



NATIONAL ART SCHOOL

Project Outline	Adaptation: Drawing from Dioramas / Independent Study Component Project #2
Subject Code	DRA100 Drawing 1

Award/Level	BFA / 1 st Year	
Duration	10 weeks (3 Hrs p/week online) 30 Hours total	
Delivery mode	Online / Independent Study	
Subject Coordinator	Chelsea Lehmann	
Lecturer/s	Chelsea Lehmann	Orange
	Deborah Marks	Grey, Sienna
	Rachel Fairfax	Green
	Annelies Jahn	Red
	Charles Cooper	White
	Cameron Ferguson	Yellow
	Anthony Cahill	Pink
	Evan Salmon	Purple
	Noel Thurgate	Blue
Kim Spooner	Black	

Description
<p>This is the second Independent Study Component (ISC) which replaces the <i>Build a Human Skeleton</i> project and <i>Drawing Machines</i> (ordinarily introduced in semester 2). <i>Adaptation: Drawing from Dioramas</i> requires you to identify, map and adapt a place that is familiar and accessible to you using four different modes of representation. These modes are: mapping, building a 3D diorama, drawing the diorama from observation, and developing experimental drawings that respond to the diorama and previous drawings. The project takes place over ten weeks and will be reviewed in week 15.</p>

Delivery
<p>Students are timetabled to do 3 hours a week. There will be a one hour briefing on Zoom at the commencement of each class (9:30 – 10:30 AM)</p>

Students are expected to email their work to their lecturer at the end of those 3 hours and their lecturer will respond in the afternoon.

Please email your lecturer at 12.30pm on the day of your class with the work you have done that day. Include one sentence about what you learnt that day.

You should have received email contact from your lecturers by now. If not, please verify your email address with student services and email Maryanne.coutts@nas.edu.au to make sure we have the correct contact details.

Learning Outcomes

- Engagement with visual perception as it relates to drawing from observation.
- Work co-operatively, undertaking all tasks in accordance with Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) standards relevant to the home studio. See notes in how to set up a home studio

Objectives

This project covers both Observational and General Drawing.

It aims to encourage you to:

- Engage with particular, remembered or imaginary places.
- Build a Diorama as a subject for your drawing
- Use the diorama to continue to do observational drawings

Use the diorama as a basis for experimental drawings.

Project Content

The Project

This project asks you to identify a place, either real or imaginary, that you will explore through 4 different methods of representation. The steps through these modes are designed to lead you from gathering information about that place, (it's layout, it's form, and how it looks) through to making drawings that express your thoughts, feelings and ideas about it.

The four modes:

- Mapping helps us understand the arrangement of the place in space.
- Building a 3D model helps understand the shapes of the forms and their relationships to space.
- Drawing from observation helps us understand what things look like.
- Experimental or expressive drawing is a more open and intuitive way of understanding the place.

This project requires you to identify, map and adapt a place that is familiar and accessible to you. You will then create a 'tabletop' scale diorama that is loosely derived from that specific place. Consider the diorama (model, maquette, tableau, stage, mise en scène) as a unique 'world' unto itself in which you adapt the physical, spatial, and atmospheric elements of your chosen place from human to tabletop scale. This Diorama will be the basis for a series of drawings that respond to the diorama.



Jennifer Owens, Drawing from a Diorama

“Contemporary art works can offer possible models of inhabitation which, importantly, can be carried across from the immediate environment of the artwork and subsequently applied to the real business of being and living in the world.” **

Step 1. Weeks 6 and 7. April 20 – May 1 (6 hours: 3 hours each week)

Week 6 Contact Observational lecturer

Week 7 Contact General lecturer

Draw a map of a place that you know well. This can be a place that you can physically go to now, or somewhere you can draw from memory. It doesn't necessarily have to be in scale. The main thing is that you consider this place carefully and reflect on it in detail.

The process of 'mapping' could include using a viewfinder, drawing, photographing, note-taking, creating a map key/legend, colour-coding etc. as you explore your chosen place; consider scale relationships and juxtaposition of objects within the chosen space and whether you intervene with, or orchestrate the space in any way.

As this represents 6 hours work, the outcome should be at least 3 studies and one well-developed drawing. Part of those 6 hours might include research and study in a visual diary or sketch book (your 20-minute studies can be in sketchbook).

Step 2. Weeks 8 and 9. May 4 to 15 (6 hours: 3 hours each week)

Week 8 Contact Observational lecturer

Week 9 Contact General lecturer

Use information gathered in the mapping process to build a diorama that is loosely based on that place. The minimum scale of the diorama should be approximately the size of a shoe-box, but can be larger. It can be made of whatever materials that you have at hand, eg. from recycled materials including natural or man-made objects that are sourced from a variety of contexts including your chosen 'place'. Recycling junk or household waste is encouraged, however try to maintain the structural integrity of the diorama so it can last long enough for you to draw it. Remember to take photos and document it as you go.

A diorama is a 3D model of a scene. It is often in miniature, conjuring an imaginary world and story. The Diorama can be a hypothetical realm in which a change in scale and materiality creates aesthetic and conceptual possibilities that can be further manipulated by using lighting, or unfamiliar viewpoints (eg. Birds-eye view, peephole, plan view).

Consider the idea of 'habitation' – whether this is implied, non-existent, or represented (eg. A figure made from modelling clay). Your diorama should synthesise perceptual and conceptual space in a way that creates many possibilities for you to draw from.

*"The Many stuffs – matter, energy, waves, phenomena – that worlds are made of are made along with the worlds. But made from what? Not from nothing, after all, but from other worlds. Worldmaking as we know it always starts from worlds already on hand; the making is a remaking." **

Step 3. Week 10. May 18 – 22. (3 hours)

Contact Observational lecturer for this step

Start to draw your Diorama: Make 3-5 x 20-minute drawings of your diorama.

In this step you will be practicing your observation skills as well as thinking about issues like composition and point of view. In your studio-based drawing classes you don't have much choice in where to set up your easel, however you can look at your diorama from any angle you like. So, each of these 5 drawings should be done from a different point of view and try out different compositions. For instance, you might take in the whole set up in one and another might crop in close on a detail. Each of these should explore a different point of view.

Step 4. Weeks 11 and 12. May 25 – June 5. (6 hours: 3 hours each week)

Contact Observational lecturer for this step

Make 3 carefully observed drawings directly from your diorama. These should be direct observational drawings, informed by what you have learnt so far in your Observational drawing classes. You could use different points of view, compositions, lighting or cropping to explore ways of turning your 3D model into 2D imagery.

Step 5. Weeks 13 and 14. June 8 - 19 (6 hours: 3 hours each week)

Contact General lecturer for this step

Make a series of 10 more experimental drawings from your diorama. These can use any materials you like. You can experiment with scale, narrative, symbolism, different types of materials or processes, abstraction, small and large-scale drawings, and even animation. There is no right or wrong to this, let your imagination play.

Step 6. Week 15. June 22 -26 (3 hours)

Contact General lecturer for this step

Present your work for sharing. Share images of your projects with each other on Instagram by using #nasfirstyeardraw, @Drawing at the National Art School, Sydney: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/361964243888789/>, or any other platform that you like to work with. You could make a blog, a google doc, a PowerPoint. etc.

Documentation (Ongoing)

Keep a record of your process and share it on-line.

All mapping, resources and documentation relating to the project should be collected into a folder. You should have documentation of works in progress including mapping, dioramas and completed drawings.

Requirements

- 3–5 mapping studies (20 min drawings)
- 1 detailed map drawing
- 1 diorama
- 8 observational drawings (3–5 small studies plus 3 x A2 developed drawings)
- 10 experimental drawings
- Documentation of the process

Total: A minimum of 20 drawings, the diorama, and documentation.

Assessment

This project is reviewed at the conclusion of the semester and assessed in conjunction with completion of DRA100 at the final assessment for the unit.

Recommended Reading / References

As the library is currently closed, you will need to avail yourself of the internet.

Look up drawings by the following artists; Alberto Giacometti, Antonio Garcia Lopez, Jude Rae, John Bokor, Tom Carment, Rackstraw Downes, Pierre Bonnard, Henri Matisse, Grace Cossington- Smith, Wendy Sharpe.

You could also look up your teachers and see what they do.

An extensive range of study resources for Drawing is available on the NAS Drawing Website: <http://nasdrawing.com.au>