

Y is for Yellow! "G"

April 1, 2016

Welcome to Lesson G!

For our drawing exercise we will work on

A Gaggle of Girls

Then we will:

Get to Work!

Let's get started! (But first...)

Carlos

Artists . . .

Arshile Gorky

Philip Guston

Juan Gris

Antoni Gaudi

El Greco

Paul Gauguin

Milton Glaser

Natalia Gontcharova

Francisco Goya

George Grosz

Natalie Goldberg

Add your own names to those listed here!

**“When I look at something,
I do not see it unless I make
an internal decision to draw it.
Drawing it in a state of humility provides
a way for truth to emerge.”**

Milton Glaser



A Gaggle of Girls

Supplies Needed

- sketchbook or drawing paper
- pencil
- photo references of girls or women

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For the “G” drawing assignment, you will do four sets of 6 small head-and-shoulder portraits in graphite from photo references. The aim is to simplify, stylize, and begin to find “your” girl.

Let’s get started!

1. Gather your materials. Make six random pencil marks on your page, roughly in the position you want the girls

to be in. (see sample, right). (This is optional, but I've found it helps me continue drawing the full 6 portraits).

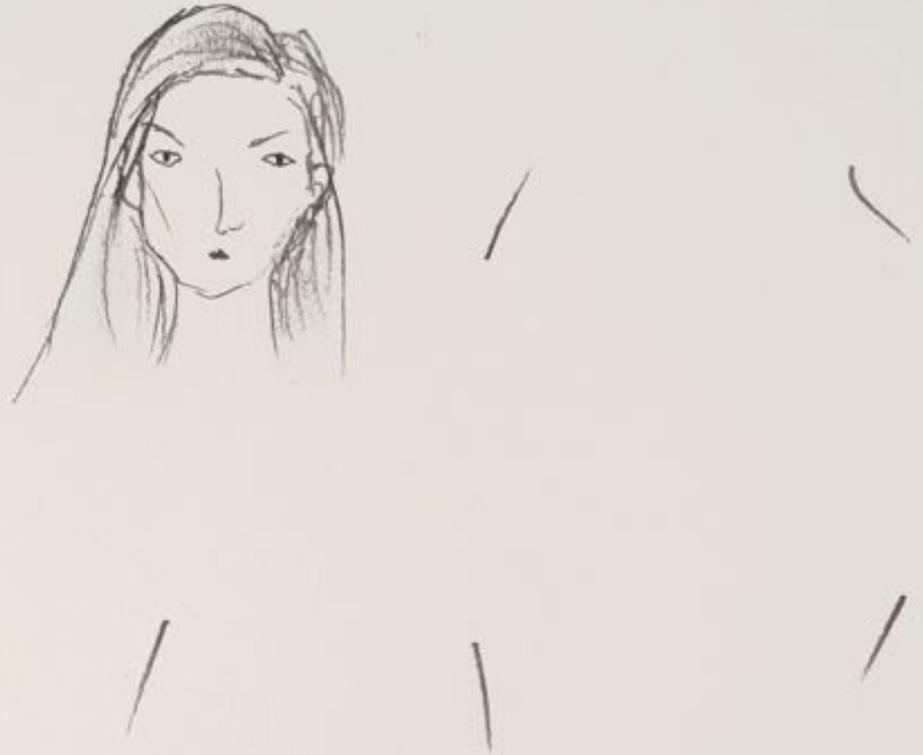
2. Begin drawing. For the 1st set of 6, start with the hair shape and move inward, with the facial details last. Remember to breathe and look at your reference often. You can spend as much or little time on these as you would like... but try not to overwork. Erase as needed. Use your finger to smudge and shade.

3. For the 2nd set of 6, start with the eyes/nose/mouth, and build OUT from there.

4. For the 3rd and 4th sets, do whatever feels most comfortable to you.

5. Use these 24 faces to experiment with eye shapes, noses, mouths... try and find a look you love!

6. Experiment with line quality. Use a sketchy or broken lines for some and a more solid lines for others. Which do you prefer?





G is for Get to Work!

Okay!

This is it, what we've been waiting for!

We get to do a series of work!

A bunch of pieces that "hang together," something we've long wanted to do!

In our own style!

Fun! easy!

(We love to make art, right?)

Well, it's not so easy...

Truly, there's nothing easy about what we're doing! Get ready for some pretty heavy resistance when we get "in the weeds" of our projects.

Some of you are already experiencing it... you started out enthusiastically and after a few experiments hit a wall. Then, as Steven Pressfield in his book "The War of Art," calls it, "resistance" sets in.

It can take the form of procrastination ("Hmmm, this computer desktop needs organizing") or self doubt ("This is dumb, I'm illustrating a book that might never ever get published.")

And do you know what? Both of these things might be true! But that doesn't mean we shouldn't move forward anyway! Every piece of art we make helps us continue on our journey, so no time is "wasted."

Let's help each other get through the weeds! Here are three things we can do to help overcome the resistance:

1. Make a Plan

We have Lessons G and H (4 weeks) to work on our series. **Deadline: Thursday, April 28.***

Estimate how many hours your series might take to complete, and then work out a painting schedule and put it on your calendar.

For example, for my first series I hope to complete 12 illustrations for a little book I started for my grandchildren. I estimate it will take between 2-5 hours per illustration for a total of 24-60 painting hours.

So for the next four weeks, I have blocked out two hours each M-W-Th-F (8 hours x 4 weeks = 32 hours), and four hours on Saturdays (4 hours x 4 weeks = 16 hours). So I have 48 hours scheduled to work on my illustrations in

* Some of you may need a bit more time, and can take another week or two if desired. (Lesson "I" will have a mixed-media assignment for those who have finished their series work.)

the next four weeks. Since I estimated between 24-60, I'm probably okay (if I'm lucky)!

2. Find a Team

The second thing we can do is to find an accountability partner (or partners). The idea here is that you will come together with the common goal of encouraging and urging each other on, in a group that is more intimate than our large class group. (We will be doing the same thing at the Facebook page too, of course! But a smaller group is more personal.)

Once your team is formed, it will be up to you how you communicate with each other: You can form a separate closed Facebook group or you might prefer to just communicate by email.

Try to check in with each other at least three times a week for the next four weeks. You are free to share your series ideas with your teammates, and even art-

work if you must (but try to refrain! Again, feedback in these early stages can derail us.)

Here are a three ways to find your team:

1. Team up with friends already in the class.
2. Go to Facebook and put your name out there for others to find you. There will be several "categories" created for you to look for team members... book illustrations, paintings, 3D, Europeans, Australians, etc.
3. Email me at carla@carlasonheim.com with "Need Team Yellow" in the subject line. Let me know what your series plan is, and I will try to partner you with someone with similar goals.

3. "Attend" a Work Session

Finally, let's work on our series together! When artist and teacher Lynda Barry is working on a book project,

she invites her students to join her and work on their own books IN COMMUNITY. There is a shared energy and accountability when people work together!

Since we can't really do that in an online class, though, we will do the next best thing: Schedule times where we can work on our projects "at the same time."

If you decide to join in, "check in" on Facebook before the session starts and then get to work! If you need a break in the middle, go ahead and update us on your progress... but then, back to work until the end of the two hours!

Ok, that's it! Have fun with your series, and if you are having trouble, please reach out!

Carla
carla@carlasonheim.com

P.S. Following are the five illustrations I worked on... I like all of them for different reasons but don't LOVE any of them... I am going to move on to another illustration, though, for now. I can always re-do later!

Scheduled Work Sessions

There will be two sessions each Saturday for the next four weeks (4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23):

Seattle: Sat, 10am-12noon

NYC: Sat, 1-3pm

Germany: Sat, 7-9pm

Australia: Sun, 4-6am

and again:

Seattle: Sat, 4-6pm

NYC: Sat, 7-9pm

Germany: Sun, 1-3am

Australia: Sun, 10-12noon

Seattle

New York City +3

Berlin, Germany +9

Melbourne, Australia +18

(and apologies for those of you who need to figure out the times on your own! This is a helpful site: <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html>)

Once upon a time
there was a story.



Once upon a time
there was a story.





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