



Visual Communications

:: project

Illustration Lab

**How many different ways can you illustrate a subject in a piece of art?
And what does that do to the way we see or 'read' that subject?**

:: project overview

You will create an illustration of a subject. You will use new materials and approaches. You will work 'by hand' with some more traditional art materials as well as with some newer materials (scanner, Photoshop, Wacom tablet).

:: parameters

1. The final Photoshop artwork/design work must fit on a **8 1/2" x 11"** area.
2. You must make 3 experimental 'drawings' from prompts *on 3 different kinds of papers*. You may use whatever materials you wish!!
4. You will hand in: **1.** your three different drawings, **2.** your finished Photoshop artwork (submit to Lisa's virtual Drop Box).
5. **ALL FINAL ARTWORK MUST BE COMPLETELY ORIGINAL.**

:: process

Log on to the WIKI site: www.viscomclass.wikidot.com

Go to: FALL – Fall Assignments – Illustration Lab

1. We will look at some examples of different approaches to illustration and define what illustration *is*. We will also have a brief introduction into copyright law.
2. Find an image or subject that inspires you and you would like to make into an illustration.

3. Create a minimum of 3 drawings* on 3 different kinds of paper by working from the drawing prompts (teacher will provide these). *Be EXPERIMENTAL* and open-minded; channel your inner 5 year old. Use one material that is black or white (no color right now) so that you are focusing on the marks and shapes *only*. [* you may use *black or white* paint media – ink, acrylic or watercolor]
4. Once you have completed your “drawings”, scan one into the computer (if you were working on the computer, skip this step).
5. Open your image up in Photoshop.
6. Start to *play*; creating different ‘wash’ layers, trying new effects, adding textures, etc. (Lisa will show you some of the possibilities).
7. ‘Save As’ your image and format it as a jpeg (approx. 640 x 480 pixels).
8. Post your work to the wiki site.
9. Create a new document that has your altered image on it along with the *original image*. Save this document as a .tiff file.
10. ‘Hand’ your .tiff file in to Lisa’s virtual Drop Box.
11. We will have an informal critique/share time to see and talk about your final product and the processes and materials you used.

:: beyond the classroom

- Create a LOT of drawings; schools love to see students’ experimental drawing efforts – it shows that you have an open mind and willingness to try new things.
- Create a portfolio page for your illustration
- Create a Deviant Art account to show your work

:: design considerations & tips

- ✓ Always ‘mix’ your own colors; it *always* looks more thoughtful
- ✓ Crop the image in a new way
- ✓ Make the image go off the page in one or more than one place
- ✓ Think about line weight (‘whisper’ lines and pronounced lines) and line variety
- ✓ Use your new-found color knowledge when applying color in Photoshop

- ✓ What will the ground (or background) be?
- ✓ Remember to connect the marks from the subject to the marks in the ground