

Visual studies 1, week 8, Some Clarification. Tracy Thompson.

It was lovely to meet you all during the tutorials☺ Thank you for being so patient with me regarding teams. This email is to clarify what is happening re the Visual studies 1 Module, as some pertinent questions were asked during the tutorials on the 2nd and 9th November.

To Date

You have done 4 drawing assignments so far, 1-Blind drawing, 2-Touch drawing, 3-Continuous line and format, and 4-Negative space. You have also been working on and developing your own reportage illustration project done in your own time. The last four weeks have been focused on assignments set to encourage you to perfect your drawing skills in order to enable you to record from life more efficiently and with speed. Very necessary for reportage illustration. You have explored blind drawing, touch and texture, movement and the expression of line, becoming aware of format and the space around your subject which shares the same line as the object you are drawing. These skills are life drawing skills and I would advise you apply and practice them regularly in your working practice to keep your observation ability sharp.

The next four weeks.

You have four more assignments to complete before the Christmas break. These next four weeks are still about honing your skill set but they are also about encouraging you to 'tell a story' in relation to your reportage project. We will be looking at composition, scale, further expression, emotion, tone and colour

The next assignment will be given out on Monday morning 16th November before 10:00am.

The hand in date will be Sunday 22nd Nov at midnight and the same pattern for the following three weeks will apply. The last assignment is to be handed in at the end of the last week of this term and feedback for that week will be given to you in the New Year.

Remember you will all have the Christmas break to finish your Reportage project before the hand in date on Mon January 4th at 3:00pm 2021.

Mid way through the project

Make sure you practice the assignments you have done so far so that you understand the concepts and principals of the drawing exercises. This is also a time to reappraise your reportage project and brainstorm the direction it is taking and the story that is unfolding that you are reporting about from life. This is also about demonstrating that you are able to be self-directed and take on personal responsibility for your project. Are you able to appraise your working practice for yourself? Do you need to do some more research at this stage to help you re-evaluate in what direction your project is progressing? Re look at the Module brief and the reportage brief given out in the 2nd week of college. These you will find on moodle, Visual Studies 1 (M4X01602) Category: Graphic and digital arts. You could take some time to look at the marking criteria. Think about how to organise your time in the next few weeks. The Christmas break will be upon you in no time!!

Some questions asked during the tutorials

How should I present my final work?

- Each week you do the drawing assignments, you send them to me and I put them in a file, for you personally, and send you some feedback if I am able to. These drawings you send to me each week you do not need to send to me again on the final hand in date. If you feel some of them are appropriate to your final reportage project submission, then include them. The final submission of your reportage drawings/illustrations are to be compiled as a PowerPoint PDF and presented on the submission date. You could photograph or scan your reportage work as you progress or decide to do it at the end of the semester. Think about how you can make this interesting visually, by cropping images and putting related images on the same page. Also, if needed, add explanations. Remember you are reporting a story/narrative.

Export as PDF. Label your PDF document in the following format when saving:

Surname in CAPS Forename in CAPS VS1

Example: JONES DORIS VS1

Note; Iwan will be showing you how to do a PowerPoint. If some of you don't have access to PowerPoint then you will need to ask for it to be downloaded for you to work on if needs be at home.

What medium can I use?

- You can use any medium you wish for your reportage project. You can experiment with techniques you have used with Jon and Chris. You can scan your drawings and work on them digitally or leave them as they are.

What if I don't have the medium you ask us to use?

- Compromise and think about an alternative. Also make sure you pick up supplies from college when you are next able to go in.
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How many drawings should I do?

- This is up to you. Some of you may work fast and do lots of sketches some may work in more detail and do less drawings/paintings. This will depend on your story and how you wish to report what is happening. Some reportage artists will spend all day working on a piece. See Lucinda Rogers New York drawings. Remember you do 2 hours a week set assignments and are required to do 6 hours a week on this module in your own time.

How do I deal with the changes during lockdown?

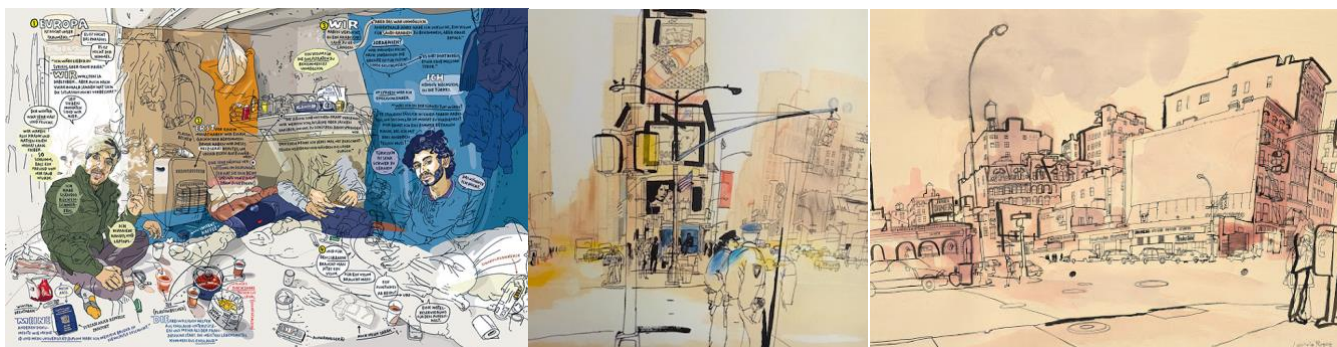
- As you have had to deal with lockdown and changes regarding your chosen subjects you can incorporate the changes as part of your story/narrative. Think about the contrasts, the isolation and the differences between being outside and being confined. The emptiness and the boredom contrasting with the livelier environment out of lockdown.
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Can I put words with the drawings,?

- Yes. You can write what you feel, note down snippets of conversations you hear, describe the sounds around you. Think about how you use the typography, will it look like notes as part of your drawings or will you really think about the different creative graphic ways you can depict the text alongside your drawings.

Materials list for next week Mon 16th Nov.

You will be working with collage and ink next week. You will need papers to tear or cut up, magazines, newspapers, coloured paper any papers and packaging or envelopes etc. Glue, a pritt stick would be useful if you have one. If not and you are in lockdown try to buy one when you go out shopping. (You could have had one from the college store room but unfortunately you are not allowed to go in!). Some thin paper, newsprint if you have it, for frottage (this is optional). Pen and ink a dip pen preferably if you have one, if not you could use a sharpened stick. Alternatively, you can thin down your watercolours and put this solution in a small container and use it as an ink. You will also need the usual pencils, a range from B to 6B. There are some fun sites on line that tell you how to make home-made glue and ink from household products.



Oliver Kugler develops his reportage sketches digitally as do other reportage artists. Lucinda Rogers can spend hours drawing in one location in New York <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1713657856/new-york-drawings> Have a look at her film which promotes her book depicting the changing story of the city over 30 years.