



BACKGROUNDS & TEXTURES PROJECTS

Complex Compositions

Syllabus

WEEK ONE: THE IMPORTANCE OF BACKGROUNDS

JULY 8-14, 2024

- ▶ **Theory Overview:** Planned vs. Improvisational Approaches to Composition
- ▶ **Project Application:** Foundation building, creating a set of 10+ backgrounds based on suggested techniques and elements of design

WEEK TWO: ADDING LAYERS

JULY 15-21, 2024

- ▶ **Theory Overview:** Strategies for Analyzing and Improving your Work
 - Is the background busy and complex or quiet and low-key?
 - How to think about what to add: color, size, shape?
 - What's your preference? Abstract, figurative, non-representational or a combination of both, or all three?
 - Using the Stage Play Analogy as a guide & placement strategies that work
- ▶ **Project Application:**
 - Adjusting the background before adding layers
 - Analyzing/planning colors so that they work together
 - Working with shape and size
 - Non-representational elements versus figurative elements/combining both

WEEK THREE: CREATING AN ILLUSION OF DEPTH

JULY 22-28, 2024

 Q&A Session #1 — Monday July 22nd, 2024 || 2-3pm CDT

- ▶ **Theory Overview:** Size and Value - Your Design Allies
 - Four ways to use shading and value to add dimension
 - What your eyes tell your brain
- ▶ **Project Application:**
 - Practical use of shapes in varied sizes and values to imply distance and depth
 - Practice shading and value changes to add dimension

WEEK FOUR: STUDIO WEEK

JULY 29 - AUGUST 4, 2024

WEEK FIVE: WORKING WITH THE GEL PLATE

AUGUST 4-11, 2024

- ▶ **Theory Overview:** Reverse Your Thinking
 - Adding layers on the plate
 - Adjusting and adding elements once the image is printed
- ▶ **Project Application:**
 - Playing with several materials on the gel plate - painting, stencils, Posca acrylic (or other) markers
 - Applying a laser transfer to the substrate prior to adding gel plate printing

WEEK SIX: FOCAL POINT, RADIAL BALANCE AND FINAL TOUCHES

AUGUST 12-18, 2024

 Q&A Session #2 — Monday August 12th, 2024 || 2-3pm CDT

- ▶ **Theory Overview:** Training Your Eye For Balance
 - Becoming knowledgeable about different approaches to composition, including focal point, radial balance and crystallographic composition
 - Discussing what happens when a piece needs one more touch - the final element that will pull it all together
- ▶ **Project Application:**
 - Creating examples of each of the compositional strategies discussed in the Theory lecture
 - Reviewing work so far and discussing possible finishing touches

WEEK SEVEN: YOU — ARTIST, MAKER AND CONFIDENT CREATOR

AUGUST 19-25, 2024

- ▶ **Theory Overview:** Review and Tying It All Together
- ▶ Project Application:
 - The Challenge: Finish one or more of the compositions started over the past six weeks so that you are satisfied with the outcome.
 - Produce one or two new pieces from scratch, based on what you have learned from the Projects Course

WEEK EIGHT: STUDIO WEEK

AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

 Q&A Session #3 — Monday August 26th, 2024 || 2-3pm CDT

 Q&A Session #4 + Show and Tell — Friday September 6th, 2024 || 2-3pm CDT

LIVE SESSIONS

Q&A Session #1 — Monday July 22nd, 2024 || 2-3pm CDT

Q&A Session #2 — Monday August 12th, 2024 || 2-3pm CDT

Q&A Session #3 — Monday August 26th, 2024 || 2-3pm CDT

Q&A Session #4 + Show and Tell — Friday September 6th, 2024 || 2-3pm CDT