Another Summer of Drawing

class # 2
on the theme of ‘Home’

Building an igloo
It's beneficial to view art, and drawing in particular, as an iterative process (repeating an action, in order to improve it).
Ways to sharpen your pencil leads

- Give these a try! Make those pencils work for you.
- Washes of graphite work well with the flat sides of beveled leads, and sharp lines with the points of either chiseled or beveled leads.
- You can sharpen your lead according to the drawing you are working on – for example, chiseled leads are great for windows.

From US Navy drafting manual
Concept: Home

Interpretation: Building a home

First idea might be people building the frame of a house, construction.

But what happens when you tell your own story?

Many of us built our first ‘homes’ as children, making forts from sofa cushions, blankets, folding chairs, cardboard boxes, and snow.
First challenge: don’t fall back on formulas or preconceptions.

Instead, observe: The child’s enjoyment, the igloo being built, how snow looks, the overall scene – what to keep in, what to leave out.
Second challenge: no facial details on this little person. Squint to see shapes, values of light/dark/medium only.
When creating a drawing using multiple reference items (images, imagination), start with a thumbnail sketch before moving on to the notan.

**Thumbnail:**
Work out the composition – placement of objects for balance.
Consider the concept of ‘Home’
Notan:
Light and dark design (squint)
Balanced composition
Consider the concept – ‘Home’
Step 1:
Using a light pencil (such as 2H, F, H, HB), carefully sketch the main lines of the scene, starting with the focal point. Don’t worry about small shapes, just get the form relatively accurate, and pay attention to what your thumbnail and notan look like.
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Using a light pencil (such as 2H, F, H, HB), carefully sketch the main lines of the scene, starting with the focal point. Don’t worry about small shapes, just get the form relatively accurate, and pay attention to what your thumbnail and notan look like.
Step 2:
Continue to draw in and refine main lines, and start working in the masses in lighter values. Erase lines that don’t actually appear in the scene.
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Erase lines that don’t actually appear in the scene.
Step 3:
Continue working in the masses in middle values, using HB or B pencils.

Use the area where mid and light values meet to define edges rather than using outline.

Press firmly for an even tone.
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Step 4:
Using a soft pencil such as 4B, begin shading the areas that need a dark tone. Move the paper around as needed to get crisp edges.

Particularly on white paper, be sparing in your application of soft darks.
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Step 5:
Add in other detail as needed, and erase where highlights occur, thinking of the direction of the light.
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Step 6:
Add in the sky, as it’s a darker value than the white snow, and will help create a sense of brightness.
CONCEPT:

• Tell your own story.
• Brainstorm to get beyond formulaic responses.
• Work up your drawing from the start with an eye to concept.
• Use as many iterations as you want – thumbnail, notan, rough sketch, complete sketch...

TECHNIQUE:

• For snowy, bright, and light scenes, make good use of the white of the paper to do your work for you.
• Avoid putting outlines around all objects, and as you draw, erase the outlines you used for planning.
• Use other values (like the sky) to create edges, and let areas of the same value get ‘lost’ into each other (like neighboring blocks of snow) to create a sense of depth and realism.

• Get those first layers down using the beveled pencil leads to quickly create the values you need.
• Come back in to the sketch as needed with sharper pencils, lighter or darker pencils.
• Use directional strokes to add interest and represent different planes of objects.
• No need to get detailed on figures. Concentrate on light, dark, medium values and shapes.
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