

Classical Art Education 2: Mastering Proportions and Shading with Sight Sized Drawing



Instructor: Fred Keebler

Classical Art Education 2 uses sight-size drawing to teach proportions and chiaroscuro (i.e. shading). The class focuses on developing the ability to see and reproduce accurately shapes, proportions and angles. Special emphasis is placed on light and shadow to render tonal works beautifully. The historical Charles Bargue plates and plaster casts/3-D models will be used as the subjects of drawings. Sight size provides a solid foundation for other drawing and painting methods by improving observational skills.

Prerequisite for Part 1: none.

Why take this class?

1. Do you wonder how those Old Masters were trained?
2. Do you have difficulty finding proportion errors?
3. Do you ever show a friend one of your works of art only to be embarrassed by them pointing out a mistake?
4. Do you ever wish you could render your art like those pieces hanging in museums and high-end galleries?
5. Do you have difficulty using values?
6. Do you have difficulty staging the subjects for your still life artwork?
7. Do you have difficulty understanding how to light subjects?
8. Do you have difficulty drawing portraits?
9. Do you ever wonder why other artists use shadow boxes?

These and many more situations are explored in the class. Let Fred guide you to master these artistic problems and more.

Class Overview

How the class is organized and taught.

- Session schedule.

May be modified for the situation when necessary.

- Announcements (5 minutes).
- Brief review of previous week's class topics (5 – 10 minutes).
- Introduction to new material (10-20 minutes).
- Work on new material (45 minutes).
- Work on project (balance of time).
- Break times are determined by the student.
- Focuses on principles and skill mastery rather than specific situations.
- Features and benefits of how this class is taught:
 - Instructional section is limited to 10 to 20 minutes followed by a drawing.
 - Regular updates to course material based upon feedback.
 - Provide a supply list that allows students to make substitutions.
 - Stated learning objectives to inform the student of what is important in the lesson.
 - Critique criteria that allow students to determine when they have learned the material.
- Uses references from the book by Gerald M. Ackerman and Graydon Parrish, Charles Bargue and Jean-Leon Gerome: Drawing Course, because that book is the recognized standard.

Course Objectives

1. To master the sight size method of drawing.
2. To master the skill of accurate proportion when drawing.
3. To master chiaroscuro (i.e. rendering/shading) like the Old Masters.
4. Value studies using scales, spheres, and planes ensure the student will apply values with intention producing a convincing interpretation of light and shadow, rather than arbitrary shading that can make a drawing look flat.
5. Learn to use cross contour drawing to improve the student's skill to create the illusion of three-dimensional form, volume, and depth on a flat surface.
6. To improve the students' design and composition skills.



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Tentative Schedule and Topics:

Sessions 1-6 are Part I of the class (September 17-October 22)

Sessions 7-12 are Part II of the class (October 29-December 12)

Sessions	Topics
Part 1 of Sight Size Course	
Session 1 (3 hr.)	Introduction to Sight Size drawing using references. How to master proportion. Draw Bargue Plate 1. Optional out of class: finish Bargue Plate 1.
Session 2 (3 hr.)	Blocking in a Sight Size drawing. Draw Bargue Plate 3. Optional out of class: finish Bargue Plate 3.
Session 3 (3 hr.)	Values. Draw value scales. Start drawing one foot or leg. Select from Bargue Plates 5-10, 25-30. Optional out of class: Finish the value scale. Work on the finishing the blockin of foot or leg Bargue Plate started in class.
Session 4 (3 hr.)	More on values. Draw value gradient. Finish drawing one foot or leg. Select from Bargue Plates 5-10, 25-30. Optional out of class: Finish the value gradient. Finish the foot or leg Bargue plate started in class.
Session 5 (3 hr.)	More on values. Draw value sphere. Start drawing one hand or arm. Select from Bargue Plates 11-24. Optional out of class: Finish the value sphere. Finish hand or arm Bargue plate started in class.
Session 6 (3 hr.)	Catchup Finish drawing one hand or arm. Select from Bargue Plates 11-24 Optional out of class: Finish the hand or arm Bargue plate started in class.
Part 2 of Sight Size Course	
Session 7 (3 hr.)	Value studies. Draw value study using value planes. Start drawing a portrait. Selected from Bargue Plates 31-36, 38-46, or 48-54. Optional out of class: Finish the value study. Finish the blockin of the portrait Bargue Plate.
Session 8 (3 hr.)	Cross-contour drawing. Finish drawing portrait. Select Bargue Plates 31-36, 38-46, or 48-54. Optional out of class: Finish the cross-contour drawing. Finish the portrait Bargue Plate.
Session 9 (3 hr.)	Sight Size drawing using geometric solids. How to setup for a still life drawing Block in white geometric solids still life. Optional out of class: Finish blockin of geometric solids still life.
Session 10 (3 hr.)	More Sight Size drawings using geometric solids. Finish drawing white geometric solid still life. Optional out of class: Finish geometric solid still life.
Session 11 (3 hr.)	Sight Size drawing using sculptures. How to setup for a sculpture drawing. Blockin a white sculpture. Optional out of class: Work on sculpture drawing.
Session 12 (3 hr.)	Catchup Finish drawing white sculpture. Optional out of class: Finish sculpture drawing.

Please note, the schedule may be modified to accommodate the students.



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