



Atelier Course Objectives

Studio Art & Philosophy of Aesthetics | 10 credits

In Emmaus Classical Academy's Atelier Course, students will engage in an in-depth study of the fundamentals of representational visual art in the form of drawing, watercolor, and acrylic painting. This study will take place through studies, reflection and engagement with aesthetic philosophy texts, long-term projects, and dialogues over Master drawings and paintings (ranging over multiple eras of art history) to help students become competent and confident not only in their facility with the craft but also in their familiarity with the artistic traditions and expressions of the past. Their engagement in the studio will better help them engage all forms of aesthetics, whether that is in the fine arts or in the every-day moments of life.

ECA's Atelier class approaches training in representational art through the classical stages of drawing first and painting second. Examining first the units of drawing through composition, construction, and copy, students will gain mastery of the fundamentals of draftsmanship. Throughout the units, students will use ideas from personal artistic studies, lecture content, discussion and reading in the philosophy of aesthetics in order to form cogent and engaging thoughts about beauty and the significance of the material world. Students will then learn how to express these ideas through themes in long-term projects.

Students who participate in Atelier have the following Objectives...

In Studio Art:

Acquiring Artistic Skills

- To understand and practice the basic principles of drawing, which includes employing an understanding of Composition, Construction, and Copying.
- To learn and practice methods and tools that help the student Copy forms accurately with a variety in Line-Quality, Shading, and portraying differing Textures in two-dimensional representations.
- To practice Constructing complex forms by simplifying them into large shapes and “seeing through” the form to its internal structure
- To engage in Compositional design with an attention to the basic elements of design: Contrast, Balance, Emphasis, Movement, White Space, Proportion, Hierarchy, Repetition, Rhythm, Pattern, Unity, and Variety.

- To understand and practice creating the basic construction of a portrait, including the fundamental geometry and anatomy of the head.
- To grasp and apply basic elements of color-theory, rooted in the impressionist tradition.
- To distinguish differing light-keys in various works of representational art.
- To become competent and confident in color mixing in the mediums of watercolor and acrylic painting.

Engaging the Creative Process

- To utilize methods of observation, inquiry, and experimentation to explore and enjoy unfamiliar subjects through the art-making process.
- To employ multiple approaches to begin creative endeavors, which includes free-form drawing, blind contours, grid-layout methodology, and sight-sizing.
- To shape an artistic investigation about an aspect of present-day life using traditional and contemporary practices.
- To refine and complete artistic work that applies relevant criteria from traditional and contemporary contexts.
- To synthesize knowledge of social, cultural, historical, and personal life with the acquired art-making facility in order to create meaningful works of art.

Presenting and Responding: Reflections on the Completed Work

- To engage in constructive critique with peers, then reflect on, reengage, revise, and refine works of art.
- To analyze, select, and critique personal artwork for a collection or portfolio presentation.
- To document and preserve the process of an ideas development: from early-stage thumbnail sketches to fully elaborated compositions/pieces.

In Art Composition Dialogue and Discussion:

- In dialogue, to construct, explain, and justify connections between artists or artwork and social, cultural, and political history.
- In perceiving and analyzing artistic work, to recognize and describe personal aesthetic and empathetic responses to the natural world and constructed environments.
- To grow in one's ability to analyze how responses to art develop over time based on knowledge of and experience with art and life.
- To begin to analyze how one's understanding of the world is affected by experiencing visual imagery.
- To practice interpreting intent and meaning in artistic work by identifying types of contextual information.
- To learn and apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

To this end, Atelier students will practice the act of drawing and painting in several forms, among them:

- Weekly short studies, both in class and as take home assignments:
 - The first semester will include drawing journal entries with studies such as line drawings, full-shaded drawings, blind contours, still-life drawings, and copying Classical sculptures, as well as tutorials in perspective and proportion and geometry.
 - The second semester will include watercolor journal entries with studies such as black and white value studies, color-theory charts, complimentary-colored still-life paintings, and copying Master watercolorist's paintings.
- Long-term assignments for the development of more complex compositions in both semesters, focusing the first semester on fully-shaded drawings and the second semester on acrylic paintings.
- A first-semester self-portrait drawing for presentation.
- A second-semester creative painting project for presentation.
- Presentation of in-class work for final portfolio for each semester.