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ARTZ 321.02: Painting II - The Figure

Kevin J. Bell

University of Montana - Missoula, kevin.bell@umontana.edu

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Autumn 2012

The University of Montana, School of Art

ARTZ 321, section 02, Painting II: the Figure, 3 Credits

Prereq. ARTZ 221

Instructor: Kevin Bell

Office: Room 413, Fine Art Building, kevin.bell@umontana.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:00pm-4:00pm

Meeting times: 2:10-4:00pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays, FA 404

COURSE DESCRIPTION (catalogue): "Continued development of painting skills and concepts with an emphasis on contemporary ideas, process and materials. Studio practicum, lectures, critiques, reading and writing."

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Contemporary artists regularly revisit and reconfigure traditional subjects to speak about our world around us. The human figure is one such subject that has long fascinated artists and has recently reemerged as an important subject for current painters. This course introduces the rich discussion that surrounds the figure in painting. Our goals are three-fold: 1.) you will develop technical proficiency rendering the figure through working with live models, and 2.) you will explore issues and ideas of the figure in our post modern culture and 3.) you will become familiar with various contemporary approaches, processes and strategies.

FORMAT:

Painting. The majority of our time will be spent painting. While the first month of the class will be devoted to studies and learning from the model, and the majority of the class will be spent on several larger assignments. While each project provides structure, I encourage you to interpret loosely and creatively, based on your personal interests and direction.

Reading. Periodically I will be assigning you readings that relate to assignments and issues addressed in class. They will be placed on reserve in the Resources Room, and you are required to read them! I ask that you keep a journal recording your impressions from the reading, and I will be checking your work periodically.

Critiques. Critiques are valuable to artists at all stages of their career. These discussions allow students to learn from each other and their instructor, evaluate themselves, and to utilize their growing visual vocabulary. I will guide these discussions and offer my feedback, but ultimately expect the class as a whole to speak more than myself in response to each other's artwork. Please come ready to talk and offer your insights and suggestions.

Presentations. Looking at other artists is important to your development as a painter. Learning how others use paint and approach different subjects can add depth and richness to your work. To this end, I will ask you to read about an artist, write a short essay, and present a short discussion to the rest of the class. I will provide a list of potential artist you can choose from. You are also welcome to select an artist that does not appear on the list, with my consent.

Homework: Expect to spend 5 hours a week outside of class. If you are not sure what you need to be doing over the weekend, make sure you come see me before you leave on Thursday's class. This studio is available for your use when no other class is meeting. (No classes are scheduled in this studio on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and are a perfect time to work.)

Two hours go by quickly in a studio so it is also important that you are set up and ready to go by classtime. Information about assignments is usually discussed at the beginning of the class and it is distracting to others to be setting up late.

PARTICIPATION. Participation is an important part of this course, and you will be expected to engage in every class. Please make sure you show up with all material each class.

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

Grades will reflect

- Quality of work (75%)
 - Completion of assignment with a high level of commitment.
 - Understanding of new concepts
 - Willingness to take chances
- Presentation (5%)
- Participation (20%)
 - Attendance
 - Contributions to critiques
 - Classroom etiquette, and facility care

If you are present, engaged and working to understand new things, progress will come inevitably.

I will give you verbal feedback on each of your paintings during scheduled group critiques and through written comments on completed assignments. A final one-on-one critique will be scheduled at the end of term to discuss your work. Additionally, I would be happy to meet before this to discuss your progress if you wish.

Attendance: Success in painting is almost entirely a function of effort. It is important to arrive on time, with all materials, and be ready to work. Usually at the beginning of each class I will discuss important concepts and issues that will guide the day's assignment, and each assignment builds on previous work. **It is therefore nearly impossible to make up missed class and it is essential that you are committed to arriving on time and attending every class.** More than 3 missed classes or consistent lateness will result in a lowered grade. (For example, from B+ to B).

If you miss a class, please ask a fellow classmate about what you missed. It is often very hard to find a time to meet and summarize the class for you. Instead of contacting me to find out what you missed, instead have the email of at least one fellow classmate you can contact. I will post all lectures and assignments on Moodle.

MATERIALS.

You are welcome to work in either acrylic or oil, which ever is your personal preference. If you choose oil, you **MUST** make underpaintings in acrylic, as too much solvent on a canvas produces harmful vapors.

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 <http://life.umt.edu/VPSA/name/StudentConductCode>.”

Disabling Condition:

If you have a disabling condition that may interfere with your ability to successfully complete this course, please confer with the instructor.

Withdrawal Policy

Specifics available at this web address: <http://www2.umt.edu/catalog/acpolpro.htm>

Health and Safety

The UM Art Department uses environmentally sound methods. Required materials from your supply list are in compliance. Gamsol is the only allowable solvent in the painting area because of its relatively low aromatic vapors and evaporation rate (20% in three hours). Even still, do not leave any container of Gamsol open for a prolonged period. All others, including turpentine and Odorless Mineral Spirits are prohibited. You are individually responsible for clean up at the end of each session in this classroom (either in or out of class time). Use of the woodshop power tools is voluntary, and all users must complete a power tool orientation. No creatures or children will be allowed in the studios during class time or open studio times. No food or beverage containers will be allowed in the Art Department facilities when art-making is in progress. All art work must be picked up by the Monday after finals week or it will be discarded.

Building Access

The use of studio space requires current enrollment in a specific studio course, as course fees are used to purchase supplies. Those not currently enrolled will be asked to leave. Building hours are 7:00am to 11:00pm daily. Fridays are open studio day in the art building—no classes are scheduled.

Art Student Collective

The collective is a student –organized and student-led group that sponsors art-related workshops, events, and the Annual Juried Student Art Show. Members meet in FA 304 Mondays at 12:15pm. Everyone is invited to bring a sack lunch and join in!

Events in the Department

<http://umartdepartment.wordpress>

Facebook: Grizart