WELCOME BACK TO

Summer of Drawing

class no.13: MIXED MEDIA: ABSTRACTION
Mixed Media

Can be anything you would like! Pencil with paint, pen with charcoal, Conte crayon with charcoal and gouache, you name it.

The way you decide what you’d like to use is by trying to visualize the outcome – or at least, what might be your intention – before you start, and then let both the subject and the drawing media lead the way.

Nina Dine

Terry
*Pastel and charcoal on Arches*  
20 x 30
Abstraction

1. the quality of dealing with ideas rather than events.
   "topics will vary in degrees of abstraction"
   something which exists only as an idea.

2. freedom from representational qualities in art.
   "geometric abstraction has been a mainstay in her work"

3. a state of preoccupation.
   "she sensed his momentary abstraction"

4. the process of considering something independently of its associations, attributes, or concrete accompaniments.
   "duty is no longer determined in abstraction from the consequences"

5. the process of removing something, especially water from a river or other source.
   "the abstraction of water from springs and wells"
The very best composition trick: Notan - SQUINT

NOTAN (no-tan):
the combination of lights and darks especially as used in Japanese art: the design or pattern of a work of art as seen in flat areas of dark and light values only. (Merriam-Webster)

Identify the patterns of light and dark in your scene as the basis for a solid composition.
Maurice Wade (1917-1991)

Canal at Longport
Maurice Wade (1917-1991)

Canal at Middleport
Maurice Wade
(1917-1991)

Wharf
Maurice Wade
(1917-1991)

Chimneys
Where are the lights and darks?

What shapes and patterns might be accentuated in the drawing?

Which drawing media might be appropriate? (hard media for the details and directional lines, light colors for light areas, dark media for dark areas, etc.)

Gananoque waterfront barge factory
(photo - R. Couper)
Charles Demuth (1883-1935)

Masts

1919
Charles Demuth (1883-1935)

Machinery

1920
Charles Demuth (1883-1935)

Stairs, Provincetown

1920
Charles Demuth (1883-1935)

Roofs and Steeple

1921
Charles Demuth (1883-1935)

Building Abstraction

1931
Where are the lights and darks?

What shapes and patterns might be accentuated in the drawing?

Which drawing media might be appropriate? (hard media for the details and directional lines, light colors for light areas, dark media for dark areas, etc.)
Joan Kathleen Harding Eardley (1921–1963)

Summer Fields

1961
Joan Kathleen Harding Eardley (1921–1963)

Snow II

1961
Joan Kathleen Harding Eardley (1921–1963)

The Wave
Joan Kathleen Harding Eardley (1921–1963)

Fishing Boat with Draped Nets

1947
Joan Kathleen Harding Eardley (1921–1963)

Ladder and Haystacks

1948
Joan Kathleen Harding Eardley (1921–1963)

**Italian landscape**

1948
John Bolam (1922–2009)

Birds in flight
Walter Hoyle (1922-2000)

Roadside with Plants

1958
Where are the lights and darks?

What shapes and patterns might be accentuated in the drawing?

Which drawing media might be fun to try on this drawing? (soft stuff for soft areas, light colors for light areas, what corresponds with the particular texture or color.)
Mixed Media: Abstraction

• Look for ways to draw interesting subjects but without always resorting to intense realism.

• The same knowledge you have acquired can still apply – angles, proportions, shading, line, composition

• Look for the design shapes that please YOU in the scene. Just draw those, don’t worry about the rest.

• To incorporate mixed media is simply a matter of thinking about the drawing materials you have on hand – what might work best, make the kinds of lines or shading that you want?

• This is absolutely a place for experimentation. Try little drawings of the same scene, each a little different in media, design, or a separate section of the same scene.

• This type of work will improve your drawing skills no matter what sort of style you prefer to work in. You will be tuning your eye to the design possibilities in the world around you.
Elizabeth R. Whelan

www.elizabethwhelan.com

Instagram: @elizabetwhelan

Facebook: @elizabethwhelan

erwhelan@gmail.com