

Art 100 2D Design & Color Foundations      Assignment #9  
“FINAL ASSIGNMENT: EXPRESSIONISM AND COLOR”

In this last assignment you will be doing a little research first. You can choose one of two distinct directions to go in for the project. You may either research expressive representation or non-objective abstract expressionism. The German Expressionist, the Fauvists, die Brücke and their ilk can characterize the former. The New York School of Abstraction, the Color Field Painters of the 1950's & 60's as well as the Action Painters of the 1950's can characterize the later. This assignment's outcome will be influenced by the image and mark making processes of one of these two art making directions. Some of the main names to look for under the large heading of expressionism are, Henri Matisse, Vassily Kandinsky, Georges Rouault, Emil Nolde, Paula Modersohn-Becker, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Franz Marc, Edvard Munch, Alexej Von Jawlensky, Paul Klee, Egon Schiele, Oskar Kokoschka, Sonya & Robert Delaunay, Georg Baselitz. In the abstract expressionism and non-representational direction some of the more important names are Arshile Gorky, Hans Hofmann, Willem De Kooning, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Robert Motherwell, Clyfford Still, Sean Scully, Franz Kline, Helen Frankenthaler, Jules Olitski, Richard Diebenkorn & Gerhard Richter. With their use of color to express emotions and feelings, expressionists were some of the first artists to deal with such issues as the self, the unconscious, the subconscious, psychology, madness and mental illness. For your final I would like for you to first look at some of the names and or movements mentioned above and find someone who appeals to you or you connect with on a color sense scale or that draws you in because of their use of color. Study them and figure out why. Then create your own design using influences that affect you. Maybe it comes from your environment, where you come from or where you live. The view from your dorm room. A special place you like to go. A portrait of an important person in your life, a pattern or texture or design you are fixated on or even a still life of objects that are most important to who you are. There are many possibilities and no wrong answers if you think about it. Use colors that have some color theory basis. But pick the color scheme that best represents the mood or feeling you wish to express. Do you want the painting to be cool? Do you want it to be Warm? Do you want it to be harmonious or disjunctive or chaotic? Maybe you wish it to be obnoxious and offensive to the eye. You should be able to come up with some idea about what colors to choose no matter what the situation you are trying to represent with an emotional feeling. After all you have been working with color and design for 15 weeks now. For richer shades try not using black out of the tube but mix your own using complements or primary color mixtures. Use techniques of painting like that of the artists you researched. If they painted with many layers and various opacities of paints; then try that. If they paint with very thick paint; then try that. If they used unorthodox methods like painting with sticks, brooms or sponges; then try that. Part of the appeal of these art movements where that they were pushing the boundaries and exploring not only the unconscious world but real world boundaries in art as well.

This assignment is due on the day of our final on which we will take a final exam based on the terms discussed in this class and the color theory vocabulary glossary. Date & times given in class.

You may use any 2D medium or media also you may use any size or surface for this project. Please keep in mind achievability and professionalism in your final presentation. Any rectilinear shape with ratios of 1:1.414 or 1:1.618 or 1:2.236 or 1:1.333 are well used and available canvas'. The minimum size is any 2D shapes whose dimensions add up to @ least 20". For example, 10 X 10, 11" X 9", 12" X 8", 13" X 7".