Another Summer of Drawing

class # 8
on the theme of ‘Home’
The Move
Concept: Home

Interpretation: moving in or out of a home

Packing belongings, the chaos, leaving the old and settling into a new life
Working with charcoal on light or white paper

1) Looking at value shapes – SQUINT!
2) Getting the charcoal down
3) Erasing the lights
4) Checking values, getting more charcoal down
5) More erasing
6) Start refining your drawing
7) Repeat this process until your conclusion
Maurice Wade (1917-1991)
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TOOLS

Charcoal pencils

Erasers: kneaded, white vinyl

Blending tools such as: blending stumps, soft rag, cotton swab
TECHNIQUE

CHARCOAL

• Start with a plan – not an, rough sketch, work out the values
• Sketch very lightly in pencil or charcoal to get your proportions and objects in place
• It’s hard to erase charcoal, so work out the problem areas first if possible
• Preliminary layers of charcoal can be used to establish areas of relative values, against which you can then judge smaller parts of the drawing
• Blending areas are a quick way to get large value shapes down and fill in paper texture
• Blending typically lightens the value of an area
• Draw large shapes, then break them down to smaller shapes
• Avoid blending the darkest darks

Try not to rely on blending instead use the hard/soft charcoal leads, hatching, lively drawing, erasing, to add interest.
OBSERVATION

What needs to be in the scene:

Some boxes
The woman
Interior space

Note light direction
There's enormous benefit to be found in testing out pencils, values, and ideas in advance of launching a complete drawing, particularly if the medium, like charcoal, is difficult to erase.

**Notan:**
Look at the light and dark shapes – is there a good balance to pull everything together?

**Thumbnail:**
Work out the composition, very useful when using more than one reference, or not sure how to crop your composition.

**Audition:**
Audition your thoughts and work out in advance how to deal with the tough stuff. Very useful way to get rid of unnecessary detail.
Notan:
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Step 1:
Start with the layout – use graphite as it’s easier to erase, keep to the big shapes, simple lines, no detail.
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Step 2:
Using a relatively hard charcoal pencil (HB or harder), start sketching in the darkest areas. You will be blending these smoother in the next step.
Step 3:
Using any blending method you want to try, blend the dark areas and start adding in the next darker values. Look for the relative value of what you are drawing/blending – is it lighter or darker than the surrounding areas?
Step 4:
Continue to add in more values. Don’t get into details, keep your values shapes large. Blend as you go, as you feel you need to. Keep watching those relative values.
Step 5:
More blending. Use the charcoal on your rag, blending stump, etc., to add in the lighter values – easier to do it this way than trying to have a light touch with a charcoal pencil.
Step 6:
Time for some erasing!

Restablish highlight areas, clean up as needed.
Rinse and Repeat
Continue to alternate steps:

- Put down charcoal, either in large areas or using hatching
- Blend as needed
- Erase as needed
Rinse and Repeat
Continue to alternate steps:

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CONCEPT:

• Tell your own story – you have years of experience, subject matter, and ideas to pull from.
• What really needs to go in this drawing? A little abstraction can be a useful approach.
• Don’t skip the preliminaries, no matter how rough your sketches – notan, thumbnail, audition... all useful.

TECHNIQUE:

• Charcoal:
  1) Looking at value shapes – SQUINT! Get the charcoal down in the darkest areas
  2) Alternate blending and erasing, adding more charcoal, more blending and erasing, working towards the lights
  3) Keep the light areas and highlights as clean as possible.

Next week – a more free approach to charcoal, building on the same steps.
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