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ART 323.01: Drawing II

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Art 323: Drawing II 3 cr. Prereq., ART 123A, 125A, 150, 151, 203, and 223A.

Fall 2007
MW 2-4 FA 102 or Art Annex Off Center Gallery
Beth Lo, elizabeth.lo@umontana.edu, x5893
office hours: M 1-2pm, W 4-5 Ceramics lab, Art Annex
required text: Vitamin D, Phaidon Press

Catalog Course Description: Exploration and production of drawings with emphasis on individual expression. Studio practicum, lectures, critiques, reading and writing.

This class is intended to explore traditional and experimental approaches to drawing, and to allow the student the opportunity to use drawing as a way to develop his or her visual ideas as well as practice the skills necessary to communicate those ideas. I am a believer in a very wide definition of drawing, encompassing everything from doodles, to sketchbook work to installation and markmaking.

Structure: The class will be split into two parts: the first half will be exploratory and the second half will be devoted to the development of individual approaches to drawing and content. Part I will include in-class exercises, a research component with presentations, 5x7 card homework drawings, and critique periods. Students will be expected to spend a minimum of six hours per week on homework drawings.

The textbook, Vitamin D, is a compilation of hundreds of contemporary drawings, from various artists with vastly different approaches, something for everyone, I hope. The variety is meant to allow each of you to find work that you are inspired by and can relate to naturally, as well as providing a way of pushing each of you out of your comfort zone. Each student should select and read the entries on at least 15 artists, and select five to do more research on. Perhaps try to contact the artist and interview him/her. Choose one or two to present to the class in a 10-15 minute presentation with images to be projected.

5x7 homework drawings: Buy a package of 100 5x7 index cards. These represent your sketchbook for this class and will be used to help you develop your visual vocabulary, narrow your content and practice your graphic skills. Use the whole card! Composition is important! Every three weeks you will develop one of your 5x7 drawings into a larger format piece for class critique.

Final portfolio: Final drawings based on work done in second half of class. Artist statement to accompany.

In class exercises: Purchase paper of your choice minimum size 14”x17”and bring to class. Each in class exercise will be followed by a brief class critique session.

I. Group drawing
II. The use of photography
III. Mark-making
IV. narrative
V. drawing out of control
VI. drawing based on a research artist

Grading: Attendance, energy and attitude are extremely important to your grade. You are allowed one unexcused absence before losing points with regard to your grade. Each unexcused absence after the first is equivalent to half a grade. Consistent tardiness or leaving class early can also amount to an unexcused absence. All students will be expected to clean up after themselves and to help keep the studio in good order.
Projects will be graded on the basis of quality of work. This ineffable term can be broken down to originality and importance of the idea, energy involved in execution, craftsmanship, presentation, improvement, formal resolution.
Late homework assignments will be marked one grade down per class late.

Tentative semester schedule:
Week I: Aug. 27: intro
  Group drawing, meet in Art Annex
Week II: Sept. 3: Labor Day, no class
  In class drawing: the use of photography, bring photos
Week III: Sept. 10: In class drawing: markmaking, hand in 20 5x7 drawings
  Rework one of first two drawings
Week IV Sept. 17: first 6 presentations
  In class drawing: narrative
Week V: Sept. 24: Meet in Art Annex: first homework critique, 5x7 drawings and one larger format
  Next 6 presentations
Week VI: Oct. 1: In class drawing: drawing out of control
  Rework one of the second two drawings
Week VII: Oct. 8: In class drawing: based on research artist
  Rework research artist drawing
Week VIII: Oct. 15: Homework critique, Meet in Art Annex: 5x7 drawings and one larger format piece
  Draw! Work on your own projects
Week IX: Oct. 22: Next 6 presentations
  Draw
Week X: Oct. 29: Discussion of artist statements, Draw
  Oct. 31: Critique Day, Meet in Art Annex, hand in 5x7 drawings and large format piece
Week XI: Nov. 5: Draw
  Guest lecture: presentation, framing etc. Draw
Week XII Nov. 12: Veterans Day no class
  Next 6 presentations
Week XIII: Nov. 19: Draw
  Thanksgiving No class
Week XIV: Nov. 26: Homework Critique, Meet in Art Annex, hand in 5x7 drawings and large format piece
  Draw
Week XIV: Final portfolio critique, portfolios due

Finals week: return portfolios and studio clean up.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code
All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the university. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321