

PROJECT 1: CONTOUR STILL LIFE

Due October 12 for 10% of Overall Course Grade in ART104: Drawing

DESCRIPTION

For your first project in ART104, set up a still life at home and use it to create an interesting, well-composed contour drawing that applies what you have learned in class about visual measuring, proportion, perspective and the formal elements of line, shape and space.

Because this is a contour drawing, you can use line quality to suggest light and shadow and to create mood. However, please do not add value or color. This drawing should be lines only. Please work on 18" x 24" paper and fill the page. Either graphite or charcoal are acceptable mediums so long as you follow all the other project requirements.

STILL LIFE SET UP

Your still life must include at least three of the following items:

- bottle
- soda can
- bowl
- vase
- wine glass
- salt/pepper shaker
- hardcover book
- cell phone
- laptop computer
- padlock
- hammer
- screwdriver
- house paint brush
- funnel
- nail
- fork
- spoon
- pen
- scissors
- curling iron
- tooth brush
- light bulb
- battery
- spool of thread

You can add additional items of your own choosing if you wish, especially if you think they will add interest. Overall, it helps to select objects that go together either visually or conceptually.

Creating an interesting drawing relies not just on what objects you choose but on how you compose. To that end, arrange the still life thoughtfully, overlapping or extending off the edge of the page to create distinct positive and negative shapes. Think about how your arrangement can imply lines of movement (horizontal, vertical, diagonal) to keep the viewer interested. What do you want people to look at first (what is the focal point)? Are there any dead spots or overly cluttered areas that will unbalance the composition? We will talk about these concepts in class on September 28 and October 5.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Project 1 is an outside assignment that must be completed as homework. We will follow a step-by-step procedure, and it is crucial you stay on track. *Do not wait until the last minute to do the any of the following steps.* Rushing usually shows, and your drawing (and grade) will suffer as a result.

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| Sep. 28 | In class: introduction to Project 1 |
| Sep. 28–Oct. 5 | At home: select still life items and make 10 thumbnail sketches (due October 5)
Add comment to the blog with a contour still life example (due October 5) |
| Oct. 5 | In class: review of thumbnail sketches |
| Oct. 5–Oct. 12 | At home: create drawing from selected thumbnail according to project guidelines |
| Oct. 12 | In class: critique of finished project |

VERY IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Carefully measure the external proportions (the scale of one object compared to another) and internal proportion (scale of one part of an object to another part of that same object). Check your "plumb bobs" and angles. Measurement is the single most important thing you've learned so far in this class, and I will be evaluating your drawing with it in mind.
- Step back often to check out the big picture. Compare your drawing and your still life directly in order to see errors you may miss close up.
- Work from light to dark. If you start too dark, it is difficult to fix mistakes or to get a full range of line qualities.
- Work from general to specific. Start by laying out the page as a whole so that you get everything placed where you want it before drawing individual items. Then, within each item, measure boxes, cylinders or spheres in perspective before refining to more complex shapes.
- Speaking of refinement, this is what the drawing process is. Don't get attached to your first marks. Erase and change as necessary!
- Leave yourself enough time to really work this drawing. Remember, it's worth 10% of your overall grade. Expect that you will spend 3-6 hours minimum on all the steps combined.

DUE DATE AND CRITIQUE

Project 1 is due at the beginning of class on Wednesday, October 12, and we will have a group critique on that date. Come to class on time and prepared to discuss how you made your drawing and why you made the formal and compositional choices you did. Missing critique results in an automatic lowering of your project grade by one letter, and you must still submit your project on time by e-mailing a photograph. *No late work is accepted in ART104.* If you do not turn in Project 1 on time, you will get zero credit, which will significantly hurt your overall course grade, since Project 1 accounts for 10%.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

Project 1 is worth 10% of your overall course grade in ART104. Criteria for evaluation include:

- Timely completion of all steps related to Project 1 (see Project Timeline)
- Ability to use visual measurement to create convincing internal and external proportions
- Demonstrated understanding of linear perspective to suggest three-dimensional still life objects on a two-dimensional picture plane
- Application of line quality to enhance the sense of light and depth and create visual interest
- Use of shape to create a successful composition
- Overall composition of the drawing on the page with consideration of balance, proportion, emphasis and movement
- Thoughtful engagement in the project
- Active participation in critique