

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

DRAWING MARATHON: THE CHELSEA HIGH LINE

Carole Robb

Fall 2010

Instructor: Carole Robb
Class Hours: 9:00AM – 6:00PM
Week 1: Tuesday, September 7 – Saturday, September 11
Week 2: Monday, September, 12 – Friday, September 17
New York Studio School closed for Labor Day: Monday September 6
Office Hours: By appointment
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Course Description

The Chelsea High Line has already become a New York landmark. Opened in 2009 on an abandoned elevated freight train line, it marks the reappearance of the wild amidst the concrete of New York. It's an extraordinary and inspiring 3/4 mile long park planted with natural flora, high up in the air overlooking the Chelsea Art World and the river. Drawing from observation on location (plein air) is a challenge that sharpens the sensitivity and trains the eye to measure space. In this marathon it will also draw the students' attention to the softer forms of nature combined with geometric city architecture and to the interaction of the human figure in this unusual environment. The course suits students with an interest in abstraction or in representation, equally well.

Course Outline

In week 1, we'll draw each morning from direct observation on the Highline. Students will make small pencil drawings. Each afternoon we'll return to the studio where the emphasis will be on making large charcoal drawings and on using the memory of the morning's visual experience.

In week 2, we'll work each morning from observation on the Highline, using water color or acrylic on a small scale. Afternoon sessions will be in the studio with the emphasis on working larger and from the memory of the morning experience. Afternoon materials will include w/color and acrylic paint.

Learning Outcomes

This drawing marathon challenges students to be self-motivating, to work independently and to pay close attention to intuition. The focus is the development of drawing skills and the development and exploration of personal vision.

Individual critiques will be on a daily basis and group critiques will be at the end of each week.

Assessable Tasks

The number of on-site and studio drawings made daily will vary from individual to individual. Students are expected to complete one large final drawing at the end of week 2.

Evaluation and Grading

Grading is on a High Pass/Pass/Low Performance/Fail basis. The key means of assessment for MFA I and MFA II students enrolled in this Marathon will be 100% attendance, commitment to the class; participation in class discussions and fulfillment of assignments to a satisfactory level.

Materials and supplies

The materials list is as follows. Please note that drawing paper should be accessed from many sources -- choose what is pleasing to your eye and hand. Spiral bound sketchbooks are the most useful for on-site work as drawings/watercolors/small acrylics will be removed from sketchbooks for group critiques.

- ♦ Pencils -- selection, HB to 6B+ charcoal pencils (recommend Pitt Charcoal)
- ♦ Pencil Sharpener
- ♦ Watercolors (recommend Schminke tubes)
- ♦ Acrylic paint (recommend tubes - assorted colors)
- ♦ Charcoal - vine to larger sticks
- ♦ Spiral bound sketchbook (min.size 9"x12")
- ♦ Robust paper for larger works (min.size 22"x30")
- ♦ Selection of brushes -- w/color to nylon-- small to large
- ♦ Paper towel
- ♦ Masking tape
- ♦ Staple gun/staples
- ♦ Plastic containers for water
- ♦ Mixing pan for w/color/acrylic

School, Department & Class Policies

Please refer to the Student Handbook for information regarding the School's policies on academic integrity and plagiarism. All students must abide by the general health and safety regulations laid out in the Student Handbook, as well as any specific instructions given by the D.M. Instructor.

When working on-site, students will respect pedestrians and store-keepers and not obstruct the normal flow of ambient street activity.