

METAMORPHOSIS

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Drawing: Visual Thinking I

State University of New York at New Paltz



OBJECTIVE

- To inform your skills of observing and depicting three-dimensional, illusionistic space.
- To consider the advantages and challenges of collaborative work.
- To establish research models for conceptual development and its resolution in finished work.

MATERIALS

Stonehenge paper; charcoal; other materials as determined by group (see below)

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

You and a group of your peers will consider a given text by author Franz Kafka. When reviewing the text, consider what the author does with language to establish a mood or setting for the narrative. Your group must work together to find environments on campus or in the surrounding area that relate to the piece of writing based on your group's analysis and subsequent interpretation of the text. The sites may be either interior or exterior. Consider the psychological aspects of Kafka's writing, and review with your group what sites might work to interpret the major themes of the text.

RECONNAISSANCE

You and your group will travel **together** to find sites that might be useful in the development of your project. You should all take notes, using written text, drawings and digital images to document several possible locations. When a final site is selected, your group must stake out an area that you will document – yes, here

you need to “frame” as well! – by making quick drawings as “notes.” Digital images of specific areas of the site must also be taken, as well as a comprehensive image of the location(s) from the north, south, east and west.

All of the research will be assembled in a report submitted to the instructor at the completion of the project, including all notes, measurements, drawings and photographs collected by the group. The documentation will be submitted in chronological order of the project’s development, and the group must provide, at minimum, a two-page, typed analysis of the original text and the subsequent decision-making regarding selection of the final site, creation of the model, and choices made while photographing. All such documentation needs to be submitted in a binder with all group members clearly identified on an interior cover page.

BUILDING

Your group will construct a 3D model utilizing the information gathered from surveying and documenting a specific site. You may use any materials for this. The model may be highly detailed and “realistic”, or your group may decide to abstract elements for particular effect. You must secure your model on a sturdy base, and you must paint any and all surfaces utilizing a grey scale (i.e. white to black). Great care should be given to making the model, as it will be part of your group grade; craft here is important.

RECORDING

When the model is complete, your group must document the model by taking digital images of it; class time will be used to facilitate this. The consideration of lighting is significant; as different lighting situations will establish different readings of the environment your group has created. Multiple images must be taken from varied perspectives, keeping in mind the group’s interpretation of the text. The images will be printed out on good quality paper provided in printers found in the computer lab on the second floor of SAB, and will be organized and presented on museum board when the project is submitted. Individuals from the group will select at least one image each from those produced and use it for visual reference in the construction of a drawing.

RESOLUTION

You will individually make a drawing using as reference at least one of the digital images detailing the model produced by your group. Your drawing should emphasize tonal variation to establish mood and spatial depth. The drawing should also focus on establishing a response to the original narrative you considered within your group. Care should be given to establishing a clear sense of environment, considering the ways in which Kafka constructs an environment via language for you to imagine and enter into as a reader.

GRADING

Group grading will be based on your group’s ability to critically interpret the original text and respond accordingly by initially collecting information, and subsequently building a model and documenting it via digital images. Craft and presentation standards must be adhered to. Documentation of your research at each stage of development is critical.

Individual grading will be based on your ability to create a believable, illusionistic depiction of three-dimensional space, with particular emphasis on the overall structure of the drawing based on tonal relationships. The drawing should also communicate a particular atmosphere relative to the space depicted, and great care should be given to the expressive quality of line, mark and value utilized in the drawing. An engaging composition and vantage point is expected.