ACES Tayside

Portfolio Prep Club Intensive 1
August 2019

Mini-catch up brief for session 2
Portfolio Prep Club Intensive 1 catch-up

Intensive 1: what we did

In session 1 we explored the Verdant Works museum for a few hours (we were meant to do a wee tour of Dundee but the weather was against us – of course!)

We took photos and made drawings of the buildings and machines – gathering textures, details, compositional studies and more.

These drawings and photographs are what we are going to use as a base for development in future intensives.

Intensive 2: what you need to bring

As you did not attend Intensive 1 you won't have the drawings and photographs that we took – but please don't worry!

To have something to work from in Intensive 2, I'd like you to collect some photographs of your own. I've added a second brief on the next page if you want to do more – but just photos is ok if this is all you have time for.

It's up to you how long you want to spend doing this – but you can do it quite quickly!

Task list

- 10-20 photographs of a place you encounter often

- This might be your town, city or village – or your school, home etc. I don't mind.

- Look for interesting shapes, patterns, textures, compositions, colour combinations. What is your eye naturally drawn to?

- With your photographs – have a range of photos that show the scene, but also the detail.

Printing your photos

- Please print your photos before Intensive 2

- Helen can print them for you (for free!) and bring them to the Intensive – just email them to aces@Dundee.ac.uk
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Structured drawing exercise

Materials list

- 2 x A2 sheets of medium or heavyweight cartridge paper
  - Sheet 1: fold in half along the length, crease; then into three along the long edge, crease again, this will create six sections.
  - Sheet 2: Fold the other sheet into three along the long side, creating three oblong sections.
- A viewfinder. You can make one easily by cutting a rectangle out of the middle of a sheet of paper.
- Long paint brush with a soft graphite pencil (ideally 6B) taped to the end
- Charcoal, a coloured chalk and a black chalk
- Drawing ink – to be used with a stick, dropper, or a paintbrush
- Gouache paint and some white emulsion (in studio)

Where to position yourself

Against a window! Ideally one that looks out over other buildings/trees/sheds/streets etc. Tack your viewfinder to the window, and tack your paper alongside it.

Look through the viewfinder. You should be able to see a collection of different things. Study what you can see for a minute – break it all down into lines, shapes, edges. Forget that a house is a house or a tree is a tree.

These exercises are designed to help loosen you up when drawing, and recording visual information. They will also help you develop your mark making skills.

You might feel silly doing them at first – but take it seriously and see what happens!

Remember – a drawing is not a picture. It doesn't matter if what ends up on your paper doesn't look exactly like that you see.