Another Summer of Drawing

class # 15
on the theme of ‘Home’
The Key
Concept: Home

Interpretation:
Key to a home of the past; items that have personal meaning

There is mystery to a scene like this – key to what door? Why has it been kept? What is in the notebook? What is the old piece of paper about?

Naming an artwork to help tell its story: ‘The Old Guesthouse’, ‘From Emily’s Study’, ‘All That is Left’, ‘Never Forgotten’, etc.
OBSERVATION

How to interpret this scene?

What are we drawing here?

Key
Old notebook
Paper? Not necessary to the story, but helpful to the drawing.

How are we going to draw it?

Can use a combination of techniques – linework, academic approach for key, beveled tip for pages and cover, blending and charcoal for background, regular pencil tip for string, etc. You can use any combination you would like.
NOTAN

Remove the color information from your mind. Look only at shapes of lights and darks.

Note that for the string to work, there should be some light areas showing against the background.

For the notan, just abbreviate the shapes, don’t draw in detail.
Look for:

- The big shapes – think about which drawing tool or technique to use where?
- Consider where to use directional line to describe the form.
- Perspective – the angles need to be right in order for the scene to read correctly.
Step 1:
Using a light pencil (such as F, H, or HB), carefully sketch the main angles of the scene. Keep your lines light, refine as you go. You can always erase!
Step 2:
Using either graphite or charcoal and a blending stump, put down the background grey and the shadows cast by the key. Don’t go full strength yet.
Step 3:
Start working anywhere you like.

I will start with the pages on the notebook, and getting some definition to the string, then move on to the key.

Pay attention to relative values.
Step 4:
Do you need to do any erasing at this point?

Continue to explore and refine. Add in small details, such as the rust on the key, the shadows cast by the string.
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Step 5:
Final assessment.
Does the drawing ‘read’ clearly?
Any last darks that need to be added?
CONCEPT:

• Your personal memorabilia is a great source of material for various concepts.
• In this case, to tell the story of ‘Home’, some items from around home give some obvious, and some less obvious, clues. Let the mystery of a scene be part of your story.
• Practice drawing still life scenes assembling three objects together, and even the most mundane objects can be interesting if you create some tension (large and small, varied sizes, etc.) and a nicely balanced composition. For example: a soup can, a can opener, a broken dish. A model airplane, a newspaper clipping, an old photograph. Make people wonder a little, what is this drawing about?

TECHNIQUE:

• You now have the ability to mix and match drawing techniques:

  • Linework - Hatching, lively linework, directional lines following the form, varying pressure with each line, aiming for ‘Quality of Line’
  • Graphite washes using beveled pencil leads with firm pressure, relying on the pencil leads to create the values
  • Academic drawing using pointed leads and small circular motions or hatching, to create soft, even transitions, relying on pencil lead and pressure to create the values
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