

Greetings Drawing and Painting students! We are going to pick up where we left off, practicing realistic drawing techniques. Use pencil or pen on any paper you can find, even the back of an old envelope or the inside cardboard of a cereal box...get creative with your materials if you must. Use what you have and use it well! Feel free to experiment with materials once you have a good grip on working with pencil. You can try Crayon, marker, thinned out house paint, coffee...experiment.

All of the topics below are found on the Rapid Fire Art Youtube channel that we had worked with in class. If you are online, let this channel be your guide.

Since it's been a while, practice drawing realistically, focusing on beginning with a light sketch, fixing mistakes as you work, shading smoothly using many tiny layered lines which create gradients instead of outlines. Use a full value range, from the lightest grey to the darkest black. Remember, just as with music, you want to hear deep bass and crisp treble, with everything in-between. Same goes for values in drawing, so use a full "rainbow of grays" to really develop your drawings. Same goes for other materials, try. To develop a full value range out of whatever materials you are using, and feel free to combine interesting materials. Work beyond the norm if you are ready to move forward.

Week One: Human Features

4/13-14 Review realistic eyes, building slowly, lightly, and correcting as you go. Draw as many as you can, starting with the Rapid Fire Art Youtube tutorial and advancing to drawing by looking in the mirror, taking a closeup photo of someone's eye at home, zooming in on a celebrity's eye, or taking a "selfie" of your own eye. Practice makes perfect. Create as many as you can, from complete finished drawings to quick sketches. Try to create different expressions by changing the shape and style of the eye.

4/15-17 Continue to practice your realistic drawing skills by continuing with the nose and lips, from front and side views. Remember, sketch it lightly and then fix it up as you go! Again, change materials, exaggerate shapes, styles and sizes. Feel free to create art, rather than just a copy. Express yourself and be creative.

Week Two: Full Human Face

4/20-25 Now that you have the basic features down let's focus on proportion- how all of those pieces fit together in terms of scale and distance. Once again, look to Rapid Fire Art on Youtube for help and guidance. She does a great job and is very clear. If you are not online, imagine a grid in front of your face as you look in the mirror. Notice that the length of one eye fits in between both eyes. Notice that your lips are just about as wide as your pupils. Notice that the eyes are in the middle of your skull, not counting your hair. Draw the face in frontal, profile and three quarter views this week.

They say learning to draw is learning to see...noticing these distances and proportions will feel like you are truly learning to see from scratch. Realistic drawing can be broken down into three simple ideas:

- 1) Gradients instead of outlines.
- 2) Proper proportion, with all shapes correct.
- 3) A full value range with smooth shading and accurate lighting.

If you are comfortable with realistic drawing and would like to be more expressive, please do so. Draw on newspaper, a piece of cardboard, inside your altered book, on a pillowcase, on

your driveway if you have chalk...Also, feel free to complete these assignments using a drawing program if it is more your style.

Next week we will move on to sketching from life!