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ART 101: Basic Skills and Techniques

Goal: This introductory art class will help you become familiar with art fundamentals such as drawing methods and techniques. You will learn how to handle drawing materials with in-class exercises and guided lessons.

Schedule:

Day 1: What is Line? Perspective? Contour?

- Getting familiar with your tools
- Guided Lesson on linear perspectives and horizon lines.
- Line contour drawing exercise.

Day 2: What is Value? Volume? Shape?

- Value scale construction.
- Guided Lesson on light sources and volume.
- Planes and light exercise.

Day 3: What is Positive and negative space?

- Positive and Negative space lesson.
- Put it all together- still life.

Vocabulary:

Atmospheric Perspective: The illusion of objects going backwards into space through the controlled use of values, scale, and color saturation.

Composition: The arrangement of elements within an art piece such as shape, line, and balance.

Contour: A line used to follow edges of forms that describes their outlines.

Ellipse: An oval shape that can also indicate a circle in perspective.

Eye-level: The visual point of view based on the artists and viewers perception. Similar but not the same as a "horizon line."

Horizon Line: The line on the picture plane that indicates the extent of illusionistic space. Where the vanishing points are located.

Light Source: The origin of light within a picture.

Line: A visual element of length can be used to indicate volume, shape, or direction.

Linear Perspective: A system that creates the illusion of space. It's based on the idea that if parallel lines extended to the horizon line they would converge and meet at a common point called the vanishing point.

One-point Perspective: A single vanishing point on a horizon line that determines the perspective of objects within the picture plane.

Picture Plane: A 2D surface on which elements are organized to create a composition.

Positive/Negative Space: Positive space is defined by shapes that are distinguished from the background. Negative Space is defined by unoccupied areas or empty space surrounding objects in a composition.

Planes: The 2D surfaces of shapes.

Scale/Proportion: The height and depth of an object or shape as compared to its surroundings.

Shape: A visually perceived area created by an enclosing line or by color and value changes that define the outer edges.

Subject: The content of an artwork.

Three-Point Perspective: Three vanishing points within the picture plane that determine the perspective of objects. Two vanishing points are on the horizon line while one vanishing point is above the horizon line in such a way that it creates the illusion of parallel lines going upwards into space while the other two simultaneously move back towards the horizon. Ex: cityscapes with skyscrapers towering above the viewer.

Two-point Perspective: Two vanishing points on a horizon line that determine the perspective of objects within the picture plane.

Value: A measure of relative lightness or darkness.

Vanishing Points: Where parallel lines appear to converge on the horizon line. Relates to Linear Perspective.

Volume: The appearance of height, width, and depth in a form.

Materials:

- Sketchbook: 9" x 12" or larger
- White Vinyl Eraser or Gum Eraser. White Vinyl is preferred but gum will work.
- Kneaded Eraser (Large size or two small ones)
- 12" ruler
- Pencil Sharpener or sandpaper block. Either is fine.
- Fine Permanent Marker (optional)

Pencils sometimes come in a set but can also be purchased individually. Here are the ones you will need:

- 2H or H graphite pencil
- HB graphite pencil
- 2B graphite pencil
- 4B graphite pencil
- 6B graphite pencil
- 8B graphite pencil

You will also need:

- Apron, smock, or wear clothes that are ok to get dirty.
- If you wear corrective eyewear for activities, you may want to bring them for the class.

If you have these items at home, you don't need to buy them again.

The most common place to get *quality* art supplies is Jerry's Artarama. It is located at 3524 S. Mason St. It is the large red building across from the gas station. Michaels has a large selection of items as well as coupons that can be found online. It is located at 4330 S. College Ave, in the strip mall with Natural Grocers.