

Stanford | Continuing Studies

- **Course Title:** Abstract Drawing (ART 25)
- **Course Dates/Time:** Thursdays, 6:30 – 9:30 pm September 26 - December 5 (No class October 17 and November 19)
- **Instructor:** Trevor Tubelle, MFA Website: www.tubelle.com; Instagram: @trevortubelle

Summary*

Abstract Drawing is a studio art course that focuses on experimenting with a number of abstract drawing strategies and techniques while using various drawing tools, such as pens, pencils, charcoal, sumi ink, and nontraditional materials. It will also explore a variety of ideas and subject matter via the lens of abstraction, including nonrepresentational geometry, repetition, pattern, ambiguity, and metaphor.

**Please see course page for full description and additional details. This syllabus is subject to change. Students will receive an updated syllabus on the first day of class.*

Objectives

- To experiment with some of the methods, tools and concepts of abstract drawing
- To take part in a community of artists
- To *enjoy* the challenging and nuanced process of drawing

Methods

- Practice & repetition
- Experimentation & play
- Observation (inner & outer)
- Creative Synthesis
- Mutual support & feedback

Requirements/Grading/Guidelines

Please make a *commitment* to the work we're going to do together. Students who want to get the most out of this class should be on time, have regular attendance, and complete all assignments.

Grading options:

- Letter Grades: **Not offered**
- No Grade Requested (NGR): Default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit* (CR/NC): A passing grade (for "Credit") = at least 70% of expectations accomplished. No more than two absences and completion of at least three projects and three homework assignments and active participation in discussions is required.

**Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose Credit/No Credit. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*

Guidelines:

- **Do** arrive on time
- **Do** actively participate in discussions
- **Do** listen to the instructor and fellow students
- **Do** complete all projects, including home assignments
- **Do not** talk while the instructor or a fellow student is speaking
- **Do not** use a digital device in class (call/text outside)
- **Do not** be mean, rude, or disrespectful to *anyone* in the class
- Students who cannot follow the guidelines or instructions of the teacher might be asked to leave

Structure

We'll be drawing the majority of the time, but there will also be slide lectures, demos, class discussions, and short writing projects. At the start of most classes we will have a warm-up before the main project. You'll receive info via email before each class that explains what we'll be doing that week, which materials to bring, and what to work on at home.

Materials**For the first class you will need:**

- Work Clothing: Always wear old clothes or a smock/apron that can get dirty.
- Pencils: An assortment of hard and soft pencils.
- Eraser & Sharpener: A white eraser and a small, portable pencil sharpener.
- Paper: One sheet (22x30 in.) of drawing, watercolor or printmaking paper, Hot Pressed, 140 lb. or thicker. Some brands: Arches, BFK Rives, Fabriano, Stonehenge, etc.
- PAK: See below.

Later you will need:

- Paper: One or more sheets of 22x30 in. paper per class (same as above); five sheets total.
- Charcoal & Conté: A small package (2 sticks) of compressed charcoal, a small package (2 sticks) of Conté brand white crayons and one kneaded rubber eraser.
- Pens: Your choice of two or more different *types* of pen (ballpoint, rollerball, felt, fountain, brush, paint, gel, parallel, technical, etc.).
- Sumi Ink & Brush: A small bottle of Japanese liquid black sumi ink (*do not substitute other types of ink!*) and a small to medium-sized Asian-style bamboo calligraphy brush. Also, two mixing cups/jars/containers.
- Collage Supplies: Glue (e.g., glue sticks, Yes! glue, white glue, etc.), artist masking tape, scissors and/or X-acto knife.
- OPTIONAL: Ruler, water spray bottle, gloves, colored pencils, crayons, pastels, etc.

Portable Art Kit (PAK):

- A PAK is a small, portable container with supplies and a small sketchbook. *The key aspect of the PAK is that it is truly portable—it must fit in a backpack, pocket, or purse.* Use it to write down ideas, plan a piece, sketch on the fly, and brainstorm freely without judgment. For your PAK you need:
 - Sketchbook: **Must be 5" x 7" or smaller.**
 - Pencils and/or Pens: A small assortment of your choosing.
 - Container: A small and portable box/bag for supplies.

Where to buy supplies:

- University Art (Redwood City): 2550 El Camino Real @ Center St.
- California Art Supply Co. (San Mateo): 3600 S. El Camino Real
- Michael's (Sunnyvale): 818 W El Camino Real @ S. Pastoria Ave.
- Michael's (Mountain View): 2415 Charleston Rd @ Independence Ave.
- Michael's (Cupertino): 20640 Homestead Rd @ Forge Way
- Michael's (San Mateo): 1750 S Delaware St. near Concar Dr.
- Maido Fine Stationery & Gifts (San Jose): 378 Santana Row, St. 1125, @ Olsen Dr.

Outline

Week 1:

- Introductions, syllabus & materials
- Class objectives & prior experience
- Slides: Range of Abstraction
- Demo: Serendipity & Chance
- Warm-up: Escape Your Mistake!
- Project: **Disparate Juxtapositions** (Creative Synthesis)
- Home Project(s): 1) Get supplies. 2) What's *your* definition of abstraction? 3) Bring examples of patterns.

Week 2:

- Slides
- Demo: Composition, Non-Illusionistic Space & Positive/Negative Space
- Warm-up: Observation Task: Patterns
- Project: **Pattern Transmogrification** (Nonrepresentational Geometry)
- Home Project(s): 1) Work on Pattern Transmogrification. 2) Observation Task: In-between Time.

Week 3:

- Warm-up
- Project: **Pattern Transmogrification #2**
- Home Project(s): 1) Finish Pattern Transmogrification. 2) Bring two or more poems you enjoy.

Week 4:

- Slides
- Discussion: All work thus far (using Harsh-O-Meter)
- Demo: Gesture
- Warm-up: Observation Task: Visual Haiku
- Project: **Poetic Distillation** (Metaphor & Ambiguity)
- Home Project(s): Work on Poetic Distillation.

Week 5:

- Warm-up
- Project: Poetic Distillation #2
- Home Project(s): 1) Finish Poetic Distillation. 2) Prep collage ingredients. 3) Observation Task: Different Angles.

Week 6:

- Slides
- Demo: Mixing Media & Collage
- Warm-up: Five Senses
- Project: Trans-Form Triptych (Repetition & Perception)
- Home Project(s): 1) Work on Trans-Form Triptych. 2) Prep collage ingredients and bring extra materials.

Week 7:

- Warm-up
- Project: Trans-Form Triptych #2
- Home Project(s): 1) Finish Trans-Form Triptych. 2) Prep collage ingredients and bring extra materials. 3) Observation Task: Look Inward.

Week 8:

- Slides
- Demo: Shaping Surfaces & Non-Traditional Tools
- Warm-up: Big Collage Pile
- Project: Anti-Self-Portrait (Self-Concept & Ego)
- Home Project(s): Bring your drawing for a discussion.

Week 9:

- Final Discussion
- Project: Anti-Self-Portrait #2

Class Goals & Past Experience

Directions:

1. Pair up with a partner and give them this handout to write on (they will give you theirs).
2. Ask your partner the two questions below.
3. Write down her/his answers carefully (and legibly) and be prepared to tell the class what your partner said.
4. Give this handout back to your partner at the end of the exercise.

Your Name & Partner's Name:

- **What is your past experience with abstraction in particular and drawing in general?**

- **What do you want to get out of this class?**