

Bennington College
May 11, 1942

A GRAMMAR OF VISUAL ART

In this course the class will be divided into two groups and will meet twice a week for hours. Each group will work with each instructor in the same week.

The class period will be devoted to discussion, to the showing of slides and reproductions and to carrying out set studio exercises. At appropriate times demonstrations will be given by the instructors.

The remainder of the students' time will be utilized for research and written reports. Together with the studio exercises a notebook will be kept by each student. This book will be kept up to date and handed in weekly. It will contain information gained through the discussions, exercises and research and will be used by the instructors as a basis for the final grade or report.

Works of art chosen for consideration in the theory sessions will as closely as possible be directly related to the exercises done in the studio sessions.

Mr. Holt

Mr. Smith

FIRST SEMESTER

FLAT SURFACES

1. Line Egyptian reliefs. Prehistoric rock pictures (incised).
Line drawings and engravings by Picasso, Matisse and
other contemporary masters. Colonial weathervanes.

Bibliography

Cubism and Abstract Art	Cat. Museum of Modern Art
Prehistoric Rock Pictures	" " " " "
The Art of Egypt	Ross
The Art of Ancient Egypt	Phaidon Press
Egyptian Art	Worringer
etc.	

Studio Exercise

Line drawing done in various mediums.

2. Line Mesopotamian reliefs. Anglo-Saxon drawings. The Utrecht
Psalter. Line drawings by contemporary masters. Contem-
porary mechanical drawings.

Bibliography

Die Kunst des Alten Orients Schäfer und Andrae
etc.

Studio Exercise

Value -- painting scales.

3. Value Coptic, Celtic and other decorative reliefs. Byzantine
capitals of Hagia Sophia and San Vitale. Wood and lino-
leum prints. Photographs, photograms. The printed page.

Bibliography

The Gutenberg Bible
The Crosses and Culture of Ireland Porter
etc.

Studio Exercise

Colour -- making (six) colour wheel.

4. Value Coptic, African and Peruvian textiles. A modern building facade. Designs by Doesburg, Mondrian and others. Malevich. Drawings by Seurat.

Bibliography

Late Antique, Coptic and Islamic Textiles	Volbach and Kuehnelt
The International Style	Hitchcock
Modern Architecture	Cat. Museum of Modern Art
etc.	

Studio Exercise

Composition -- space division line only.

5. Colour Divided colour. Impressionism. Monet, Seurat, Signac, Van Gogh and others.

Bibliography

Seurat and the Evolution of La Grande Jatte	Daniel Catton Rich
Introduction to Drawing and Painting, Vol. I	Pope
etc.	

Studio Exercise

Composition -- flat values simple shapes.

6. Line, Value and Limited Colour Persian and Peruvian pottery. Peruvian and Coptic textiles. Designs and paintings by contemporaries. Marin. Posters. Cassandre, McKnight, Kauffer, Lautrec.

Bibliography

Studio Exercise

Composition -- flat values and line in simple shapes.

7. Line, Value and Limited Colour Greek vase painting. Etruscan wall painting. Drawings by Rodin.

Bibliography

L'Art en Grece	Zervos
Red Figures Athenian Vases	Richter and Hale
Tomba del Triclinio a Tarquinia	Duell
Greek Athletics and Festivals in the 5th Century	M. F. A.

Studio Exercise

Composition -- flat values black and white and one colour, simple shapes.

8. Line, Value and Limited Colour Egyptian wall painting. Pompeian decorative painting. Cretan wall painting.

Bibliography

Studio Exercise

Composition -- flat values black and white and color, textures.

9. Line, Value, Colour Medieval enamels. Stained glass. Roualt.
← Levine. Bloom.

← Bibliography

French Cathedral Windows
Stained Glass of York Minster
etc.

Studio Exercise

Composition -- flat values black white and color, patterns.

10. Line, Value, Colour, Texture Mosaics. Hagia Sophia, San Vitale. Modern Mosaic Stockholm Town Hall. Modern Textiles. Tapestries by Dufy and others. Colonial Textiles.

Bibliography

American Index of Design
Swedish Architecture of the
20th Century Ahlberg
The Mosaics of St. Sophia Whittemore
etc.

Studio Exercise

Composition -- flat values black white and colors,
textures and patterns.

11. Line, Value, Colour Romanesque all painting in France and Catalonia. Picasso's Guernica. Large paintings by Matisse.

Bibliography

L'Art de la Catalogne Zervos
Understanding Picasso
Picasso -- 40 Years of his Art
etc.

Studio Exercise

Drawing -- simplified human figure in line only,
from charts.

12. Line, Value, Colour Persian miniatures. Russian icons. Matisse. Colour prints.

Bibliography

Les Icons Russes Murator (sp?)
Masterpieces of Russian Painting
The Poems of Nizami Binyon
Persian Painting

Studio Exercise

Drawing -- still life, flat values, lines black
and white.

13. Line, Value, Colour and use of Metals Early Italian panel painting. The gold ground. Russian Icons. Modigliani.

Bibliography

The Book of the Art Cennino Cennini
etc.

Studio Exercise

Painting -- still life flat colors.

14. Line, Value, Colour Medieval Manuscripts. The Book of Kells. The Lindisfarne Gospels. Russians Manuscripts. Miro, Helion and other contemporary painters.

Bibliography

The Book of Kells
The Gallery of Living Art Catalogue
etc.

Studio Exercise

Painting -- making (twelve) colour wheel.

SECOND SEMESTER

SPACE AND SOLID OBJECTS

1. Line in Space Tubular furniture. Calder, Lipchitz, Rod-
chenko. Drawings by Baroque masters. Klee. Van Gogh.

Bibl.

Studio Exercise: Line in space.

2. Linear Perspective Piranesi, di Chirico, Neo-Romantic
painters. Guardi, Caneletto.

Bibl. Space in Medieval Painting and the
Forerunners of Perspective

Studio Exercise: Perspective

3. Aerial Perspective Leonardo, Perugino, Raphael, Dali.
Hellenistic wall painting.

Bibl.

Studio Exercise: Drawing, solids, values in black and
white.

4. Linear Description of Solid Forms Pollainolo, Chinese and
Japanese painting. Picasso. Degas, Gericault. Gaudier.
Bezaska.

Bibl. Savage Messiah H. S. Ede.
Picasso -- 40 Years of his Art
Intro. to Drawing and Painting, Vol. 2 Pope
etc.

Studio Exercise: Drawing, solid objects black and white
and one colour.

5. Description of Form through Line and Value German and Italian drawings and engravings of the 14th and 15th Centuries. Silver point. Renoir.

Bibl. North Italian Drawings of the Quattrocento Parker
Durer
Master Drawings Cat. Buffalo Fine Arts Academy
Six Centuries of Fine Prints Zigrosser
etc.

Studio Exercise: Drawing, solids geometric and natural forms.

6. Description of Form through Line and Value Prehistoric cave paintings. Daumier. Modern Photography.

Bibl. Prehistoric Rock Pictures
Art Forms in Nature
etc.

Studio Exercise: Drawing, drapery in black and white.

7. Description of Form through Colour. Cezanne. Derain. Portraits from the Fayum.

Bibl. The Art of Egypt Ross
Cezanne Phaidon Press
Derain " "

Studio Exercise: Composition -- solids geometric forms.

8. Form and Colour -- Space Composition of Figures and Objects Renoir. Fragonard, Watteau. Chardin. Contemporary Americans. The Flemish.

Bibl.

Studio Exercise: Composition -- figures.

9. Form and Colour -- Space Composition of Figures and Objects
16th Century Venetians. Poussin. Seurat.

Bibl. Seurat and the Evolution of
La Grande Jatte Rich
etc.

Studio Exercise: Composition -- still life simple forms.

10. Form and Colour -- Space Composition of Figures
Rubens. Michelangelo.

Bibl.

Studio Exercise: Composition -- landscape.

11. Form with the addition of colour. Medieval polychrome sculpture.
Ship figureheads. Contemporary polychrome sculpture.
Emma Lu Davis.

Bibl.

Studio Exercise: Composition -- construction in wire.

12. Architectural Forms Modern Buildings. The tomb. The temple.
The Cathedral.

Bibl.

Studio Exercise: Composition -- simple sculptural forms.

13. Painting and Architecture Giotto in the Arena Chapel.
Hagia Sophia and its Mosaics.

Bibl. Hagia Sophia Swift
 The Mosaics Whittemore
etc.

Studio Exercise: Drawing -- simple architectural forms.

14. Painting and Architecture Mallacio. Piero della Francesca.
Rivera and Orozco.

Bibl. Portrait of America Wolfe
 Portrait of Mexico
etc.

Studio Exercise: Drawing -- simple interiors.

GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Arts of Painting and Sculpture	Roger Fry
Vision and Design	Roger Fry
Art	Clive Bell
Art Without Epoch	
The Majority Report on Art	Graham Carey
Art Now	Herbert Read
Cubism and Abstract Art	Alfred Barr
History of Art	Pijoan
History of Art	Faure
Art Through the Ages	Helen Gardner
The Book of the Art	Cennino Cennini
Materials of the Artist's Craft	Laurie

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR STUDIO EXERCISES

The Art and Craft of Drawing	Vernon Blake
The Simplified Human Figure	Adolfo Best-Maugard
A Theory of Pure Design	Denman Ross
A Color Notation	A. H. Munsell
The Natural Way to Draw	K. Nicoladous