“In the beginner’s mind there are many possibilities, but in the expert’s mind there are few.”

— Shunryu Suzuki, *Zen Mind, Beginner’s Mind*

**Course Objectives**

- To become familiar with the basic methods, techniques & tools of drawing
- To take part in a community of artists
- To *enjoy* the challenging and nuanced process of drawing

**Course Methods**

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

**Course 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:**

- No Grade Requested: Default option
- Letter Grade: *Not offered*
- Credit/No Credit: No more than one absence and completion of all assignments and active participation in discussions is required

**Guidelines:**

- Do actively participate in discussions
- Do listen to the instructor and fellow students and follow directions
- 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 (make calls outside)**
- Do *not* be mean, rude, or disrespectful to *anyone* in the class
- Students who cannot follow the rules or instructions of the teacher might be asked to leave

**Course 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 every class 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.

**Course Materials**

*For the first class you will need:*
• Work Clothing: Always wear old clothes or a smock/apron that can get dirty.

• Drawing Pad: A large, inexpensive sketchpad with “light weight” (50 lb.) sketch paper (size 18 x 24 in.) from Strathmore, Canson, etc.

• Drawing Board: A drawing board with clips, cut-out handle and rubber-band large enough to accommodate your big pad (or other type of drawing board).

• Pencils: Assortment that should include at least one middle-range (HB or #2), one hard (H5), and one soft (B5) pencil.

• Erasers & Sharpener: One regular pink or white eraser, one “kneaded rubber” eraser, and a small pencil sharpener.

Later you will need:

• Sumi Ink & Brush: A bottle of Japanese liquid black sumi ink (do not substitute other types of ink!) and a small or medium-sized Asian-style calligraphy brush. Also one or two mixing cups/jars/containers.

• Charcoal & Conté: A small package (5-10 sticks) of vine or willow charcoal; a small package (2-4 sticks) of compressed charcoal; and a small package (1-2 sticks) of white Conté crayons.

• Pens: Your choice of three or more different types of pen (ballpoint, rollerball, felt, fountain, brush, paint, gel, parallel, technical, etc.).

• Collage Supplies: Glue (white, stick, rubber, etc.), tape, scissors and/or utility knife.

• Sheets of Paper (as needed): Good quality watercolor or printmaking paper (140 lb. or greater), such as Arches, BFK Rives, etc.

• 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:

• Maido Fine Stationery & Gifts (SJ): 378 Santana Row, St. 1125, @ Olsen Dr.

• Kinokuniya Stationery & Gift (SF): 1581 Webster St. @ Post St. in Japan Town mall in SF

• Accent Arts (PA): 392 California Ave. @ Ash St.

• University Art (Redwood City): 2550 El Camino Real @ Center St.

• University Art (SJ): 456 Meridian Ave. @ Saddle Rack St.

• 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.
Course Outline

Day 1:
- Introductions, syllabus & materials
- Class objectives & prior experience
- Demo: Location, position, set-up & gesture
- Project #1: Anatomy of a Drawing
- Project #2: Big Head & Crazy Stick!
- Home Fun: 1) Get PAK & other supplies. 2) What’s your definition of drawing? 3) Bring landscape photos.

Day 2:
- Discuss: Definitions of drawing
- Demo: Starting a drawing & composition
- Project: Landscape (Photo)
- Home Fun: Do a gestural plein-air landscape in PAK.

Day 3:
- Slide lecture (located in different room)
- Demo: Shading, blending, contrast
- Project: Dramatic Drapery Drawing (DDD)
- Home Fun: Do a quick DDD at home.

Day 4:
- Demo: Lines & crosshatch basics
- Project: De-Stilled Life
- Home Fun: Three or more gestural sketches of objects in PAK.

Day 5:
- Slide lecture (located in different room)
- Demo: One/two-point basic linear perspective
- Project: Exterior Architecture
- Home Project: 1) A gestural plein-air drawing of building in PAK. 2) Bring various materials and choose subject matter for Abstract project.

Day 6:
- Discuss: All work thus far
- Demo: Mixing media, found materials & collage
- Demo: The world of pens
- Project: Abstract (Mixed Media)

Day 7:
- Demo: Third eyes & absent noses
- Project: Self-Portraits (Photo)
- Home Project: 1) Bring three photos of yourself. 2) Bring portable mirror.
Day 8:
- **Demo:** Ovoids & crosshairs
- **Project:** Self-Portraits *(Photo or mirror)*
- **Home Project:** Gestural drawings of people in your PAK.

Day 9:
- **Discuss:** Finding mass & tension
- **Project:** Figurative Gestures *(we’ll have a model)*
- **Home Project:** Carry your PAK off into the sunset…
Directions:

1. Pair up with the person next to you.
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 to your partner at the end of the exercise.

Your Name & Partner's Name:

• What is your past experience with drawing in particular and art in general?

• What do you want to get out of this class?