Old Master Drawings

ARTH 552-301 – Pro-Seminar in Renaissance/Baroque Art
Spring 2010
Thursday, 1:30-3:30, room Educ 008

Instructor:
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Course Description
The purpose of the course is to provide students a basic understanding of early drawings; to help them to detect significance and function; and to give them a basic background in the literature and sources, as well as a general view of different research methodologies and critical approaches.

The diffusion of paper in fourteenth-century Europe and its sudden development as an available support for drawings forever changed the artistic procedures, offering a new path for organize the workshop practice, for studying composition and for transmitting patterns, until drawing became an unavoidable stage in the working process and, later, an autonomous work of art.

The course will be run as a seminar with a weekly meeting focused on a single aspect of drawing practice, discussing related bibliography on it. Every class will be devoted to the main aspects of works on paper: written sources, surfaces, techniques, watermarks, codicological remarks, mountings and collectors, functions, injuries and care, criticism and theory. Excursions to the drawings collections in Philadelphia, Prints and Drawings Department in the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Rosenbach Museum and Library, are scheduled for the class, visiting the collections and studying the originals. A one day excursion to New York, Metropolitan Museum visiting the exhibition “The Drawings of Bronzino” is also planed.

Topics and assignments
1) 1/14 DRAWING SURFACES
‘Tavoletta’, parchment, paper

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

2) 1/21 DRAWING TECHNIQUES: WET TECHNIQUES
Pen, Brush, Inks

Required:

Recommended:

3) 1/28 DRAWING TECHNIQUES: DRY TECHNIQUES
Stylus, Metalpoints, Graphite

Required:
Watrous, cit., 1957, pp. 3-16.
Ames Lewis, cit. 1981, pp. 35-44.

4) 2/4 DRAWING TECHNIQUES: DRY TECHNIQUES
Charcoal, Chalks, Pastels

Required:
Watrous, cit., 1957, pp. 130-146.
Watrous, cit., 1957, pp. 91-122.

Recommended:

5) 2/11 PROVENANCE AND COLLECTIONS

Required:
Carlo James, *Collectors and Mountings*, in: James et al., cit., 1997, pp. 2-35.

6) 2/18 DRAWINGS COLLECTIONS IN PHILADELPHIA 1
Excursion to the Prints and Drawings Department/ Philadelphia Museum of Art

Required:

7) 2/25 FUNCTIONS 1
Categories, model-books, sketch-books

Required:

8) 3/ 4 FUNCTIONS 2
Sinopie, cartoons, preparatory drawings

Required:


3/11 SPRING BREAK

9) 3/ 18 PRESERVATION

Required:
Carlo James, *Curatorial Care Today*, in: James et al., cit., 1997, pp. 170-175.

Recommended:

10) 3/25 DRAWINGS COLLECTIONS IN PHILADELPHIA 2
Excursion to the Prints and Drawings Department/ Philadelphia Museum of Art

Required:

11) 4/1 THEORY AND CRITICISM

Required:
Joseph Meder, cit., 1978, pp. 5-29.

Recommended:

12) 4/8 THE DRAWINGS COLLECTIONS IN PHILADELPHIA 3
Excursion to the Prints and Drawings Department/ Philadelphia Museum of Art
Required:

13) 4/15 THE DRAWINGS COLLECTIONS IN PHILADELPHIA 4
Excursion to the Rosenbach Museum & Library, Philadelphia

Recommended:

14) 4/22 STUDENTS PRESENTATIONS