

## Course Syllabus

### Multiple Figure Composition Part I: Studies of Historical Paintings

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#### Session 1

- Learning from history: Paintings have to engage with the history of painting
- Narrative can be conveyed through the structure of the painting
- **Sketchbook Project 1:** Pencil sketch of a historical painting, look for how structure conveys narrative

#### Session 2

- Formal aspects of composition
- Abstract shapes, value structure, repeating angles, visual pathways
- **Sketchbook Project 2:** Small painted study in black and white of a historical painting (choose a new one each week): Look for the formal aspects of the composition that are used to organize the painting.

#### Session 3

- Time and movement in narrative painting
- Color composition
- **Sketchbook Project 3:** Color study of a historical painting: Look for how time and movement are shown in the painting. Look for the dominant color relationships and how they are used to organize the painting.

#### Session 4

- Pictorial space
- Geometric divisions of the rectangle
- **Sketchbook Project 4:** Color study of a historical painting, look for how space is used three-dimensionally in the painting (depth vs. flatness): Are the proportions of the rectangle significant, and do the divisions of space in the painting relate to the rectangle?