

Raphael Sassi shared the fascinating process he uses to create his amazing portraits.

<http://perfectdrawing.tumblr.com/post/144820963273/the-softly-rendered-mixed-media-and-ballpoint...>

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The softly rendered, mixed media and ballpoint portraits of Raphael Sassi.
perfectdrawing.tumblr.com

Matt Rota's interview with Raphael Sassi from 2016

Raphael on his drawing process: “Concerning the process, I’ve arrived over time at my own approach and application of materials that I like. Twenty years ago (at MICA) when I first started playing around with the ballpoint pen I would just go straight at it with only the pen. At that point I was really just a kid who was stricken with the bravado and novelty of the thing, but also truly enjoying the ink and figuring out how to apply or manipulate the ink. Over time I have gone in the direction of taking methods most appropriate for traditional drawing tools, or even oil painting, and brought them over into the pen drawing. I use solvents to dissolve the ink while I’m building the drawing, I begin with a monotone or limited range of color, I apply watercolor washes which interact with the pen layering during the process, and I build the drawing in a way so that the most superficial layers of work are interacting with the earliest and deepest passes of the pen. I employ the ways the earliest application of the pen interact with the latest and last passes in localized areas in order to model form and exaggerate temperature differences/juxtapositions, convincing form rendering and observations of temperature shifts across the body and flesh being primary concerns for me, or primary challenges I enjoy taking on when I’m using the pens and pushing to see how far I can get them to perform and perform with other materials. I don’t always want to only utilize the qualities of the surface I’m working on whether its paper, plastic, or wood so I employ washes and paper toning to set myself up to work in both directions, building the darks and applying gouache to work toward the lights, scraping away in order to work subtractively and additively in the same image. I enjoy both, coaxing the image out of the field of the local characteristics of a sheet of paper, and building the image out of a mixed medium approach, really pushing sanding, scraping, adding and removing.”

Get inspired by Matt Rota's blog, featuring interviews with artists focused on #ballpoint #drawing, like #RaphaelSassi: perfectdrawing.tumblr.com. #SVACEfaculty #MattRota #illustration #ballpointdrawing #raphsassi #sassidrawing @raphsassi #ballpointpen #draw #drawing #portrait #drawingfromlife #artonpaper #bicpens #mujipens