

Sight Measuring Two Exercises prior to Project 1

Outcome: Using charcoal, artist will complete two charcoal sight measured drawing. One of a box and the second of a still-life composition. For both drawings, students will start with simple gestural masses, gradually “map” the picture plane by determining the horizontal and vertical units of one. After demonstrating how to sight/sizing a box and have students practice the skill. Then, several still-life composed of four to six objects can be distributed around the room.

Objective:

- To practice working from the general to the specific (from intuitive gesture to extended gesture)
- To use gesture and mapping to establish relative size and location of objects
- To give students a feel for the larger paper format
- To map using sight measuring skills (x/y axis, clock angles and unit of one)

Strategy:

Start with quickly and lightly drawing in generalized shapes. Then, begin mapping, extending vertical lines off of the corners and edges of objects to create the grid. Demonstrate use of straight edge (wooden ruler) as a plumb line and as a proportion-measuring device. Demonstrate sight-measuring a box for accuracy and lead students through a step by step process of accurately locating unit of one, x/y axis and clock angles. Stay with each drawing for at least an hour (or longer, if necessary). Just keep erasing and adjusting until objects and space are mapped convincingly. Advanced students can turn grid in space creating a greater sense of space.