

Suggestions by Professor Sewell Sillman for the New Art School in the Universidad Católica, Santiago, Chile.

First year

Courses offered

art history
psychology of art
color
basic drawing
basic design
painting

Suggestions

1. The students should be involved as soon as possible in the problems of making painting. The basic design and basic drawing direct the students toward a specific type of observation and discipline. At the same time, the student must have the chance to experience what it is to, literally, put paint on a surface. The quality of performance is not as important as the actual experience. The students need the experience of working with paint if they are to paint.
2. The student, whether in painting or drawing, etc., should not be encouraged to work in the style of the teacher but should be encouraged to make his own problems. This puts the responsibility on the teacher but leads to first rate student work instead of third rate art.
3. The student should not be required to present a specific number of problems for any one assignment. The student should be encouraged to search into the problem in order to find many possible answers which can become many possible new directions - and in turn, these may lead to new problems. If the student knows that he need only submit one solution for a grade, he becomes more conscious of the grade and less conscious of seeing what he can find in a given situation.
4. The student should be responsible for a portfolio in the laboratory classes. This can be graded every few months. This makes it easier for the teacher and makes the student more responsible for his own work. Finally, it makes any specific problem less limited and gives the student a wider range of time in which to work on his problems.

Second year

Suggested courses

art history

drawing

The student should draw many different things in many different media. This means that the student must begin to see and to understand the forms he articulates with line. He should draw objects such as shoes, paper bags, trees, mountains, rocks, each other - but he should NEVER be exposed to copying plaster casts. Let him look at the drawing of the masters, not to learn style or to copy, but to see more than just a story in drawing.