

Project 3: Value Structure: Analysis of a Master's Work

Due: October 11

Project:

Using the grid method, computer, or photocopy method of enlarging, reproduce a master's artwork in such a way that the value structure functions the same compositionally as the original work. Look for artists that use value (more than color) to create unity, eye movement, balance, form, and space.

Objectives:

- To gain experience in the use of value to create an illusion of form
- To gain experience in the process of creating form through carefully observed 2D shapes
- To gain experience in judging relative value
- To make decisions of relative value and shape based on the totality of form and composition
- To gain experience in judging and incorporating implied visual texture
- To consider the visual power of text in terms of balance, focal point, enhancing or flattening form, and adding content to your composition
- To gain experience in structuring a composition through the study of a master's work

Materials:

Newspaper (black and white, the kind you read, all shapes to include text, you'll need a wide variety of values)

12 x 14" cold press illustration board

Rubber Cement/Rubber Cement Pick up

Ruler

Tracing Paper

Pencil/Eraser

Exacto knife and cutting surface

Optional: Scissors

Size:

No smaller than 8" in any direction, and no larger than 12" in any direction

Method:

1. Make 2 10-step value charts in your sketchbook. 1 using pencil, 1 using newsprint and rubber cement (the kind of newsprint you read)
2. Make a photocopy of a master's work. Using the grid method, reproduce the master's work on illustration board.
3. Using newspaper only, reproduce the value structure of the master's composition. Work from the most generally defined areas towards the most specific (the largest shapes first, then work toward the smaller shapes within broader areas). ALL shapes of value in your collage MUST include some text words. This assignment will give you experience in judging Relative value, and value's ability to create an illusion of form and structure within a composition. It will also allow you to study, in depth, a highly successful composition.
4. Consider choosing text that lends visual texture in a way that follows (and enhances) the form.

Brief List of Artists to Choose from:

Rembrandt van Ryn

Edward Hopper

George Bellows

Kathe Kollwitz

Theodore Gericault
Michelangelo da Caravaggio
Diego Rivera
Richard Diebenkorn (figurative work only)
Edgar Degas
Jan Vermeer
Francesco Goya
Titan

Evaluation will be based on the following:

Process work: photocopy of works considered for study

Presentation: Even cutting, gluing, measuring

Text incorporated into every value shape

Accurate use of value and shape, resulting in a structural study of the master's work (your study will be a simplified version but will retain the most important structural aspects)

Selection of a work that uses value structure as an effective means of unifying the picture plane and of providing interest within both positive and negative space areas.

