

Visual Arts 700
Mrs. Elizabeth Murphy
emurphy@nda-worc.org

Life Drawings

During the school year, you are going to be required to complete weekly drawing assignments. The point of these assignments is not just to produce pieces of visual art but to “see” the world in a broader perspective. We will be going to the Worcester Art Museum on a monthly basis to study various movements in art and individual artists. When you are working on the following summer assignment, I encourage you to use famous artists’ work to inspire you.

Complete at least TWO of the following observational drawings. Use charcoal or pencil (2hb and 4b). Spend the time needed to complete the work; **at least 3 hours for each work of art**. Don’t just draw a contour. Use a full range of values, with deep shadows and bright highlights to create form and depth. Use the entire page, placing your focal points in the sweet spots, and running of the edges with your composition. Fill the paper up, using more positive than empty space.

The summer assignment will be a **test grade** for the first term and is **due the first day of class** (points will be deducted if work is submitted late).

1. A **self-portrait** that expresses a specific **mood**. Think about the effects of color and how it conveys the individual mood. You may use any style (realism, cubism, expressionism, etc.). Research online and study various artists’ self-portraits and their styles and techniques. Check out Van Gogh, Frieda Kahlo, and Rembrandt.
2. **Still life** that consists of **3 or more reflective objects**. Set up the objects on a table, cover it with cloth, and place a lamp near it to create dramatic lighting. Your goal is to convey a convincing representation. Render as accurately as you can.
3. **A drawing of an unusual interior** – for example, looking inside of a closet, cabinet, refrigerator, inside your car, under the car’s hood etc. Include as many details as you can.
4. A still-life of your family members’ shoes. You should include at least three shoes - go for interesting shapes, design, texture, color. Place them in different positions.
5. A close-up drawing of a **bicycle/tricycle** from an unusual angle. Don’t just draw the bicycle from the side!
6. **Buildings in a landscape**: Do a drawing on location. Look for a building or spot in your neighborhood that is part of your neighborhood’s identity. It could be a fire house, restaurant park, church or any other building or place that you would miss seeing if it were torn down. Consider going to a public place where you can sit on a bench and draw!!

7. **Expressive landscape:** locate a landscape near your home or use a photograph that you have taken of a landscape. Or, you can also use multiple sketches or photos of different landscapes to create a unique one. It is best to work from an actual subject, so draw outdoors while looking at the actual landscape. Use expressive color to draw. Check out the Fauvists or the Der Blaue Reiter to see expressive use of color at work.

8. Create a **self-portrait**, using your reflection in an unusual surface, something other than a normal mirror. This could be a metal appliance (toaster, blender), a computer monitor, a broken or warped mirror, a car's rear view mirror, or tinted windows.

9. **Public sculpture: design plans for a public artwork.** Go online and research public sculpture in places such as the National Mall Sculpture Gardens at National Gallery of Art and the Hirshhorn. Look at the work of Joan Miro, Claus Oldenburg, Louis Bourgeois, Barry Flangan, Auguste Rodin, David Smith and more, for ideas of sculpture and installation art in the environment. Make your project sketches similar to those that Christo prepares for his large-scale environmental installations. See his most recent project: "The Gates" in Central Park, NYC. <http://www.christojeanneclaude.net/tg.shtml>

10. **Café drawing** (or any other local hangout such as Chipotle or Panera): go to a place where you can sit and sketch for a long period of time. Capture the essence of this place (local eatery/café, bookstore, mall, etc.) by drawing the people and places you see.

11. **Action portrait:** have a friend or family member pose for you doing some sort of movement (jump roping, walking, riding a bike, walking down stairs, etc.). Capture the entire sequence of their action in one piece of artwork. How will you portray movement in your work? Look at "Nude Descending a Staircase" by Dada artists Marcel Duchamp, as well as the work of Futurist artists Giacomo Balla or F.T. Marinetti. Check out the photographic motion studies by Muybridge.