



Essentials of Drawing with Brighton Demerest-Smith

Lesson 11: Master Study

Outline:

Master Study

- This process dates all the way back to the Renaissance.
- There are many different approaches in working from the masters.
 - You can work from a photograph, but this can risk losing the sense of understanding the three dimensional form that the master has already produced.
 - Look at a drawing and determine how the artist did what we are doing with such ease and mastery. That is something that we can learn from.
 - We have to imagine that the master worked from a three dimensional object (sitter).
 - We have to approach the master with humility.
 - Choose an artist who is a great master, but that is slightly different than your approach.
- There is a difference between a master copy and master study.
 - A master copy follows exactly the same process of creating that image (same process, same materials).
 - A master study is to try to get as much information from the artist as you can.
- In this master study the student is thinking about processing the form. This engages critical thinking skills. This is not a photographic copy. We don't need to train students to produce photographic copies (that can be done with a copier).
 - A direct copy from a photograph with the student's signature borders on plagiarism.
 - We should pay tribute/homage to the masters.
 - What is it that they saw?
 - What made them human?
 - What did they do that could not be done by a computer (that was innately human)?

Why is teaching art a part of classical education?

- This is about silencing our minds and having a moment of quiet contemplation. It is not just about photocopying.
- We want to engage with reality, our peers, and nature and discover something that is true, that is good, and that is beautiful.