Foundations VA-1 & 2 Summer Assignment

The Blank Canvas

loose, you may need to adopt a disciplinary approach. Set yourself a daily task. The following account by Jacques Lipchitz will give you an example.

Next came the fire in 1952 when everything in my studio burned, and the bronze foundry offered me a space where I could work. At that time I experienced several other misfortunes; I had fallen, as it were, from my horse and I began to think that maybe all was finished with me. Then, in order to see what was really happening, I decided to take my creative temperature. I determined to go to the foundry each morning and every day to make a spontaneous sculpture from one of the leftover wax chisels [small wax casts]. In twenty-six working days I made twenty-six sculptures. It was a cure. After that I was ready to go on—to go on to more planned work. 25

The quote above is taken from *The Blank Canvas: Inviting the Muse* it will help to inspire you during your journey. Every artist throughout the ages has reach an impasse where they struggle whether it is due to issues that arise in their personal lives, acts of God or simply being uninspired. This summer assignment is meant to help you on **your** journey. It is meant as a resource for you to return to whenever, not **IF** ever, you find yourself struggling.

Guidelines:

The task you decide on should be of limited duration each day (no more than an hour), but moderately demanding-like physical exercise. Try to work at the same time every day, and work for the same duration every day. It should make you feel that you have done something, yet not wear you out so that you fail to continue successive days. Complete **20** drawings from **one** of the three producer categories below. Selecting from one of the following **three** producers will help you envision the ikinds of problems you might set up for yourself to investigate.

- 1. Select and object, such as a scissor or a shoe, and take it on a "trip through the world." Place it in many different environments, appropriate and inappropriate to the nature of the object.
- 2. Take different places that are meaningful to you and rope off each "site" in your mind or in fact. You must be able to observe the area from any side, and its contents should not exceed what you can draw comfortable with the allotted time. You may choose to draw one site from **20** different views or use a variety of sites.
- 3. Walk around and record how surfaces intersect with each other. What happens where the telephone, your coffee cup and your chair "meet" visually? Your drawing should extend just to the moment where it ceases to abstract.²

Select and complete **one** exercise from the list above. The assignment is **due the first week of school**. Not only should you complete the task for the <u>same duration every day</u> but I recommend that you <u>work on consecutive days</u>, and that you complete each drawing sequentially in your visual <u>journal</u>. This will help you see your improvement as it progresses. Feel free to contact me with any questions or if you would like any feedback. I can be reached at DEGREGCAB@YAHOO.COM

¹ Audette, Anna Held, *The Blank Canvas: Inviting the Muse* (Boston and London: Shambhala, 1993), 72.

² Ibid, 72-73.

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The summer assignment is worth 100 formative points, and can be used to replace one weekly *visual journal* homework assignment. It may be used at the prerogative of the student in the marking period of choice. A receipt will be given to each student who completes the assignment. To earn the points students must submit **20 fully realized 2-page spreads in their** *visual journals***.** Completion of the summer assignment is optional.

Recommended Pre-College Summer Programs:

Delaware College of Art & Design; Wilmington, DE: http://www.dcad.edu/site/continuing_education/young_artist_programs

Virginia Commonwealth University; Richmond, VA: http://arts.vcu.edu/summerintensive/

University of Arts; Philadelphia, PA: http://www.uarts.edu/academics/pre-college-programs

Maryland College Institute of Art; Baltimore, MD: http://www.mica.edu/Programs_of_Study/
Programs_for_Children_and_Teens/Programs_for_High_School_Students/Summer_Pre-College.html

Tyler School of Art; Philadelphia, PA: http://tyler.temple.edu/continuing-education-program/teenpre-college-programs

Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art; Philadelphia, PA: https://www.pafa.org/highschool

Savanna College of Art and Design; Savanna, GA: https://www.scad.edu/academics/pre-college-summer-programs