings from the homework assignment alongside the Museum sketches as reference material for a painting.

Homework: assigned reading

Friday 7/14 En Plein Air

9:00 - 12:00: Discuss painting 'en plein air', introduce relevant artists, Students make 4 paintings (30 min each) outside in sculpture garden with and without view finders

1:15 - 4:15: Students cut up two of their plein air paintings for use in a collage, make painting from this collage

Homework: Students are each assigned a contemporary painter to research over the weekend

Week 2

Monday 7/17 Abstraction

9:00 - 12:00: Discuss abstraction in painting and methods for developing abstract compositions, introduce relevant artists. Use your viewfinder to crop a section of a previous painting made in class, using three colors paint what you see in the viewfinder. Repeat this 5 times, changing your colors until you have 5 abstract compositions.

2:15 - 3:30: Choose from your abstract compositions and replicate one using a different technique (dripping, spraying, taping, palette knife, etc)

3:45 - 5:30: Continued work on abstractions

Homework: Write something specific you like about painting, Write something specific you don't like about painting

Tuesday 7/18 Voice and Style

9:00 - 12:00: Discuss how voice and style are used in different painting practices, introduce relevant artists. Taste exercise: Describe an abstract painting you would want hanging in your room and paint it, describe an abstract painting you would not want hanging in your room and paint it.

1:15 - 3:30: Museum Trip – Hammer Museum, Choose two works you like simply because of how they look and 2 works you like because of an idea associated with them.

3:30 - 5:30: Discuss works seen at the Hammer, Continue taste exercise.

Homework: Assigned reading

Wednesday 7/19 Free Studio Day / Book making (LATE STUDIO NIGHT)

9:00 - 12:00: Discuss bookmaking and publication, introduce relevant artists. Free studio time with individual meetings, students are encouraged to look through the paintings and drawings made in class and develop a few of them into more considered paintings.

1:15 - 2:15: Artist Talk by Instructors

2:15 - 4:45: Continued free studio time

5:15 - 7:00: Work on books together (brown paper and staples)

Homework: Choose one painting you have made in class and write a short paragraph describing it.

Thursday 7/20 Context / Installation

9:00 - 12:00: Discuss methods of exhibition and display, introduce relevant artists, students choose which of their works will be in the final show (we will be choosing out of all of the work that we have made in the class.)

1:15 - 3:30 Studio Time and final Critique with Instructors and Guest Faculty/Guest Artists

3:45 - 5:30 Final Critique with Instructor and Guest Faculty

Friday 7/21 Exhibition

9:00 - 12:00: Bring artwork and artist books to gallery, install exhibition

1:15 - 2:00: Pack artwork to be shipped home, final studio clean-up

2:00 - 3:30: Final Reception held at New Wight Gallery - all students, parents / guardians, faculty, staff and friends are welcome to attend!