

**Assignment: Negative Space Portraits**

**Challenge:** Create a negative space portrait from observation using watercolor paint and some selective drawing materials layered on top for emphasis.

**Objectives:**

1. Practice seeing and translating negative space from observation
2. Explore making design decisions based on negative space within a composition
3. Practice selecting materials carefully (that will be layered) to achieve emphasis within the composition
4. Continue to strengthen your watercolor painting skills

**Considerations:**

- This work is meant for you to explore how positive and negative space can be freeing, rather than restrictive
- See it as a means of trying out various layering techniques

**Limitations:**

Use the set up of two figures, lights, and drawing boards, and sheets to complete the negative space studies.

**Steps:**

1. Complete a negative space drawing (in 25--30 minutes) in PENCIL, utilizing the set up in the room. Make decisions on WHAT constitutes negative and positive space, based on the overall composition and design, creating 2 (two) layers.
2. Add watercolor or thinned acrylic LIGHTLY in the FIRST layer of negative space, allowing for wet on wet effects, drips, and other spontaneous action to occur (think "happy accidents"). Allow this layer to dry thoroughly.
3. Add watercolor or thinned acrylic in the SECOND layer of negative space, pay close attention to what happens during "collisions" or areas of overlap. Allow this layer to dry thoroughly.
4. Using two different drawing media, go back into the piece, drawing in some details that will bring emphasis areas into the composition. These can be very select (less is more), but thoughtful and considered.