

Josh Tangen
Drawing Objectives
Spring 2018
Artist Reflection

Over the semester, with introductions to new artists and techniques, I have come to view my own interactions with drawing in a new light. Previously in my own practice, drawing has always been rooted in observation and preparatory in nature. I have engaged drawing as exploratory sketches in mark making, under-drawings for paintings or prints, or a form of meditation. I have used this semester as a means to execute illustrations for my thesis. Seeing the way that other students in the class have explored their relationship to drawing, it is with the experiences of this class that I will continue to challenge my own assumptions toward drawing and take this summer to explore what I did not have time to during the semester.

The first project of metal point was awkward, It brought awareness to my dependence on erasure, and the carefulness of my drawing style. I have long been aware of the controlled nature of my drawing when composing an image that will be used as a basis for an under-drawing to a print or painting. Which is at odds with my looser sketching in figure drawing or drawing from life. I made the mistake of treating the metal point as precious precursor to a print and not as the end result. Using a similar attitude in which I approach drawing, the metal point became muddied and uninteresting. Individual elements of mark making and decisions were interesting, but without erasure they quickly got lost. I know it is possible to add tonal range with ink, paint, etc. or to perform corrections with white paint, but I feel this goes against the intent. With this challenging medium, I would like to try and explore the potential in a figure drawing setting or in the vein of plein air painting.

This notion of moving outside the routing, and my comfort zone, I will try to work with line in additional to tonal work that has defined my style in lithography and paint. Inspired by the drawing of Larry Day and the engravings of Andrew Raftery. I will continue to challenge myself and move beyond a style that I am comfortable in and can expect somewhat consistent results. Silvia and I went to the Klimt/ Schiele drawing show at the MFA last week. It was interesting that all the labels stated that the drawings were preparatory studies for paintings and murals. While some where were obviously visual notes and explorations, others were strong drawings and stood of on their own merit. With your suggestion of working on good paper, even for a preparatory drawing, I will approach drawing in a new light.