

Object as a Self-Portrait



For this assignment you will draw an object that symbolizes you. Give some careful thought to the object you choose – it may be common or unusual, it should be interesting and challenging to draw, and, above all, it must represent you in some way. You may use any black/white drawing media you wish in order to create your realistic “portrait” and you may also add selective colour in your focal area to create special emphasis.

Steps:

Thumbnail Sketches First! – Create 4 small thumbnail sketches in your sketchbook to determine your best composition and use of value. Consider these points:

1. Vary your viewpoint of the object (view from above, below, the side, etc)
2. Vary the arrangement of your object (opened, closed, spilling out, crushed, folded, hanging, stacked, etc
3. Zoom in on your object so that it expands beyond the edges. Crop on at least two sides to create negative shapes.
4. Follow the rule of thirds when placing your focal point.
5. Include the object’s cast shadow as part of your composition.
6. Determine how you will create depth in the background and surface for your object. Don’t see your background simply as filler – your negative space is just as important as your positive space.

Use of Value to Create Form – In order to create a believable 3D effect, you must use a full range of values from white to BLACK.

Use of Media – show a broad range of “mark-making” with your media. Go beyond basic shading by including at least two other techniques in your drawing: hatching, cross-hatching, stippling and invented marks.

Artist Statement – When you are finished, write a concise paragraph, discussing your choice of object, compositional decisions and use of media, as they serve to convey your self-portrait.