
INSTRUCTOR Amy Freeman, amyfreeman@ufl.edu

MEETING TIME July 21-26

ROOM Constans Theater (meet at main entrance/interior of Reitz Union)

All content subject to change

Narrative Painting uses mixed media to explore the complexities of storytelling. Students will use non-objective and metaphorical approaches to reinterpret narratives, drawing inspiration from various texts and personal experiences. By working in series and combining painting, drawing, and collage, they will transform both existing and original stories in non-literal ways. Through compositional and design strategies, artworks will evolve into finished works that reflect the original inspiration while allowing for creative interpretation.

OBJECTIVES

- To explore non-objective, metaphorical ways to interpret a narrative
- To experiment with a variety of painting techniques that involves drawing and collage
- To enhance technical skills with painting and drawing
- To discover strengths associated with working in a series
- To expand visual vocabulary within composition and design
- To brainstorm and interpret the narrative through methods of ideation, collaboration and small group activities

CLASS HOURS / STUDIO TIME

This concentrated course consists of approximately 90 hours of total study – on site work, excursions, readings, and take-home work. The effort invested in this class will be reflected in the work and the grade earned will reflect this time and effort. Making a commitment to this class will reward students with exciting growth in their artistic practice. This commitment requires cooperation; hard work, dedication, creativity, motivation and most critically being open to input and new ideas and a willingness to receive mentorship.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend and actively participate in ALL scheduled class sessions as well as conduct the necessary preparations and studio work before arriving to campus. UF policy related to class attendance: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences>

PROJECTS

This course engages the student in 4 projects. These projects will strengthen the control of mixed-media painting with drawing and collage and expand concepts related to the narrative.

1. self as metaphor

Through investigating personality traits (the Johari Window), this project will explore an abstract narrative that expands to a collective storyboard or large comic-like format. Working in grids of four, students will investigate ways to visually describe personality traits or adjectives through symbolic and formal means. Through a series of small paintings primarily in Sumi-Ink the self will be explored. Subsequently, through alike traits, words and numerical comparisons students will collaborate on a large, structured wall drawing that weaves together not one but dozens of personalities into one abstract whole. Students will be introduced to artists using wall

drawing/painting in their work, including Sol LeWitt, Diann Bauer, Rocio Rodriguez, The Sumi Ink Club, and others. Inspired by The Sumi Ink Club in California: <http://sumiinkclub.com>

2. my horror-ific? childhood

Recalling a dramatic event in your past, free-write about the event. Choose a favorite childhood fairytale and then via group brainstorming sessions we will work to visually combine the two narratives within a used children's book. Bring a children's book and an object: toy, game piece, etc. that somehow reminds you of the event or the fairytale (see specifics in Materials to Bring below, items will be available in class). Bring an image of you as a child, 1-3 images would be great. Working through a series of created images, the new narrative will unfold in a newly constructed book format. Artist such as Paula Rego, Anselm Kiefer, Henry Darger, Amy Cutler, and Francesca Lowe will be introduced.

3. the urban project

Urban spaces are complex and their interpretations broad: noise, crowds, overlapping buildings, wires, fences, cars, manholes, limited nature, tight quarters, etc. After reading a chapter/s from Sandra Cisneros' book *House on Mango Street* students will explore downtown Gainesville, photographing and drawing moments of urban surprise, interest and/or decay. Working with the collected images, overlaying, adding and subtracting with paint; students will create a small series of paintings that describe a new "urban" space. During, students will collaborate to create a large-scale painting, combining efforts to create their own urban community in a panoramic format. Artists such as Mark Bradford, Amy Sillman, Oscar Murillo, Day Bowman, etc. will be explored.

4. seeing is believing?

Students will embark on several attentive exercises at the Harn Museum to initiate a small series of work that investigate seeing art and understanding history to conjure a narrative. An experiential *wander* and moments of careful looking will take place, and students will collect images, drawings and potential objects of significant importance to their wanderings. Symbols and images from magazine cutouts will be transferred or collaged onto paper as an initial springboard. Working through small studies, students will explore painting and drawing methods that focus on overlapping, veiling and revealing imagery through transparent and opaque surfaces. Discussions will focus on how to convey meaning from experiential moments. We will look at artists such as Brooks Shane Salzwedel, Kevin Sonmor, Margaret Tolbert, Peter Doig, etc.

THINGS TO DO, FIND AND PACK FOR GAINESVILLE:

- Online Reference: Before class go to <http://kevan.org/johari> and choose 5-6 words that best describe you. Afterward, email the link to 6-10+ friends and family instructing them to also choose words to describe you. Four-windows will appear, exposing who you are and how other people see you. Print this page and bring to class, see self as metaphor.
- Digital camera or Smartphone camera and USB cable
- Various papers/images for collage purposes (*papers will also be available in class)
- Used/Found Children's Book, larger hardback preferred. (*various childrens books may also be available in class. The books will be reconstructed and the original destroyed or severely altered)
- Walking shoes
- Sunhat, sunglasses and sunscreen
- Rain jacket and or umbrella
- Light sweater/sweatshirt, pair of socks (air conditioning in bldg can be cold)

- Bag or backpack
- Snacks (for long studio days)
- Lock for a locker (lockers available if needed)

ART MATERIALS TO BRING:

Please prepare by bringing the following supplies with you:

1. **Paper Palette Pad** (9x12 or 12x16)
2. **Acrylic Paint Tubes** (basic set - I will have plenty of phalo-green and burnt sienna)
3. **Acrylic Paint Markers**
4. **Paint Brushes** for paint, ink, glue
5. **Small Sketchbook** (mainly for mobile documenting and notetaking - does not need to be new)
6. **Cutting tools** > Scissors and/or exacto blade
7. **Childrens Book** (I have some but not have enough for all students. Choose a book that is a great story but can be reimaged (aka destroyed). 😊)

Additional items that I will provide but you may want a personal size:

1. **Acid Free Glue** (I have a 16oz bottle with small containers, should be enough?)
2. **Masking Tape** (I will have 2 rolls - 1 and 1/2 inch. But since we will all be using it, having a personal roll is helpful)

* Many of these items can be purchased at grocery, hardware or craft stores such as Lowes, Michael's and Jo-Ann's Fabrics or ordered from online art dealers such as www.dickblick.com.

GRADING SCALE

A = 90-100	Outstanding- Shows amazing effort and determination with consistent success.
B = 80-89	Very Good- Shows effort, occasional success and advances in technical skill.
C = 70-79	Satisfactory- Fulfilled the requirements of class, average skill, acceptable effort.
D = 60-69	Deficient- Difficulties in skill, understanding and or following requirements of class
E = <59	Unacceptable/Failure to complete- Problematic, failure to follow requirements

(a 94-100, a- 92-90, b+ 89-87, b 86-83, b- 82-80, c+ 79-77, c 76-73, c- 72-70, d+ 69-67, d 66-63, d- 62-60, e 59-0)

* Please see the UF grading policy at (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>)

GRADING

75% PROJECTS & ASSIGNMENTS

25% PARTICIPATION / EFFORT / RESEARCH Participation, support, and respect in all phases of this course are imperative. Participation in a responsive manner during all class hours is expected. The class dynamic depends on your energy, initiative, attitude, productivity, and willingness to be involved in all assignments, daily exercises, group discussion, and reviews.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

<http://itl.chem.ufl.edu/honor.html>

ACCOMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students office. The Dean of Students will provide documentation to the student who will then provide this to the instructor when requesting accommodation. The ADA office (www.ada.ufl.edu) is located in Room 232 Stadium (phone 392-7056 TDD 846-1046).

STUDIO:

Studio space is provided for the express purpose of the production of art objects and scholarly work during this class. Students are expected to always follow studio guidelines. It is expected that the student will use the space for this purpose only. These studios are in a shared space divided to provide privacy. The studio is a professional working area, and every effort must be made to preserve the rights of others working in the space.

Studio clean up list:

- Studio must be free of trash
- Floor must be swept
- Keep your materials in order, use the lockers available to store/keepsake items.

CELL PHONES / PERSONAL ELECTRONICS:

Students must turn beepers and cell phones to silence/vibrate during class. Students will not be permitted to use personal music devices during class. You are in an open, shared studio and many artists prefer a quiet environment in which to work.

DEMEANOR POLICY:

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class and will negatively affect the course grade of the offending student.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

All students will complete a studio use contract at the onset of class. Students will always comply with all studio guidelines.