NEGATIVE SPACE - Assignment #3

ASSIGNMENT

After exploring some examples of negative space in drawings by both students and professionals; you will experiment with the powerful use of negative space in your own drawings. The focus will be on drawing the negative space or the space in between objects in order to give that space a ‘charged’ and powerful presence. After the initial “in-class” experience with drawing negative shapes, you will also begin to consciously focus on composition. You will develop 9 thumbnail sketches from which you will select the strongest compositions. Your selection will be based upon use of your “Compositions to Avoid” handout and the ways that the negative shapes help to create a sense of visual flow.

- For this assignment you will develop three different drawings, which emphasize negative space.
- Each drawing will be from direct observation of a still life with a considerable numbers of framed negative spaces (such as chairs, linear forms, plants, objects in a pile leaving lots of holes. If necessary, jumble and overlap these items to maximize the number and variety of negative spaces.)
- The first drawing we will complete in class. It will be created by starting with a ground and ‘pulling’ the negative space/shape out with your erasers.
- A second drawing will be created by carefully drawing the contour of the negative space/shape and filling it with a flat black value (the positive space will be the white of the paper).
- The third drawing will be completed using the approach of your choice (or a combination of techniques) but must demonstrate your heightened awareness of negative space/shapes. This drawing may be a rendering of positive space, but the negative space should be equally as strong.
- In both the second and third drawings you will also be asked to develop strong compositions avoiding “Compositions to Avoid” and by creating a sense of visual flow.

Note: This assignment is NOT about accurate representation of something: it is about exploring the presence and importance of negative space. The concentration should be on ‘seeing’ and drawing the space between objects. Therefore, your finished drawing may have an abstract quality

MEDIA and SUPPORT
Compressed charcoal, chamois, erasers on good quality 18X24”drawing paper, and sketch/notebook.

EXERCISES IN SKETCH/NOTEBOOK:

- 9 thumbnail sketches You will be asked to experiment with the presence of negative space. Create these thumbnails with emphasis on negative space and/or make compositions in which you are drawing only the negative space. From these thumbnail sketches you will select the best compositions for your second and third drawings.

COMPOSITION

Positive/Negative space Compositions to Avoid Visual Flow

SKILLS
Drawing of Negative spaces
Drawing pulling negatives from “ground” using eraser
Final Drawing (either technique)