

# Drawing: Intermediate Techniques

Ruby Red Workshop  
April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025  
Wednesdays, 10:00 – 12:00 pm  
Educator: Michael Dowling, [mijodowling@yahoo.com](mailto:mijodowling@yahoo.com)

## **Pricing:**

Museum Friend: \$130/ Member: \$135 / Student: \$135 / Non-Member: \$160

*\*Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$30-60.*

## **Class Description:**

In *Drawing: Intermediate Techniques*, students will explore intermediate drawing techniques in an accelerated format. They will survey the DAM's collection and use drawing fundamentals to sketch from art within the galleries. Students will create individual pieces inspired by their research sketches, utilizing their expanded skills. The intent of this class is to build competence and guide each artist through the entire process of researching and creating a completed piece of work.

## **What to Expect:**

Artists will build upon their fundamental skills to learn and develop intermediate techniques, mixed with some tricks of the trade to help them work within the museum to sketch and generate ideas as well as take those ideas into the studio to complete a finished project.

## **Timeline:**

### **Week 1**

- Basics overview and new skills

### **Week 2**

- Learning new techniques and building knowledge

### **Week 3**

- Gathering sketches and ideas in the museum's galleries

### **Week 4**

- Gathering sketches and ideas in the museum's galleries

### **Week 5**

- Drawing in the classroom

### **Week 6**

- Drawing in the classroom

**Class Cancellation Policy:**

If a class or workshop needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather or teacher illness, a “make-up” day will be scheduled on a FRIDAY or SATURDAY as the educator’s schedule allows.

**Materials:**

*Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$30-70.*

**GET THE MATERIALS KIT AT [MEININGER’S ART SUPPLY](#) or purchase the below items individually.**

Compressed charcoal	<a href="https://www.dickblick.com/products/generals-compressed-charcoal/">https://www.dickblick.com/products/generals-compressed-charcoal/</a>
Vine charcoal	<a href="https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-studio-charcoal/">https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-studio-charcoal/</a>
Drawing pad – 18” x 24”	<a href="https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-studio-drawing-pad-18-x-24-70-sheets/">https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-studio-drawing-pad-18-x-24-70-sheets/</a>
Sketchbook	<a href="https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-hardbound-sketchbook-11-x-8-12/">https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-hardbound-sketchbook-11-x-8-12/</a>
Erasers	<a href="https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-kneaded-erasers/">https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-kneaded-erasers/</a>
Pencils (if preferred)	Up to you!

**Educator:**

Born in Denver in 1972, Michael Dowling spent much of his early life as a typical kid apart from being an obsessive drawer. It wasn’t until the age of 25, and after several years studying various subjects as well as working in many fields, that Michael started painting. With that late beginning, Dowling dove full in and began studying extensively. At 28, he decided to sell a burgeoning art sales company and moved to Florence, Italy to focus on painting. He has since returned to his native Denver where he lives and works.

Michael Dowling's work has been characterized as a combination of traditional practices in realism and his explorations of mark, pattern, and color to disrupt that reality. In many compositions, figures presented as portrait, morph into their surreal self, and lone objects tell stories through their subtle positioning. These objects and characters sit in bizarre spaces with intentionally disrupted atmospheres in order to find further meaning within the imagery.

<https://m2lr.com/artists/72-michael-dowling/>

**Local Denver Area Materials Resources**

**Fine Art materials**

Meininger Art Material\*  
Guiry’s

Walmart  
ReCreative

**General Art & Craft materials**

Michaels

**Fibers**

Fancy Tiger  
Jo-Ann Fabrics

Blazing Star Ranch

### **Reuse/Second-hand materials**

ARC

Goodwill

Habitat for Humanity Restore

Gone for Good

ReCreative

K&K Surplus

Queen City Salvage

### **Tools & Hardware**

Home Depot

Lowe's

Habitat for Humanity Restore

K&K Surplus

### **Sculpting materials**

Reynolds Advanced Materials

Western Sculpting Supply

### **Online Resources**

DickBlick

Paradise Fibers

Revolution Fibers

\* The DAM partners with Meininger's for local shopping. A kit of your required materials can be purchased online for pick-up in store.

## **Ruby Room Policies**

### **Cleanup:**

Please remove all artworks from the classroom at the end of each class. If wet paintings or in-progress artworks need to be stored in the classroom, there is limited storage in the equipment closet. Students will also need to take home all their own materials after each class. Make sure that art supplies and equipment belonging to the DAM are put back in the appropriate locations. Sponges and cleaning solution are provided in the classroom for cleanup.

### **Classroom Access:**

Students will have access to the classroom only during scheduled class hours and open studio hours. Please contact the Manager of Creative and Public Engagement, Sarah Rockett, if you need to arrange entrance to the Ruby Room outside of those hours – [srockett@denverartmuseum.org](mailto:srockett@denverartmuseum.org).

### **Material Usage:**

#### **Approved Processes & Materials**

- All materials that are non-toxic and non-flammable
- Chalk/charcoal/compressed powder-based drawing materials
- Loose powder-based drawing/painting materials – i.e. powdered graphite, powdered pigment
- Loose powder-based 3D materials – i.e. plaster, alginate
- Clay – air drying only
- Oil paints & oil medium
- Adhesives
- Odorless mineral spirits – in small amounts
- Acetone – in small amounts
- Hot plates – for encaustic or use w/ wax-based process
- Hot glue & hot glue guns

**Please ask if you are unsure about using certain materials in the workshop.**

### **Restricted Processes & Materials:**

- Aerosols
  - No spray paint onsite
  - Fixatives and finishing sprays can be used outside with the use of a drop cloth.
- Saws/Wood cutting
- Organic materials
- Any materials that off-gas or produce a pungent smell will require prior approval.

### **Flammable Materials:**

STORAGE: Any flammable materials left in the classroom must be stored in the flammable materials cabinet when not in use. This includes all aerosol products, mineral spirits, acetone, etc.

DISPOSAL: Please use the flammables disposal container to dispose of all flammable materials or rags, paper towels, etc. that have been saturated with flammable materials. Do not put these items in the regular trash can or down the sink. This includes materials such as mineral spirits, acetone, paint thinner, oil paint, etc.

### **Disposal of Viscous Materials:**

- **Paint:** Scrape or wipe large amounts of paint into the trash can. Remaining paint may be washed down the sink. Make sure that paint does not sit and dry on the bottom of the sink. Use sponges to wash out the sink, and run water for 1-2 minutes after paint disposal.
- **Plaster:** Dispose of wet plaster into the trash can. Leave container to dry, and crack remaining plaster into the trash once it is dry. Hands and tools used for plaster may be washed in the sink with water running 1-2 minutes after washing.
- **Clay:** Remove wet/dry clay from hands and tools as much as possible before washing in sink. Run water in sink for 1-2 minutes following washing.

### **Safety:**

Teachers and students are responsible for practicing safe work habits at all times, as improper use of tools could cause injury. Please work intelligently, safely, and follow all safety guidelines.

- Teachers and students are only to use equipment and tools that they either already know how to use or have been instructed how to use. If you have a question about how to operate any equipment, please ask!
- Work smart, pace yourself, and be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Safety glasses, safety goggles, nitrile gloves, and dust masks are available upon request.