



Essentials of Drawing with Brighton Demerest-Smith

Lesson 9: Figure Construction

Outline:

Figure Construction

- Figure drawing is an integral practice to the training of an artist.
- Drawing from the human form is a lifelong pursuit.
- You begin with a rudimentary understanding of the human form, moving to working from the masters.
- Peter Paul Ruben's figures have extreme movements.
- Rafael is one of the first Renaissance artists to turn his attention to the human form in a more naturalistic way. All of Rafael's figures are constructs of his own artistic skill.
- In exaggeration, comes understanding (Bridgman).
- What is the structure underlying in the entire human form? The skeleton is the underlying structure in the human form.
- Think about the human form as a collection of blocks for the head, the rib cage, and the pelvis.
- The more anxiety that you have about approaching the human form, the more that the students are going to have. Use scientific names for the body. Upper high school students can handle working with the human form.
- Everything about figure drawing can be found in the femur. It is a great bone to draw.
- Measure from the torso to determine the height of the form. Find the center mark of the figure.
- The human form has rhythm to it with even pieces balanced on each side of the centerline. There is a stretch on one side and a "squish" on the other side (arcs and counter arcs).
- Degas is good place to begin practicing your figure drawing.
- You do not always have to have a figure model in front of you to practice figure drawing skills.
- In terms of understanding and thinking through the human form creating a block structure and curving out the form is a great place to begin.