

SA102 FOUNDATIONS OF STUDIO ART

SELF PORTRAIT in GRAY SCALE

For this project you will be using a photographic image of yourself. Make sure that the image that you choose is high resolution, clear, and has a full range of values.

- The first step is to open your image in Adobe Photoshop, change your image mode to gray scale

- Next, adjust the brightness and contrast as needed

- Posterize your image to 8 levels

- Play around with different compositional options- crop your image 6" x 8.5". When working out your composition please keep in mind your element to border relationships, positive and negative space, focal point and visual hierarchy.

- Using the Xerox printer, print out the image at 6" x 8.5 inches.

- Next, draw a one-inch grid over the entire surface, beginning at the upper left hand corner.

- On a separate sheet of illustration board (12 x 17 inch picture plane) draw a two-inch grid covering the surface.

- Carefully transfer the contour lines (which represent value separations) from the small printed image onto the 12x 17" surface, square by square. Fill in each of the sections with values of gray paint. You must mix your grays to match your value levels. Make sure that you use at least two coats of paint, so it appears opaque. Also, be very careful to edge your shapes of value nearly, so that you have very crisp separations. **This is not a painterly or impressionistic portrait project.** Your finished painting will look similar to a paint by number- very clear distinctions between values. Remember this project is about *value* and accurate value matching and placement.

Title your project. **BRING the original gray scale printout to class on the due date. You will attach it to your self-evaluation form. I will need this to complete grading.**

Materials: 14" x 19" piece of illustration board (12 x 17" picture plane), X-acto knife, ruler, blue tape, black and white acrylic paint, mixing palette (plate will do), various paint brushes

- Your piece must remain a highly recognizable portrait of you as represented in your original print-out

-Be accurate in translating value, shape and placement from image to your paper

THINK OF THIS ASSIGNMENT AS PAINTING ABSTRACT SHAPES, NOT A REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Value refers to the relative lightness or darkness of a surface.

-The lightness or darkness of a shape is determined by its surroundings.

-A Gray square on a white surface appears heavy and imposing.

-The same gray square has less visual weight and seems to glow surrounded by black.

Contrast The amount of difference in value.

High Contrast increases clarity and improves readability. That is why print on this screen is black on white.

Low Contrast is used when the message is subtle.

Photography requires attention to contrast. Changing a filter using different print paper can alter contrast.

Value Distribution Refers to the proportion and arrangement of lights and darks in a composition. Careful use of value distribution can increase emotional impact.

Composition that is eighty percent black has a different feel than a composition that is eighty percent white.

Darker values often create a sense of mystery and increase dramatic tension.

Light values suggest openness, optimism and clarity.

Value and Volume

When a full range of values is used a two-dimensional shape can seem three-dimensional, or volumetric. A full range of values can transform a circle into a full three dimensional sphere.

Value and Space

When darks and lights are combined in a composition dark shapes tend to advance, while gray shapes tend to recede.

The effect of dark values in the foreground fading into grays in to background is called Chiaroscuro.

Chiaroscuro literally means "light-dark" – it is a way to create the illusion of space.

Value and Lighting

Filmmakers and set designers are especially aware of the expressive use of value.

Working with a wide range of light; sharply defined spotlights, different floodlights, they can increase and decrease the illusion of space, emphasizing an object or action, and in the end influence our emotional response to a character.

Relative lightness and darkness in an artwork is called value. Value can be used to create the illusion of space, suggest volume, shift compositional balance and heighten emotion.

Keywords: Chiaroscuro, contrast, gradation, value, value distribution, value scale, volumetric.



Image posterized 8 levels