

CHARCOAL PROJECT: MASTER COPY

Due: Wed., Dec. 2nd

The assignment is to do a charcoal drawing of the painting “Girl with a Pearl Earring” by Vermeer on 18” x 24” paper. The final product should only show charcoal and NO WHITE CHALK. Your drawing style should simulate as closely as possible the textures and values found in the original. Yours is an interpretation of color into a black and white medium. Look up this painting on the Internet and print a color copy of the largest version possible (wikipedia.org has a good version). Mount your printout to a scrap of cardboard.

This counts as the last of your project grades. Plan to spend a minimum of 8 hours on it. We will have some drawing time during class on this project. Always bring your color printout and charcoal work-in-progress to class. Once the drawing is complete, write your name on the back, the # of hours spent, and attach this sheet.

Strategies:

- * To get proper proportions on your paper, hold the page in portrait view and allow 1” margins on the sides and 2” margins on the top and bottom.
- * Make a light pencil sketch of the basic contours before laying down charcoal. Mentally divide the painting into thirds, as if drawing a grid, and roughly sketch in the corresponding details using vine charcoal.
- * Every part of the figure should be worked in lightly with vine charcoal. Then start finalizing it with dark values worked in compressed charcoal. Before the darker shades are added, try standing back about 4 feet from the work and evaluate it for proper proportions. Also try holding the drawing in a mirror and make an evaluation.
- * Since the project is long and complex, I recommend that you do the project during more than one sitting. This will help you get a fresh perspective as you approach it after a rest.



“Girl with a Pearl Earring” (circa 1665) by Johannes Vermeer

Grading is based on:

EFFORT: Does the work look like it took at least 8 hours to create? Do the textures, values, and proportions in the painting successfully correspond to the drawing? Are the details explored with depth?

CRAFTSMANSHIP: Do any distracting stray smudges or marks appear? Is the paper bent or ripped? Is the charcoal fixed to the paper and free of its toxic odor?

IMPROVEMENT: Does the work show any development as compared to previous work?