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Sample Assignments for Introductory Painting/Drawing Course

1. Material One: Charcoal

A. Make six drawings on 8.5 x 11" paper of a still life you create at home using only an egg and a plain sheet of paper. Use the six different rendering techniques discussed in class.

B. Create a still life by collecting 2 or more simple geometric household objects. (i.e. a coffee cup and an apple). Choose a single light source to illuminate the display and make one 11 x 14" drawing that shows a full range of values.

C. Make six 10-minute single-figure drawings of either a family member or a friend. Attempt to render the entire figure and elements of the figure's environment. Incorporate a full range of values and try to use the entire page. Bring the drawings to class for discussion. You will be selecting one of the drawings to develop into a 1 to 2 hour drawing.

2. Material Two: Ink

A. Choose a 2-dimensional household texture, such as carpet, lace, wallpaper, etc. Using the diluted ink wash and a brush to make an 11 x 14" drawing that attempts to reproduce the texture to scale. Use the flat side or tip of the brush as shown in class to generate a variety of marks.

B. Using only your quill and ink, render an egg with a single light source using contour lines and cross-hatching. Make four drawings, 11 x 14" each.

3. Material Three: Acrylic Paint

A. Using only black and white acrylic paint, paint your non-dominant hand. Choose a simple background and use only one light source.

B. Choose two complementary colors from the color wheel you made in class. Use only these two colors to mix a range of greys. Make a painting of a still life of simple household objects (i.e. dishes or cardboard boxes) using only a single light source. Fill the entire page so that no white remains on your surface.

C. Using a tertiary color palette, create an 11 x 14" portrait of a friend or a family member. You have the option to compose either a bust or full-figure portrait. Use compositional tools discussed in class and incorporate environmental/background elements that you think reflect the personality of the subject. Complete the portrait over 6 half hour sessions, though the subject does not need to be present each time you paint.

D. Using a secondary color palette and incorporating traditional perspective techniques discussed in class, create a painting of a room that is from your childhood. Do not use photographic references, but challenge yourself to create the image from memory. Bring to class and be prepared to discuss your process. Complete this assignment over 4 half hour sessions.