

Twilight Course (Online): Exploring Textures and Surfaces in Urban Landscapes for Educators

Course Title: Exploring Textures and Surfaces in Urban Landscapes

Course Duration: One Evening (3 hours)



Course Overview

Join us for an inspiring evening that explores the unique textures and surfaces of urban landscapes through the medium charcoal drawing. This twilight course is designed to equip educators with practical techniques for teaching their students about perspective, texture, and realism in their artworks. Participants will learn from the artist Stuart Jarvis, who will share his expertise and creative insights from his experience on Sky Arts.

Schedule

4:30 PM - 5:00 PM:

Registration

- Participants log in and greet fellow educators.

5:00 PM - 5:20 PM:

Introduction to Urban Landscapes in Art Education

- Overview of the significance of urban landscapes in art.
- Discussion on the techniques of texture and perspective that will be covered and a demonstration of artist's work.

5:20 PM - 5:30 PM:

Setting Up the Materials

- Review the materials needed and ensure all participants are prepared. (See list attached below)

5:30 PM - 5:50 PM:

Applying Charcoal Mid-Tone Ground

- Instruction on how to apply a charcoal mid-tone ground to paper.
- Begin 'ghosting' the image by lightly plotting key points from the prepared photograph.

5:50 PM - 6:10 PM:

Establishing Lights and Darks

- Use rubber to establish a relationship between all the light areas making broad unrefined marks.
- Introduce dark tones using charcoal, focusing on broad and approximate applications.

6:10 PM - 6:30 PM:

Surface Textures Exploration

- Discuss and exhibit various techniques for working charcoal into the paper's surface.
- Discuss and exhibit various techniques for working eraser, putty rubber and pen eraser into the paper's surface.

- Allow for the fixing of the charcoal with spray, if necessary.

6:30 PM - 6:45 PM:

Break

- Encourage informal discussions among participants regarding their progress.

6:45 PM - 7:20 PM:

Refining techniques explored

- Introduce additional techniques for creating textures using the tools at participants' disposal.
- Allow attendees time to practice these techniques on their drawings.

7:20 PM - 7:45 PM:

Sharing and Discussion Using Padlet

- Participants will upload their drawings to Padlet to create an online gallery.
- All candidates can share their work, give and receive feedback, and engage in discussions about their experiences and techniques used during the session.

Materials List (to be prepared beforehand):

- Primary image of an urban landscape with depth, contrasting lights and darks, good detail, and perspective.
- Drawing board.
- At least A2 sheet of good quality cartridge paper.
- Various pieces of willow charcoal.
- Classroom rubber.
- Putty rubber.
- Eraser pen.
- Masking tape.
- Sheets of A4 paper.
- Ruler.
- Art cutting blade.

Key Outcomes

- Acquire foundational skills for rendering urban landscapes using charcoal, focusing on broad but accurate tonal values.
- Learn to apply effective techniques for drawing from a photograph, emphasising the application of mid-tones and surface texture.
- Develop actionable strategies for incorporating charcoal drawing techniques into art education curricula, fostering creativity and engagement.

Follow-Up Accountability Check-Ins (Extra Fee)

Each participant in the drawing course will have the option to engage in follow-up sessions with the course leader at mutually agreed intervals (monthly or every half term). During these sessions, participants will present updates on their action plans, share successes and challenges, and receive valuable feedback and guidance. By establishing these outcomes, participants will be empowered to take meaningful actions in their art departments, ensuring the continued development and success of their drawing instruction while fostering a supportive network with the course provider.

Course Leader



Stuart Jarvis is a distinguished art educator and a former Director of Faculty with experience across both maintained and independent sectors. Stuart firmly believes that great results are an inevitable consequence of establishing fundamental structures of best practice, both within the curriculum and beyond.

He holds an MA in Contemporary Art and Professional Practice from the University of Essex and has served as a former Edexcel A Level Moderator, bringing valuable insights to curriculum standards. With 20 years of teaching experience, Stuart has also led numerous overseas art and design trips.

As a practising and commissioned artist, he has gained recognition through numerous exhibitions across the UK, including the New English Art Club (NEAC) in 2023, the Pastel Society in 2022, 2023, and 2024, and the Royal Institute of Oil Painters (ROI) in 2023 and 2024. Notably, he appeared on Sky Arts' Landscape Artist of the Year in 2021 and has been invited back to teach Masterclasses in charcoal urban landscape, set to air in 2025.

Stuart's consultancy work and leadership in various educational settings reflect his dedication to improving curriculum strategy and development while providing support for practical studio and workshop elements.

