Workshop Overview & Supply List
Alla Prima Portrait Workshop

Hello Students,

Thank you for signing up for my three day Alla Prima Portrait Workshop at the Princeton Academy of Art in Clive, Iowa. I am excited about this workshop and am eager to get to know you and work with you on your paintings.

Included with this letter is an overview of the workshop and a supply list. The workshop will begin at 5pm each day and end at 8pm. I will be doing a demonstration the first day. The other two days you will be working from the live model to create either an alla prima painting (in oils) or drawing (in either charcoal or graphite). Easels and lighting will be provided by the school. As to the rest of what you will need please refer to the supply list included with this introductory letter.

I have designed this workshop to be both fun and informative for students of all levels. Whether you are a beginner or you have been painting for many years I hope to help you improve your craft as a still life painter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Sjodin

p.s. If you have any questions leading up to the workshop please don't hesitate to e-mail me: sjodinfineart@gmail.com.

Workshop Overview

Day One

I will be demonstrating the first day of the workshop. This will include a conversation on palette and color more broadly. I will also go over the basic approach to blocking-in a painting or drawing, touching on drawing, proportions, gesture, and both color and value keying. I will then move into developing the painting or drawing. My overall objective will be to walk you through the process of creating a figure study in one sitting.

Day Two

You will be starting a portrait drawing or painting and working through to a complete statement by the end of the session. This will be a sustained 3 hour pose. I will be critiquing your work throughout the process.

Day Three

Day three will be a repeat of day two.

Supply List

Equipment for Painting:

- palette
- brushes
- palette cups
- palette knives
- view finder
- plumb line
- paint rags
- note pad and writing utensil
- a variety of smaller painting surfaces (9” x 12”, 11” x 14”, or in this general range) *These can be gessoed panels, stretched canvases, canvas mounted on board, canvas paper and a board to tape it to, etc.
- solvent (Gamsol, terpenoid, or other odorless solvent)
- medium of choice

*also bring any other equipment you are accustomed to working with

Paints:

I would prefer that everyone work in a limited palette consisting of white, three dark dull primaries (blue, yellow, and red), a warm and a cool red, and a warm and a cool yellow (see my “Standard Limited Palette” below) . If you are accustomed to doing figure work in a more expansive palette I would be happy for you to work with that. If you are not accustomed to doing figure work in color a limited palette will be better suited to you.

Standard Limited Palette:

- ivory black (dull dark blue)
- raw umber (dull dark yellow)
- transparent brown oxide (dull dark red)
- titanium white
- ruby lake (Old Holland) (warmer red)
- permanent rose (cooler red)
- yellow ocher (warmer yellow)
- naples yellow light (Windsor & Newton) (cooler yellow)

Equipment for Drawing in Graphite:

- pencils (a range of hards and softs is better, but at least 2H, HB, 2B, and 6B)
- kneaded eraser (no gum erasers please)
- plumb line
- drawing board
- tape
- paper (two pieces of 11” x 14” bristol paper would be preferable each day, nothing too smooth or glossy, nor too coarse or “toothy”)
- pointer (this is a small board with a piece of sand paper adhered to it used to sharpen pencils)
- small knife (for sharpening pencils)

*also bring any other equipment you are accustomed to working with

Equipment for Drawing in Charcoal:

- vine charcoal (hard, medium, and soft)
- kneaded eraser (no gum erasers please)
- plumb line
- drawing board
- tape
- paper (two pieces of higher quality charcoal paper approximately 16” x 20” to 20” x 26” would be preferable each day, nothing too smooth and glossy, nor too coarse or “toothy”)
- pointer (this is a small board with a piece of sand paper adhered to it used to sharpen pencils)

*also bring any other equipment you are accustomed to working with