

Edward Burke - Drawing Class - Lesson 4

Drawing Lesson 4: Negative Space Drawing

Guidelines

After exploring the use and importance of negative space in master paintings and drawings you will experiment with the use of negative space in your own drawings. The focus will be on drawing the negative space (space in between and around objects) in order to give that space a “**charged**” and powerful presence. You will also continue to focus on overall composition, using the emphasis of the negative shapes to help develop it. All drawings will be from direct observation of a still life with a considerable number of **framed negative spaces** (such as space between the slats of a chair, the space between the branches of a house plant, elements that are composed so that they overlap each other forming closed shapes of negative space.) If necessary, jumble and overlap these items to maximize the number, size and variety of negative spaces.

Note:

If you use the intense observation skills you developed in the blind contour drawing problems to draw the negative spaces of the still-life, the drawing will be remarkably accurate. You will see how important the negative space is when you are finished. With drawing nothing but the negative spaces the positive forms (Objects) can be created with great accuracy. Your concentration should be on “seeing” and drawing the space between objects.

Studio Drawing Problem 4

2 Negative Space Drawings: working from the still life that has been arranged in the studio.

Drawing 1 - will be created by carefully drawing the contours of the negative space/shape and then filling the negative space with a flat value (tone) leaving the positive space (objects) as the white of the paper).

Media and Support: Natural charcoal, 18 x 24 multipurpose drawing paper

Drawing 2 - Starting this drawing by toning or putting a ground on your drawing paper (rubbing charcoal over the entire surface and using an art gum eraser to “pull” the negative space/ out as a lighter tones. You are erasing all of the negative spaces you see in the still life and only negative spaces. Do Not Draw Positive Shapes

Media and Support: Natural charcoal, Art Gum eraser, 18 x 24 multipurpose drawing paper

Home Drawing Assignment 4

2 Negative Space Drawings - working from an arrangement of objects with multiple **framed negative spaces** (such as space between the slats of a chair, the space between the branches of a house plant, elements that are composed so that they overlap each other forming closed shape of negative space.) If necessary, jumble and overlap these items to maximize the number, size and variety of negative spaces, pay close attention to the negative space.

Media and Support: Natural charcoal, chamois, gum eraser, 18 x 24 multipurpose drawing paper

Reading Assignment: Chapter ____, pages ____ - _____. Be prepared to discuss the reading in class.

Note: Your home assignments are due at the next class for critique and evaluation.

Skill Development

Improved Eye-hand coordination, intense observation of negative spaces, negative space as a compositional element, understanding negative and positive space, working knowledge of the properties of natural charcoal