

Drawing Project: Urban Landscape

Your task is to make an urban landscape drawing (as the title suggests) from your own references. Your ultimate goal is to apply the concepts we have discussed about creating the illusion of deep space. Recall: what are the 'ingredients' of spatial illusion? What can be done to exaggerate the sense of deep space?

Gather at least 20 reference photos from downtown Vancouver or some other area that feels densely populated. Take the photos in black and white. Try to find shots that feel spatial. Try to find angles that emphasize perspective lines. Out of these 20 photos, you will choose one that feels the most suitable for drawing. See what you can do to further edit the image (on your device of choice) to exaggerate the sense of space.

You will enlarge the photo so that it can be drawn on a piece of paper that is 11"x17" or larger. It is to be done in pencil (micron / pen & ink is also OK but will be more time consuming and challenging). I recommend using a lightbox (there is one in the AOMA studio) to trace your image onto paper.

Some artists to look at for inspiration: Dan Beardshaw (he has a lot of documentation about his process), Bren Luke, and Giovanni Battista Piranesi (look for him on Google Arts and Culture).

Materials:

You should have most of the materials already from the 'Essentials' section of the supply list on the AOMA portfolio website. You will also need nice paper for the drawing - I recommend Stonehenge or Rives BFK. Look at your options at the art store. Make sure that the surface is not too rough (don't use watercolor paper like Arches) and that you will have enough space to cut out a smaller sheet that can fit an 11"x17" drawing with ½" margins.