Another Summer of Drawing

class # 9
on the theme of ‘Home’
Accumulation
Concept: Home

Interpretation: accumulation of objects around the home.

Definition: a mass or quantity of something that has gradually gathered or been acquired.

Thinking of home as a settled place, even on a temporary basis, there is a tendency on the part of humans to accumulate belongings.
Working with charcoal on light or white paper

1) Looking at value shapes – SQUINT!
2) Getting the charcoal down – preparing the paper by applying charcoal to create a toned ground
3) Erasing the lights
4) Checking values, getting more charcoal down
5) More erasing
6) Start refining your drawing only where you want the details
7) Repeat this process until your conclusion
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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 - notan, rough sketch, work out the values
• Lay down a quick, sketchy layer of charcoal which you blend with a rag or stump, hand, etc., to create a toned ground
• Use your eraser to pick out the lightest areas
• Draw in the darks and some details
• Use your blending stump, charcoal pencils, and erasers, to create the suggestion of objects rather than trying to draw the actual objects
• Put your final details and highest contrast in the areas you are most interested in, or want to have noticed
• Check your final to your notan to see if you met your intention.

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:

3 or 4 of largest tools
Suggestions of ‘stuff’
There are some repetitive shapes that might be interesting

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

No need to make this notan in a rectangle if you don’t want to, as the edges of this drawing will be more free-form.
Step 1:
Throw down some charcoal over the drawing area – keep it fairly light and eraseable, blend it roughly – I used a 6B charcoal pencil but anything soft will work.
Step 1:
Throw down some charcoal over the drawing area – keep it fairly light and eraseable, blend it roughly – I used a rag.
Step 2:
Erase out some of your brightest areas – ‘draw’ with the eraser, don’t worry if it doesn’t erase completely. I used 2 different types of eraser – kneaded and white vinyl.
Step 3:
Start adding in some dark areas and draw in suggestions of shapes – I used a 4b and HB charcoal pencil.
Step 3b:
I did a little blending, added more charcoal... all the while trying to keep from being too careful or detailed.
Step 4:
Add in some more drawing – I am using harder charcoal at this point, such as HB and H, and little blending. I add more detail in some places.
Step 4b:
And I decided to add some random erased lines for movement, plus clean up where things are getting too messy.
Step 5:
For the final stage, I added in darks that I blended only on the edges, to give the drawing a bit more punch, did a final clean-up such as was possible, and likewise added in some more linework here and there.
Exercise #1

Use your imagination and intention as well as your own drawing for reference.

The goal: Accumulation

Do a very quick version of this drawing of ‘Accumulation’,

- Starting with the quick lines to establish your layout
- then add the charcoal ground,
- then a little erasing and drawing
- repeating those steps until you have a drawing that resembles a clutter!
Exercise #2

Use your memory and imagination.

The goal: Accumulation

Do a very quick version of your memory of ‘Accumulation’, using your own drawings as reference.

- Starting with the quick lines to establish your layout
- then add the charcoal ground,
- then a little erasing and drawing
- repeating those steps until you have a drawing that resembles a clutter!

Moving from drawing things, to creating art
CONCEPT:

• Tell your own story – have the drawing concentrate on the concept, not the objects.

• What really needs to go in this drawing? A little abstraction can be a useful approach.
• Don’t skip the preliminaries! Take that moment with a notan or rough sketch to plan your first steps, to think about your intention, and then check back to that original idea as you come to a finish on your drawing.

TECHNIQUE:

• Charcoal:

• Can be used for detailed drawings, for abstraction, for ‘painting’ with the charcoal dust itself
• Works well with graphite but graphite is more reflective as well as more eraseable, has a different more silvery ‘color’
• The eraser is a valuable tool – try several different types to see which you like best
• A light layer of charcoal down first gets rid of all that intimidating white, and quickly gives you a starting point
• The paper you are using will have an effect on your outcome. Test out various different paper you might have around to see what graininess you like, which are easier to erase, which allow you to make good darks
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