

Drawing Project: Pen and Ink

In this assignment I'd like to turn your attention to so-called Lowbrow art. What is Lowbrow art? Wikipedia defines it as a "populist art movement with its cultural roots in underground comix, punk music, tiki culture, graffiti, and hot-rod cultures of the street". In other words, art that doesn't exactly belong in the Louvre or the modern "white cube" spaces that are reserved for Highbrow art.

Tattoo art is decidedly Lowbrow. Before designs are permanently inked into skin, they are typically drafted on paper with pen and ink. This is particularly accessible for us - all we need are some Micron pens, ink, and some brushes (you will need a few more things but these are the most important). Take a look at some artists who specialize in pen and ink.

Here are some important artists:

@oliver.macintosh
@giorgiochiricotattoos
@waterstreetphantom
@j_ranno
@julianbast
@zacblevins
@adrian_hing_tattoo
@greggletron

Focus on the work they've done on paper, since that will be what you ultimately create for this assignment. You're welcome to use color (watercolor and gouache) but I recommend sticking to pen and ink to keep things manageable. Draft something rough in pencil that you trace onto watercolor paper using the light table we have at AOMA. As always, create ½" margins. Be thoughtful about the frame and consider creating an ornamental frame for your subject.

Materials:

You must have some watercolor brushes, some ink (Speedball or Higgins), Microns (or a dip pen), and some Arches watercolor paper (at least 11"x14"). Check the "Optional" section of the website supply list for more ideas.