

## Drawing Methods

### *From Impression to Proportion (Gesture and beyond)*

**IMPRESSION:** Before making any marks on your paper, consider each drawing subject as 1.) A problem with a choice of many solutions, solutions only YOU can discover. 2.) A chance to apply a compositional model in a new and exciting way. 3.) A series of positive and negative spaces/shapes, each having equal weight and importance. 4.) A blank slate for potential communication of a:

- a.) message,
- b.) mood,
- c.) concept or idea,
- d.) feeling,
- e.) Anything else you deem important.

5.) A dynamic entity with an energy that is either implied or actual...and that needs a *gestural*\* interpretation.

**PROPORTION:** Once you have recorded your gestural impression, take the time you need to study both the subject and your gesture drawing. Start measuring the objects within the still life (these should be “proportional” measurements rather than absolute measurements) and begin to mark your gesture drawing relative to these proportional measurements. The marks you make are known as “tick” marks, “guide” marks, etc. and should be made so that you can remember the direction and general shape of the objects they describe.

Before, during, and after drawing any subject our primary concern is how to “see” that subject. In order to accurately portray a subject proportionally and in relation to the picture plane we must take into account such concerns as:

- **Positive** and **Negative** shapes, and their relationship to the picture plane.
- How the **composition** will lead the viewer’s eye through and around the drawing.
- The relative **value** of each object and any “value patterns” that will be found (seen) in the finished drawing.
- How various **textures** will be rendered and how those textures will affect the believability and mood of the drawing.
- Whether or not **line** will play an important role in the drawing, and what type(s) of line will be used and to what end.
- What **message** you, the artist, wish the viewer to receive (know, understand, believe, come away with, think about, or feel.)

\* Information about “Gesture” can be found in many books on Drawing and the handout I give you will explain gesture in detail.