

Course Title: Explorations in Mixed Media: Unleashing Creativity Through Daily Practice

Course Code: ART 98W

Instructor: Michael Azgour, MFA | AZGOUR.COM

Michael Azgour is a contemporary artist whose paintings contemplate the space between perception and reality. A Native of California, he is known for large, expressive compositions which combine different painting styles, such as painterly figuration and geometric abstraction, to create new meaning. Azgour's paintings have been exhibited in galleries and museums in the US, Europe, and Asia. His work can be viewed at 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.

**Please see course page for full description and additional details.*

Course Features: Live session

- Lecture, discussions, and Q&A
- Interaction and active participation is encouraged
- Guest speakers
- Assignments & Coursework
 - Exercises, the Project, and course materials posted in Canvas
 - Instructor will often provide feedback on Exercises and the Project
- Instructor will hold office hours after each session -- an informal drop-in time for student Q&A (not recorded)

Class Sessions and Recording

Meeting days and times: **WEDNESDAYS at 9:00 am PT** (Pacific Time)

Meeting location: Zoom (details will be shared with registered students prior to first class meeting)

The Live Class Meetings will be recorded. They are a chance for us to get together as a group and discuss topics of interest. Although you can watch the video recording after the session, I strongly recommend carving out some time each week for this dedicated hour to connect with our group. The more participants, the more dynamic the conversation and the more rewarding the experience will be for everyone.

Tentative Live Class Meetings Schedule:

Zoom meetings are approximately 1 hour long and are subject to change. Times are in Pacific Time (PT).

- **Week 1:** Wednesday, May 10 9:00 AM PT
- **Week 2:** Wednesday, May 17 9:00 AM PT
- **Week 3:** Wednesday, May 24 9:00 AM PT
- **Week 4:** Wednesday, May 31 9:00 AM PT
- **Week 5:** Wednesday, June 7 9:00 AM PT

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:
 - submit 70% (18 out of 25) of the daily exercises, and
 - submit the project

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

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 \$50-\$60 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 to about \$60. 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/blicku/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

Course Structure:

EXERCISES

The bulk of this course will consist of daily exercises, intended to take 30-40 minutes each, not including setup, watching video demonstration, accessing resources, and cleanup. You can complete whichever exercises you like whenever you like. Your 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 the project during the course.

PROJECT

There is one project, intended to take about 90-120 minutes, although you are welcome to spend more. It will be posted in Week 2. For the project, you will be asked to build on one exercise in the course. You're welcome to submit something else you've been working on in lieu of the project as long as it's something current. The project is submitted privately to the instructor who will take a close look and give you personal feedback. The project must be submitted by the last day of class to receive credit and instructor feedback.

Weekly Outline:

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

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.