

## Exercise 1

# Drawing Through the Senses



Wasily Kandinsky, "Blue (Blau)", 1927, oil on board, 19 1/2 x 14 1/2 in. © 2021 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris - Fair Use.

We often think of drawing as a purely retinal form of art making. However, some of the greatest art ever created throughout history derives from other mental or physical encounters.

Drawing based on visual observation involves the perception and record of actual objects. This can result in a subject drawn based on a mental picture from the artist's imagination in opposition to the record of their actual perception: the problem of seeing versus naming.

In this project, we will explore the use of our other senses/sensibilities (touch, taste, hearing, scent, and so on) as a catalyst for mark making. Your drawings should record the experience of your senses directly. This excludes the use of symbolism as a form of communication. The resulting drawings are envisioned as being entirely non-objective.

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## Submission Guidelines

Below are guidelines for this project. Submit your finished work to Dropbox 1: Drawing Through the Senses along with a written reflection paper on your process (500 words).

### Process:

1. Obtain four each of the following types of objects: textured, scented, flavored, weighted, and audible. The individual objects should not be larger than what can be held in one hand. The objects should also not be precious, as they are likely to become dirty. The objects should be thoughtfully selected, avoiding obvious choices and redundancy within the project.
2. Place the individual objects inside of an opaque bag and proceed to draw according to the specific sense this object is intended to activate (by touching, smelling, tasting, holding, and listening to). Maintain the sensory experience while drawing. Remember, the point is not to draw what the objects look like; that would be impossible since you can't see it inside the bag (or in your mouth when tasting). Instead, draw a mark or marks that record the experience of touching, tasting, smelling, and so on. In other words, these will be highly abstract works.
3. Use a new full sheet of paper for each new sensory experience (not each new object). Each drawing will be composed of the compilation of marks used to describe the variety of experiences for each separate sense. A great deal of consideration should be given to the weight, density, scale, proportion, value, and color of marks as they relate to the sensory experience as well as to each other.

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## Format:

- Set of five drawings (one for each sensory experience) no smaller than 18 x 24 in. completed in any choice of medium(s) or substrate (e.g., drawing paper, canvas, newsprint, and so on).
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# Checklist

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## Project Goals

- Gather five sets of objects with the following attributes: textured, scented, flavored, weighted, and audible. Place each set in an opaque bag.
- Create a drawing of each set of objects based on your sensory imagination in each case, thinking about: touching, smelling, tasting, holding, and listening.
- Show the ability to explore alternate approaches to art making using senses other than sight to create a set of fully developed non-objective abstract drawings.
- Investigate a variety of mark making techniques using a variety of mediums.

## Posting Directions

- Go to the Dropbox, click Submit Assignment and upload images of your artwork as JPEG files and your reflection paper as a PDF. In the Comments field, include any additional remarks.

If you have a question before sending your completed exercise for grading, send a message through Canvas to contact your instructor.

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*I look forward to seeing your work!*

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