

**Experimental Drawing:  
Diagrams, debris, maps and marks**  
Instructor: Jaime Snyder  
Course Proposal  
February 2003

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## **Experimental Drawing: Diagrams, debris, maps and marks**

This is a workshop designed to introduce students to a process-based experimental drawing practice. Drawing assignments will be combined with studio work, short slide presentations and research of both art and non-art subjects related to mark-making, problem solving, invention and visual representation.

The workshop will cover historical, experimental, traditional and unconventional methods for creating drawings while encouraging students to explore their own preconceptions about what forms a drawing can take in the world. Moving well beyond the idea of a drawing as nothing more than a sketch, students will leave the session with a broader understanding of what makes a drawing work and a deeper understanding of the visual and intellectual process of image making. Creative problem solving will be a strong thread that runs through classroom discussions and studio assignments.

Both art and non-art based references including drawings, actions, activities and concepts will be used to present the practice of drawing as a process to be explored and challenged. In addition to introducing students to art practices and artists that might be new to them, students will acquire new skills for analyzing and interpreting all sorts of creative concepts, not just visual art.

Specific assignments will be developed based on the skills of the students, the facilities available and the direction of the course as it progresses. However, each assignment will involve some sort of research or conceptual investigation, the creation of a finished piece of work, and participation in a classroom discussion or critique.

WORKSHOP:

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The following topics will provide the basis for the workshop:

**Action and residue**

Joseph Beuys, Cy Twombly, Bruce Nauman, Victor Hugo, John Cage, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Antonio Tapies, Willem de Kooning, Jackson Pollock, Hanne Darboven, Eva Hesse, Alberto Burri, Lucio Fontana

**Ephemeral marks**

Particle physics, footprints, ripples, happenings, chalk boards, whiteboards, melting, burning, splashing, cutting, freezing, Andy Goldsworthy, Agnes Martin, James Turrell,

**Visualizing complex systems**

Leonardo da Vinci, Invention of perspective, Shaker gift drawings, , Sol LeWitt, Agnes Dennes, Alfred Jensen, information design, Mbuti drawings, Edward Tufte

**Maps, diagrams and other utilitarian drawings**

Alphabets and glyphs, flowcharts, topographical maps, road maps, visual data, napkin drawings (notes, reminders, explanations, directions),

**Three dimensional drawings**

Gordon Matta-Clark, Barry Le Va, Richard Tuttle, Richard Serra, Alexander Calder, Fischli + Weiss, Olafur Eliason, Guillermo Kuitca, Jessica Stockholder, body tattoos, scarification, skin branding,

**Drawing the invisible**

Space, deep sea, sub-microscopic structures, night vision, sounds, cosmic diagrams, psychological drawings, Louise Bourgeois, Ilya Kabokav, Vija Celmins, Henry Darger, Photo realism

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**Selected reading list**

*Mud, Mirror and Thread: Folk Traditions of Rural India*  
Nora Fisher

*The Art of the Maya Scribe*  
Michael D. Coe and Justin Kerr

*Isles of Gold: Antique Maps of Japan*  
Hugh Cortazzi

*Mapping Web Sites*  
Paul Kahn and Krzysztof Lenk

*Envisioning Information*  
*The Visual Display of Quantitative Information*  
*Visual Explanations*  
Edward Tufte

*Mathematics form the Birth of Numbers*  
Jan Gullberg

*The Universal History of Numbers*  
Georges Infrac

*Mappings*  
Denis Cosgrove

*The Story of Maps*  
Lloyd A. Brown

*Images of the Universe- Leonardo daVinci: The Artist as Scientist*  
Richard McLanathan

*The Early Mapping of Hawaii*  
Gary Fitzpatrick

*Education of Vision*  
Gyorgy Kepes

*Drawn from the Artists' Collections*  
The Drawing Center

*Heavenly Visions: Shaker Gift Drawings and Gift Songs*  
France Morin

*Afterimage: Drawing through Process*  
Cornelia H. Butler