Course Title: Explorations in Mixed Media: Unleashing Creativity Through Daily Practice | ART 98W
Course Dates: April 13 - May 15 | 5 weeks
Instructor: Michael Azgour, MFA | www.azgour.com

Course Summary:
Explorations in Mixed Media: Unleashing Creativity through Daily Practice is an five-week artistic journey that engages participants in a creative practice via focused daily exercises designed to examine principles and techniques in a lively and uncritical way.

Objectives:
- To bring creativity into daily life
- To practice art-making techniques with a variety of media
- To learn basic art and design principles while having fun
- To develop a new understanding about art as a way of playing and experimenting, rather than following rules

Methods:
- Focused daily exercise prompts
- Short video demonstrations and links to online resources
- Extended assignments and a final project allowing for deeper exploration and instructor feedback
- Optional engagement in online sharing and discussion
- Weekly face-to-face office hours through video chat (Zoom sessions)

Grade Options and Requirements:
Participants who want to get the most out of this class should complete all exercises. Students are encouraged to participate in online sharing, discussions and if possible, the Zoom sessions.

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided. (Not suitable for those requiring proof of attendance/completion.)

- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  - To earn credit, students are required to:
    - participate in 70% (18 out of 25) of the daily exercises, and
    - participate in 50% (1 out of 2) of the assignments

Please note that you can log into your Continuing Studies student account and change your grading status at any point before the final day of class. Keep in mind, if you require proof that you completed a course for any reason, you must choose the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit grading option; courses taken for No Grade Requested will not appear on official transcripts nor on grade reports. Your student account is where you will also find your final grade (please allow up to three weeks after a course has ended to view your grade); official grades are not posted in Canvas.

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650
Materials:
Students must purchase their own art supplies for this course, and can expect to spend at least $35-$50 on these materials. The instructor has prepared a supply list for this course with the online supplier, Blick. The list contains the absolute lowest prices available, bringing the cost below $45. Upgrading materials from these economy brands could yield better results (normally cost corresponds with quality, especially in regards to paint and brushes). From the online supply list, you have the ability to edit, add, and delete items in case you already have something, want to purchase a larger quantity or upgrade to a better brand. Alternatively, you can purchase your materials at any local art store.

It’s highly recommended that you place your supply order as soon as possible to ensure your materials arrive prior to the first day of class. The list is available at the following link:
http://www.dickblick.com/lists/bl/ku/JJTU61GV50V67/publicview/

ART MATERIALS (these are included in the course supply list with Blick, via the link above)
- Graphite pencils (any brand; 3 densities: B, 3B, 6B)
- Felt-tip drawing pens (any brand; 2 thicknesses: 0.2, 0.4mm, or similar)
- Waterproof black ink (any brand)
- Acrylic paint set with several colors (any brand)
- Acrylic/ink brush set with several brushes in a variety of sizes and shapes (any brand)
- Sketchbook (any brand; bigger is better, choose the largest you can fit into your bag, min 8x10”)
- Watercolor paper (any brand; any size; min 10 sheets)
- Tracing paper pad (any brand; min size 8x10”)
- Westcott 12” C-Thru ruler (item number: B-70)
- Pencil sharpener (any brand)
- Glue stick (any brand)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS (these are not included in the course supply list with Blick)
- Digital Camera - smartphone is ok
- Timer - smartphone is ok
- Magazine(s) from which pages can be cut; with photos of people, buildings, and/or landscape
- Cups - disposable plastic cups or three reusable clean jars/cans
- Eraser
- Clear tape
- Scissors

Tentative Live Class Meetings Schedule:  | Zoom meetings are subject to change

- **Week 1:** Thursday, April 16 1:00 PM PT
- **Week 2:** Wednesday, April 22 9:00 AM PT
- **Week 3:** Thursday, April 30 1:00 PM PT
- **Week 4:** Wednesday, May 6 9:00 AM PT
- **Week 5:** Wednesday, May 13 9:00 AM PT
Course Structure:

EXERCISES
The bulk of this course will consist of daily exercises, intended to take 20-30 minutes each, not including setup, watching video demonstration, accessing resources, and cleanup. You can complete whichever exercises you like whenever you like. Participation in exercises, including posting and commenting in the discussions, is optional. Please keep in mind, however, the more you participate, the more you will get out of the class. All exercises must be turned in by the last day of class to receive credit.

Each exercise prompt will include instructions along with an expressed objective and materials list. Many will also be accompanied by one or more of the following resources:

- **Video Demonstrations:** 1-7 minute video featuring the instructor demonstrating a method or technique related to the exercise
- **Links:** links to external online videos and articles featuring content related to the exercise

An entire week of exercises will be uploaded to our course at 10:00 AM PST the Friday prior to each week. In addition, every day, Monday through Friday, you’ll receive an announcement in your email inbox with the daily exercise prompt. To ensure you receive these as soon as they are posted, set your “announcement” notification preference to “notify me right away.”

*Because of the higher enrollment compared with a traditional on-campus art studio course, students will not receive instructor feedback on daily posts. The instructor will look at every post but will normally comment only when there is a teachable moment which is intended to be seen by others as well. Students may request light instructor feedback on two assignments during the course.*

ASSIGNMENTS
There are two assignments, intended to take 60-90 minutes each. One will be posted in Week 2 and the other in Week 4. For each, you are asked to build on an exercise from the current or previous week. You’re welcome to submit something else you’ve been working on in lieu of the assignment as long as it’s something current. These are submitted privately to the instructor who will take a close look and give you personal feedback. These must be submitted by the last day of class to receive credit and feedback.

LIVE CLASS MEETINGS
A class meeting will take place every week at a pre-assigned date and time. In general, part of the session will be dedicated to a live exercise lead by the instructor and a part will be used to address questions posed by students. Occasionally, the instructor will demonstrate current concepts in the course. The sessions are optional and will be recorded for people who are unable to attend.

Please refer to the “Class Meeting/Zoom Session” page each week for specific information (e.g., day and time, connection links, agenda) regarding the meeting for that particular week. The meetings are conducted using Zoom, a video-conference application.

GENERAL CLASS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS DISCUSSION
This discussion is open throughout the course. It’s a great place to post questions about the structure of the course, expectations, class grading requirements, as well as any specific questions or comments you’d like to share. The instructor will use this page to touch upon content introduced in the exercises and elaborate on some topics and as a way to introduce language and concepts that will be explored later in the course; it’s a great place to learn and connect. Students are encouraged to contribute with concise and edited entries about the topics we encounter.
**Weekly Outline:**

| Week 1: | Day 1 - Get the Lead Out  
| Day 2 - The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts  
| Day 3 - Values in Ink  
| Day 4 - Assorting Shapes  
| Day 5 - Expressive Painting in Acrylic |
| Week 2: | Day 1 - The Gestalt Principle of Similarity  
| Day 2 - The Gestalt Principle of Figure-Ground  
| Day 3 - The Gestalt Principles of Continuation, Closure and Symmetry & Order  
| Day 4 - Modeling using Cross-Hatching  
| Day 5 - Building Layers in Acrylics |
| Week 3: | Day 1 - Drawing Profiles  
| Day 2 - Contour Drawing  
| Day 3 - Snapping Photos: Composition  
| Day 4 - Vetting Your Composition through Tracing  
| Day 5 - Copying a Photograph |
| Week 4: | Day 1 - Linear Perspective in Collage  
| Day 2 - The Illusion of Depth  
| Day 3 - Abstract Drawing  
| Day 4 - Abstract Painting in Ink  
| Day 5 - Abstract Painting in Acrylics |
| Week 5: | Day 1 - Sketching from Life  
| Day 2 - Snapping Photos: Color and Emotion  
| Day 3 - Mixing Acrylics  
| Day 4 - Abstract Collage  
| Day 5 - Imitation is the Finest Form of Flattery |