

The Prince's Drawing School

Young Artists Programme

Spring Newsletter / 2009



Second Annual Show-- this year bigger and better!



Drawing by Ryan Conor-Williams, age 13, drawn from objects at the Horniman Museum, the venue for the Lewisham West Club

Wednesday May 6 was the big date for over 300 talented young people-- all had their work on display at the second Annual Young Artists Programme Exhibition. Held at The Prince's Drawing School's Galley, the walls groaned with one drawing by every student on the programme. We had to bring in extra staff to help frame the drawings and hang the show!

The exhibition boasted Quentin Blake, illustrator extraordinaire, as its guest of honour. The Student Advisory Board was tasked with welcoming him and running the evening-- the board was involved in the invitation design and all of the plans for the show.

This year, for the first time, Paintings in Hospitals made two purchase awards. This organisation aims to improve the environment of hospitals and other health care venues by providing original works of art on loan. The work will be added to a new collection for children's wards and venues.

Our newest venue: the Historic Royal Academy Drawing Studio

Our newest Drawing Club venue must be one of the most historic-- the Royal Academy's spacious double height drawing studio in central London. It is, in fact, one of the country's oldest purpose-built life drawing studios and is filled with plaster casts, and bleacher style seating, moved there from another location. Turner and Constable would have sat in these seats-- now filled with our students.

The first class was held on a fresh spring day and featured drawing a clothed model who held several extended poses.

We would like to thank the Royal Academy-- one of many organisations which allow us to use their space at no charge.

What we did last summer

It may have been summer but we were as busy as ever! Three week-long courses were held-- all for the first time. The first course was a *'Drawing Week' for teachers*. The course was designed to allow teachers to re-visit their drawing practice. We also hosted a batch of "Teach First" trainee art teachers.

The second course was an *'Animation Week'* for core-group students, who were taught by professional animators Martin Morris and Jenny Hendra, both alumni of The Drawing School. The third course was the *'Drawing Marathon 2008'*, a collaboration with The Mall Galleries in central London, where students were based for the week.



Students on The Drawing Marathon at The Mall Galleries

Drawing Clubs Update

Southwark North

This term students were split into two groups; of older and newer students. The older students are developing their independence through directing their own projects. They instantly responded with enthusiasm. As a result, the atmosphere at Southwark North gained a sharper focus. A highlight was portrait sessions using bright lights to create strong contrasts, and simplify drawing the head. Some fabulous work was created!

Hackney

Students have been focusing on portraiture this term, using techniques learned in previous terms to describe the face. They have moved from drawing through to painting, using just black and white. The students have come forward tremendously in their understanding of light and tone. Sessions moved from portraiture to storytelling. Scenes were created in the studio - using objects and fabrics - to inspire the students. The Indian Epic The Ramayana has provided inspiration.

Kensington and Chelsea

The highlight this term was a painting project, working from a life-model over a period of 5 weeks. Students enjoyed choosing the shape and size of canvas they wanted to work on; developing their own compositions. (Many thanks to the Natural History Museum!)

Newham

Newham students worked from exclusively red, blue or green still-lives to explore primary colours, using pencils, soft pastels and oil pastels to explore colour mixing. After this, working from one big, multi-coloured still-life, students were given only primary colours and had to mix them to create a full palette of colours. This was a fantastic learning experience and allowed for much experimentation with colour and different mediums. Next term will see more painting sessions since everyone is keen to learn more about mixing and painting.

Westminster

Students worked from a purely orange still-life, made of pumpkins, oranges, autumn leaves, orange flowers and fabric. They had to mix different orange hues and tones from the 3 primary colours. Working with large brushes and no white paint until half way through the session; students learned to embrace the uncontrollable quality of paint. These sessions encouraged some students who usually work very small to create large A2 images.

Glasgow

This term pupils experimented with ink, using different types of brushes, creating their own drawing tools from sponges, cotton buds and corrugated card. They explored the use of mark-making to suggest the various physical properties of the subject-matter. The subject ranged: ortraits to still-life- including a stuffed pole-cat!



Drawing Clubs Update

Saturday School: 10-14

The Saturday 10-14 Drawing Club is based in the gallery space at the Drawing school; which with its changing exhibitions, is a very inspiring environment. Many students have been on a steep learning curve, driven by their own efforts. A highlight was a workshop tutored by a student from The School of Traditional Arts (another Prince's Charity). Students drew some beautiful Islamic patterns, and transcribed them onto tiles. In a future class, these will be glazed and fired in the basement workshop.



Saturday School: 15+

Students have drawn from various life-models (clothed, unclothed and sometimes asleep), sometimes using specific poses inspired by other artists' drawings such as Degas and Bonnard. Drypoint etchings, monoprints and philosophical discussions on how we learn and develop have all been thrown in to the mix, along with the occasional bit of classical music playing in the background.



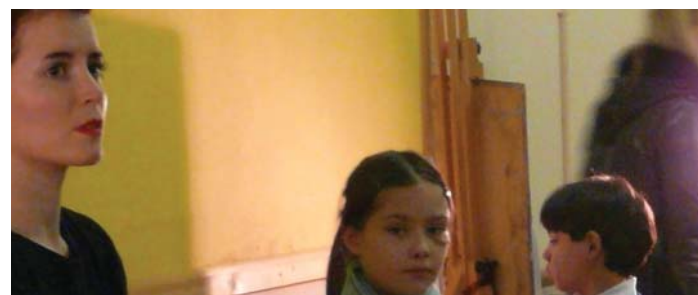
Southwark Central

Southwark Central launched in October, this Drawing Club is based at The South London Gallery in Camberwell, where we have kindly been given free run of the gallery and education spaces. This term, artist Rivane Neuenschwander turned the whole gallery space into an artwork; building a second floor, drilling holes in the walls, as well as projecting films on to them and using dust to create miniature landscapes. So, Drawing Club sessions have been taking place inside a work of art!



Haringey

In November we opened our new Haringey Drawing Club, based at Bruce Castle, a 16th century manor house which is now a museum housing Haringey Borough's local history collection. We have 25 talented students enrolled from local primary, secondary and special schools. The museum has a fabulous 'handling' collection, which is providing great material.



Lewisham North

Based at The Stephen Lawrence centre – a fantastic contemporary building, designed by architect David Adjaye. Students have been getting to know each other while getting to grips with an introduction to drawing the figure. One week the model took the poses of figures from the painting "Oath of the Horatii" by Jacques-Louis David. We asked them to think about compositional placement, framework and the role of line as a way to communicate density and weight.

Lewisham West

Based at the Horniman Museum. So far, it has been a whirlwind of activity and energy. The students have thrown themselves into their drawings and are producing strong and unique interpretations of the subjects looked at. We have done a lot of quick pencil drawings and sketch book work to help students feel comfortable and free with drawing.



Profiles

Tutor Profile

Grant Foster has been a tutor at three of our Drawing Clubs; Barnet, Kensington and Chelsea North and now Lewisham North – where he's also mentoring trainee tutor Eleanor Bedlow.

Grant studied painting at the University of Brighton 2001-2004, winning the Burt, Brill & Cardens Award for Outstanding Artistic Excellence 2004. He attended The Prince's Drawing School London 2004-06. He was awarded the Winsor and Newton Art Prize 2006.

Grant says, "I suppose I didn't really choose to be an artist it chose me. It became clear that it was the only thing I really wanted to study, and of course it is one of those things that you must be really into, as it's so competitive.

I would certainly recommend art school; the good schools facilitate independent learning which is an invaluable skill and which can be applied to all kinds of areas after graduating."

Young Artists Profile

Yesmin Ahmed, age 15, is a member of the Southwark North Drawing Club and a member of the Student Advisory Board.

She says: "I like the fact that everyone who goes there wants to do art, so not like at school. It also gives us a chance to socialize as well as draw." Yesmin says she has attended regularly and is well aware of how much she's developed. She also says the programme has made her more aware of and open to different art techniques.

"I'm working on tonal paintings at the moment," she says.

"I've been able to work on my GCSE art course work at the Drawing Club, which has meant I've been able to get great feedback from Rowan and Leanne (tutors) as well as new ideas which have been very helpful."

Announcements

Acting Programme Manager

Melanie Watkins will fill in for Rosie Thwaites from mid-June when Rosie goes on maternity leave. Her phone numbers are: 0207 613 8559 or 0203 326 2090.

New Club at Kensington Palace

Starting in September, a new Drawing Club will be started at Kensington Palace thanks to Historic Royal Palaces.



Yesmin plans to study either architecture or medical illustration.