

1<sup>st</sup> Project – Positive/Negative Drawing  
Draw 101/201-001  
Due Thursday, Jan 30<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class

**OBJECTIVE:** Create a charcoal drawing of still-life arrangement or selected composition of a space while focusing on only the positive and negative space. This will result in a high-contrast, flattened drawing of only deep, velvety black and white areas.

**MATERIALS**

- 1 sheet of 18 X 24" drawing pad paper (landscape or portrait – your choice)
- All forms of BLACK charcoal – vine/willow, compressed, charcoal pencil
- kneaded eraser, white eraser, pink eraser
- 5-15 objects to draw OR use your viewfinder to select a composition of a space/environment
- Newsprint - Leave your drawing in the drawing pad while working on it. Once it is finished, sandwich your final drawing between two sheets of newsprint. Then put some tape on the drawing pad edges so it stays closed

**TIME** - This should take you no more than 6 total hours to complete.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR STILL LIFE OPTION**

1. Select at least 5-15 different objects. You want a variety to have a good balance of positive and negative space in your still-life. Arrange them in a way that is most interesting to you on a surface with good overhead lighting - such as a made bed, a table, or a counter-top
  - You want variety in the objects: a mixture of large and small objects; compact objects and things that branch out or have holes - look for one or two things that provide height.
  - Don't put all the objects on the floor. You need to incorporate a raised surface of some kind so that you are not looking down on everything. Try to get some height and distance between some of the objects too
  - Don't cram them altogether too close. (Think about the still - life arrangements from class.)
    - Ex 1: An arrangement, aka 'composition,' with objects placed on top of a small table – some might dangle off the edge of the table, others are on the floor and resting up against the table
  - Objects: A hairdryer, a flip-flop, a house plant, a step stool, a chair, a broom, a hat, a tea kettle, a bicycle, a clothes hanger

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SELECTED COMPOSITION OF A SPACE/ENVIRONMENT**

1. Use your viewfinder to select a composition. You can choose whatever location you would like, just look for something with good positive and negative space that will allow you to work with charcoal.

**THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO BOTH OPTIONS...**

2. Begin by arranging the objects in an interesting way. Then, observe. These objects will need to overlap at times and then there should be areas with spaces. When the objects overlap one another, they will become one object within your drawing. **NO INTERIOR DETAILS.**
3. Then with only vine charcoal, begin to **LIGHTLY** lay in the mass of the arrangement. You will start by looking at the negative space that surrounds the objects – the exterior edges, and draw only those edges. Try not to make dark marks. This is a slow drawing. The cleaner you draw these lines, the better. Try not to focus on the details of the positive spaces. This helps your brain see only shapes.

4. Then you need to draw the negative spaces that exist inside the mass of the composition. Remember that compressed charcoal and charcoal pencils do not erase well so they should only be used once you have drawn all of the edges of the positive and negative space.
5. Now decide which space you want to color in black - the positive space of the objects OR the negative space of the background.
6. You will color in your chosen space with ONLY the compressed charcoal and soft charcoal pencils. You will define edges with your charcoal pencil and erasers. You may like to redefine those edges first and then fill in or vise-versa.
7. These drawing will smear very easily. Try not to touch the paper with anything except your drawing materials. Take care to keep your white spaces pure white.

\*We will spray these in class after critique

