

Visual Studies 1 – Sketchbook Prompts

Week 1 Prompt

‘Hands’

Experiment with drawing a variety of closed and open hand position. You can use your own hands, but you are also free to draw other people’s hands. You may wish to experiment with drawing your dominant hand with your non-dominant hand.

Week 2 Prompt

‘Weight’

Focus on drawing feet this week. Incorporate a variety of sitting and standing poses and pay specific attention to how the models’ weight is displaced on the balls of their feet. You can use your own feet if you are struggling to find people to pose for you. You can include a variety of durations and feature socks and shoes in some of your poses.

Week 3 Prompt

‘Birds’

Venture out to the city centre, parks, and coastlines to find your subjects this week. Their presence is likely to be fleeting, allowing you to only vaguely capture them through your drawings, so don’t get bogged down in detail. There is more to Swansea’s bird life than seagulls and pigeons, but they are a good place to start!

Week 4 Prompt

‘Animals’

Expand on last week’s prompt with observational drawings of animals. This can include your pets, visits to an aquarium, pet shops, or a zoo such as Plantasia. As it is Halloween season, you could even consider critters like moths and spiders!

Week 5 Prompt

‘People at work’

This week, venture out to draw people at work. Swansea Market is perfect for this, with its array of stalls like the fishmongers and butchers. Keep an eye out for alternative opportunities such as roadworks, tradespeople, baristas, and lecturers. Focus on capturing these moments in your sketchbook.

Week 6 Prompt

‘Conversing’

This week, seek out situations where you will find people in conversation. This may include your house mates, colleagues, and classmates. You may find opportunities within the

university campuses such as the Dynevor canteen, or the HQ coffee shop. As always, keep the duration of your drawings varied and feel free to experiment with your choice of materials.

Week 7 Prompt

‘Expressions and poses’

This week, focus on people’s expressions and poses. Keep these varied and try to capture a range of emotions.

Week 8 Prompt

‘Black Mirror’

This week, keep an eye out for people on their phones - this shouldn’t be too difficult! They may be distracted by their phones while on a lunch break, keeping themselves entertained while commuting, or unwinding at home after a busy day.

Week 9 Prompt

‘Music’

This week, find people enjoying music in some form. They may be listening to music on their headphones, enjoying live music, or playing an instrument. You could even visit a music venue such as the Swansea Jazz Club. There is also a piano in the Alex reception you are welcome to make use of!

Week 10 Prompt

‘Experiments’

Ahead of next week, continue to draw from life and experiment with the materials you wish to use for the final ‘extra-long pose’ life drawing session. We’ll be drawing the same pose for the entire session (with a break midway), and you are free to use any medium you wish.