Drawing Anatomical Anomalies

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Course Description:
This intermediate drawing course is a unique opportunity to draw from the Mütter Museum’s collection of anatomical specimens and models. Specimens not currently on display will be specially selected from the Mütter storage vaults. This course operates in the tradition of scientific and artistic confluence; its goal is to cultivate artistic and observational skills through intimate interaction with the Museum’s collection in a small class setting. Working from direct observation, course members will develop perceptual skills to understand the form and function of the body’s parts and systems. Due to the fragility of the specimens and space restrictions, this is a sketchbook only course. Each class will begin with a brief lecture that will introduce medical knowledge pertaining to the specimens and end with a group critique.

Please note that the syllabus may be subject to change.

Class 1, 10/5: Course Introduction and Bone Drawing
General overview-syllabus review and course policies. We will begin by looking at deformations in simple bone structures such as the femur, tibia and fibula, humerus, radius and ulna, and pelvis. These are bones that have been effected by breaks, infections, syphilis, uncontrolled growth and other trauma.

Class 2, 10/12: Dried Specimens
We will build on our knowledge of bone to draw from dried specimens - A dried specimen contains soft tissue that is usually preserved with a desiccating (drying) agent as well as chemicals and sometimes dyes. These often display bone and musculature, as well as veins, nails, and lacquered skin.

Class 3, 10/19: Open drawing in the museum

Class 4, 10/26: Comparative Skull Drawing
This class is about observing the vast array of differences in skull shapes. We will have a discussion of the Hyrtl skull collection, which was used to disprove the racist theories behind phrenology. We will also discuss forensic facial rebuilding based on these small differences in skeletal facial structure before discovering differences between several skulls in our own drawings.

Class 5, 11/2: Wet Specimens
Wet specimens are especially interesting to draw because of the way the liquid solution they are suspended in warps perspective inside their jars and containers. Some, such as dissected hearts and brains, become abstract in their intricacies. We will also have some of the museum’s large collection of fetal specimens.
Class 6, 11/9: **Color: Moulage Drawings**
Exploring the colorful wax models of medical injuries known as “moulage”, we will embark on our first experiments in color. Several moulage models will be pulled from the collection, and placed for your drawn observations. Make sure to bring your oil or chalk pastels or colored pencils!

Class 7, 11/16: **Open drawing in the museum**

Class 8, 11/23: **Open drawing in the museum/ Individual portfolio reviews**

**Materials:**
- Sketchbook (no smaller than 10x7, no larger than 11x14”)
- Graphite sticks 4b, 6b, 8 or 9b
- Graphite Pencils 2b, 4b, 6b, 8b, and ebony
- Pencil Sharpener – **Must come with enclosed container for shavings!**
- Compressed “Char-Kole” sticks
- Oil or chalk pastel set/ Colored pencils
- Optional - folding stool for museum drawing sessions