Course Title: Abstract Drawing (Art 25 W)
Course Dates/Time: October 11 – December 3 (7 weeks)
Instructor: Trevor Tubelle, MFA
Instructor Info: Instagram: @trevortubelle; website: www.tubelle.com

Summary*
Abstract Drawing is an online studio art course that focuses on experimenting with a variety of abstract drawing strategies and techniques while using various drawing tools, such as pens, pencils, sumi ink, and non-traditional materials. It will also explore a variety of ideas and subjects 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.

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 abstract 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 complete all projects and be active participants in discussions and Zoom sessions.

Guidelines:
- Do actively participate in online discussions and Zoom sessions
- Do behave in a sociable and supportive manner with peers
- Do follow the instructions of the teacher and complete all assignments
- Do follow Stanford’s terms of use and guidelines for etiquette and acceptable online behavior
- Do not be mean, rude, condescending or disrespectful to anyone in class
- Students who cannot follow the instructions of the teacher and/or the guidelines of Stanford University may be asked to leave the class

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St. Stanford, CA 94305
650-725-2650, continuingstudies@stanford.edu
Grading Info:
- **Letter Grades:** Not offered
- **No Grade Requested (NGR):** Default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of completion can be provided.
- **Credit/No Credit** (CR/NC): A passing grade (for "Credit") equals at least 70% of expectations accomplished. This means at least 5 of the 7 weekly warm-ups and 5 of the 7 weekly projects completed and posted online. Also, active participation (responding to the posts of others) in at least 5 of the 7 weekly warm-up and/or project discussion threads. Attending the Zoom sessions is *highly encouraged*, but not required for Credit.
- You can log into your Continuing Studies student account and change your grading status at any point before the final day of class. Grades are not posted in Canvas; you will find them in your Continuing Studies student account two weeks after the end of class.

*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.*

**Structure**
Every week we will start with a short “warm-up” exercise that involves drawing, research, and/or writing, the results of which you can share with the class in an online discussion thread. These warm-ups are designed to accompany and inform our weekly drawing projects, which will use a variety of materials, approaches, and techniques for investigating and experimenting with abstract drawing. The weekly projects will include step-by-step instructions, demo images, and discussion threads for students to give and receive feedback and to help build a supportive creative community. There will also be links to websites, images, or videos intended to demonstrate or comment on particular artists and/or drawing methods and ideas. Additionally, the instructor will hold a “live” one-hour online video conference session in Zoom once a week. In these sessions students will participate in short drawing exercises and have the opportunity to ask questions, share experiences, and get community support. Attendance in the live sessions is optional, but *highly encouraged*.

**Tentative Zoom Sessions**
We will have weekly one-hour “live” online video conference class sessions on Zoom. Class sessions will be recorded. Tentative dates and times (subject to change):

- **All Zoom sessions will be held:** 12:00 PM, Pacific Time (PT)
- **Friday:** 10/15
- **Thursdays:** 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18
- **Friday:** 12/3
- **No Zoom class the week of 11/22 due to Thanksgiving holiday in U.S.**

**Materials**
We will explore a variety of materials in the course, and there will be recommendations for what to use with each project. That being said, there is a fair degree of flexibility around these recommendations; the intention is to give students the leeway they need to choose materials they are comfortable or proficient with. Keep in mind that the focus of this class is on *exploring the technical and conceptual aspects of abstract drawing*. The assumption is that students already have a basic familiarity with at least some of the recommended drawing materials or, at minimum, the willingness and resourcefulness to experiment, discover, and learn with some degree of independence.

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Recommended Materials:

- **Work Clothing:** Always wear old clothes or a smock/apron that can get dirty.
- **Table or Drawing Board:** A drawing location, such as a sturdy table, where you can (preferably) make a mess. If you don’t have a designated table to work on, then a portable drawing board could work.
- **Pencils:** An assortment of hard and soft pencils. At minimum: 4H, HB, and 4B.
- **Eraser & Sharpener:** A white eraser (e.g. Staedtler Mars Plastic eraser) and a small pencil sharpener.
- **Paper for Projects:** A watercolor or mixed media paper pad or block (at least 9” x 12” in size and 140 lb./300 gsm or thicker weight). A good choice for this class could be: Arches Watercolor Pad (12 sheets, Hot press, 140 lb/300 gsm). Alternatively, one could use sheets of watercolor, mixed media, drawing, or printmaking paper (140 lb./300 gsm or thicker weight). Good brands: Canson, Arches, BFK Rives, Fabriano, Stonehenge, etc.
- **Pens or Markers:** Your choice of different types of pens and/or markers (e.g. ballpoint, rollerball, felt, fountain, brush, paint, gel, alcohol, permanent, parallel, technical, etc.) in various colors.
- **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 (e.g. old yogurt containers or glass jars).
- **Collage Supplies:** Glue (e.g. glue sticks, white glue, matte medium and brush, PVC, etc.), artist masking tape, scissors, and a utility or X-Acct knife.
- **OPTIONAL:** Colored pencils, crayons, pastels, charcoal, water spray bottle, gloves, ruler, 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:
  - **Small Sketchbook:** Must be 5” x 7” or smaller.
  - **Pencils, Pens, and/or Other Types:** A small assortment of your choosing.
  - **Container:** A small and portable box/bag for supplies.

Where to buy supplies near Stanford:

- **University Art (Redwood City):** 2550 El Camino Real @ Center St.
- **California Art Supply Company (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.
Where to buy supplies online:
- **Jet Pens**: http://www.jetpens.com
- **Dick Blick**: http://www.dickblick.com
- **Clever Hands**: https://www.etsy.com/shop/cleverhands (For getting a Journal Bandolier.)

**Tentative Outline**

**Week 1:**
- **Warm-up**: Personal Definition of Abstraction
- **Project**: Geometric Life-Formed

**Week 2:**
- **Warm-up**: Creative Synthesis
- **Project**: Disparate Juxtapositions

**Week 3:**
- **Warm-up**: Observation Task: Life Patterns
- **Project**: Pattern Transmogrification

**Week 4:**
- **Warm-up**: Observation Task: Visual Haiku
- **Project**: Poetic Distillation

**Week 5:**
- **Warm-up**: Five Senses
- **Project**: Trans-Form Triptych

**Week 6:**
- **Warm-up**: Observation Task: Personal Anthropological Probe
- **Project**: Anti-Self-Portrait

**Week 7:**
- **Warm-up**: Attention Training
- **Project**: Final Project