

Rome en plain air

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Introduction

To work on life drawings in the open air is an exercise that strongly improves and increases the capacity to synthesize a large amount of visual information.

Students are asked and encouraged to try different techniques and media in relation with different landscapes, environments, and sensorial suggestions. The drawing and painting techniques for this particular activity should be fast drying and handy materials such as charcoal, watercolours, watercolour pencils, sanguine, white chalk, pastels (water soluble and oil), Indian ink, fountain-pen, ball-point pen, felt-tip pen, chalks, tempera, collages and mixed techniques on paper.

The works realized during the lessons can be also used as a preparatory study to realize larger oil paintings in studio.

During the semester we'll face improvised situations, which will help students to approach painting with a versatile perspective and to develop a strong self-confidence in it.

I'll suggest some media for each different experience according also to the individual attitudes and skills and I'll propose to get not only visual information from the situation but to involve all five senses in the process of reproducing the spaces around.

During the semester I will give also suggestions about movies related to the landscapes to give more perspectives of interpretation using a different media such as cinema.

Drawing class calendar

- 1

Piazza del Popolo

The place itself allows focusing on different aspects as architecture, sculptures and human presence in the landscape. we'll start from it to understand the personal attitude of every student. Students are asked to bring a small portfolio of their works on cd with a brief statement of their work or interest.

- 2

Ponti

(Ponte Sant'angelo-Ponte Vittorio Emanuele II-Ponte Mazzini-Ponte Sisto)

Bridges on Tevere can give the opportunity to focus on similar structures with different peculiarity. I'll propose a tour with quick paintings of every bridge.

Suggested media: charcoal, watercolours, watercolours pencils, charcoal, sanguine/ white chalk, pastels (water soluble and oil), fountain pen.

- 3

Pantheon(collage)

I would like to invite the students to pick up some collage materials that I'll bring and just with scissors and paper glue construct the background of the landscape to paint on.

The exercise will really come in use to have a spontaneous approach to architectural forms and to synthesize trying a new technique

- 4

Villa Borghese

- 5

Ponte

via dei Coronari-via Giulia-Palazzo Taverna-Campo dei Fiori(picturesque)

A very particular quality of the Italian landscape is the picturesque taste of many places and everyday life scenes. I would like the students to approach this specific feeling in the Italian landscape focusing on noises for a while before starting painting

- 6

Eur

Students are also asked to bring a proposal for the individual project "Three coins in the fountain"

- 7

Trastevere

Piazza Trilussa-Santa Maria in Trastevere-Vicolo Moroni(picturesque)

- 8

individual critiques

- 9

Fontana di Trevi (walk)

The fountain appears after several narrow street. I would like to focus on the apparition with some quick sketches during the walk and than a longer painting session to the fountain

- 10

Bioparco

One of the most difficult things is to make portraits of animals. It's very helpful to do it as an exercise to get more quick, spontaneous and confident with painting. Suggested media: Indian ink, watercolours, ballpoint pen, tempera, pastels (water soluble and oil)

- 11

Rione Monti and Coliseum(picturesque)

- 12

[final reviews for the exhibition – guest critiques](#)

- 13

Isola Tiberina(cubism)

we can turn around the island to have many quick sketches or paintings from several different point of view. I would suggest also to try on tracing paper to have overlays of the different perspectives

***The open air drawing classes include the possibility of bad weather, in case of rain we can move to:*

Stazione Termini- Stazione Tiburtina

the station is a very interesting place to make quick portraits and develop confidence in painting. The station itself allows focusing on different things as architecture, trains and machinery or people

Goals

The main goal of the program is to help students find out a spontaneous and personal approach to painting and get more confident with the media.

Sometime I'll propose exercises or techniques to open new perspective on their own way of being related with painting and drawing. Each exercise can be adapted to the personal attitude of the student.

I want them to try new media and new approaches to integrate and going through the research they are already carrying on.

I would like to alternate lessons with hints and free session of drawing and paintings to give them the possibility to develop their own attitudes and taste also growing trough new experiences and proposals.

Every lesson includes individual suggestions based on their sketchbooks.

Homework and assignments

“Three coins in the fountain”

We'll start watching the 1954 movie trailer then the students will be asked to develop their own version of “three coins in the fountain”. They can use every media from drawing, to painting, photography, video, installation, sound and/or models to reconstruct their own perspective about an imaginary movie. The student will individually decide to focus on a particular aspect like posters, storyboards, graphic elaborations, drawings of the locations, portraits of the characters, video trailers, models of set design, scene pictures and so on.

The aim of this project is to organize the information garnered from drawing roman landscapes into personal research. This exercise will allow the student to express their individual experiences of the city and their personal preferences.

For every lesson the student will be asked to go a step ahead in this research: first writing their own proposal, then working on it to make a final presentation of their works together with a statement.

Independent drawing

- *largo di torre argentina*

I would like to propose an exercise to students to develop their confidence and spontaneity in constructing an image. They could try to construct the landscape just with paper tape and ballpoint pen. The tape can be used to erase the pen and also as a material. This is a pretty good exercise of synthesis.

Books

Invisible Cities

Italo Calvino

In order to avoid a tourist view of the city of Rome we are going to use the book as a tool to get inspired on site.

Trough brief individual readings of imaginary cities descriptions students can have a renewed percept of the landscape matching the touch of Calvino with what they can see on site.

The Via Veneto papers –La solitudine del satiro
(selected readings)

Ennio Flaiano

The Ragazzi
(selected readings)

Pier Paolo Pasolini

Films

The Belly of an Architect (1987)

Peter Greenaway

Roma (1972)

Federico Fellini

De fem benspænd / The Five Obstructions (2003)

Lars Von Trier

This documentary shows how a game of obstructions can help the creative process.

I would like to ask the students to create a list of 3 obstructions each, related to painting and drawing, and then redistribute them to make it be the “rules” for the next draw.

I think it is very important to face obstructions in a positive way to use them as a challenge and a good effort for individual artistic flair.