Organic Structures- Spatial Experiments in Collage

September 15th - 17th 2027 (Wednesday - Friday)
Tutor – Joe Packer
Cost - £350 (includes the cost of paper)

Experiments with close up observation, collage, spatial arrangement of forms, and layering and glazing methods.

A three-day course in which you will make a minimum of 2 large scale collages informed by research and resource drawings and paintings, made prior to commencement of the large scale works. The course will start with making a succession of drawings from close up observation of either house plants or some gathered flora and fauna or foliage in the garden. The drawings are done in order to establish shapes and forms which will then form part of a process which scales up these intimate details, shapes, forms, and spaces. They will then be used in different stages as ingrediants for making components for larger works, constructed through collage making processes and incorporating painting and glazing techniques. The goal will not be to produce 'finished works' but rather to think about new approaches to making images that artists can then take back into their own practice.

Day 1

We will assemble an assortment of plants or flowers in to interesting arrangements, and experiment with lighting in order to provide good visual stimuli for making our preliminary drawings and paintings from. We will make quite a large number of quick black and white drawings and paintings employing a variety of media, (including pencil, charcoal, black ink, gouache, and acrylic), looking close up at the shapes and forms to be found in our set up from observational looking. Then we explore different ways of working with these media in order to create interesting resource materials for day 2.

Day 2

We will commence working on the first of our large pieces of paper. Using the drawings and paintings from day one as a resource, we will select interesting shapes and forms from which to paint black silhouetted forms using acrylic paint on our range of assorted paper sheets. Building up a 'library' of interesting forms with which to commence making our large collage on our big paper sheet, (Fabriano or several A1 sheets joined). We will play around and experiment with different spatial arrangements of our painted shapes, trying to create visually exciting tensions between the interplay of the forms, as the layers are built up, we will be utilizing the white 'offcuts' as much as the black forms to produce un-predetermined results.

Day 3

We will paint a good number of our assorted paper sheets a range of colours, in a range of tones, choosing one colour to be the dominant colour for the large collage/painting. We will also be

repainting a range of the forms from day 2 in colour. We will then commence making a new collage on our second large sheet of paper using the processes developed and our visual knowledge gained from our previous black and white one. This time we'll be combining the collage layering with glazing paint layers to build up forms and colour in order to experiment with spatial relationships, ways of creating space through glazing and layering. Reworking and adjusting our compositions in order to push our collage to a visually satisfying conclusion.

By the end of the course you will have-

- Explored ways of using drawing as a resource to provide visual information for collage 'components'.
- Looked at ways that a sense of play with shapes and forms, even with the limitations of working only in black and white, and experimenting with their spatial arrangements can create visual 'sensations' ,dynamism and space.
- Developed ways of using paint glazing methods to experiment with ways of creating space when used in conjunction with the collage layering methods.
- Gained an understanding of how a piece of work can obtain its own autonomy or internal reasons for its existence, by building up a 'history' through intuitive making processes. Becoming a self- contained thing that is not reliant on being a naturalistic representation or 'depiction' in a literal sense.

You will need

Afew pots of house plants and/or cut flowers and foliage (the studio can provide these if you are unable to bring your own because of travel arrangements). ***Please give us 3 weeks notice if you need us to supply this for you.***
Anglepoise table lamp(s) ***Please give us 3 weeks notice if you need us to supply this for you.***

Charcoal sticks, graphite sticks, soft pencils, black crayons etc
A range of acrylic paint, including a large pot of black.
PVA glue, at least a litre.
A range of different types of brushes from 10mm to 100mm
Rags and paper towels
A good pair of scissors
A hair Dryer

The studio will provide the extra large sheets of 300gm Snowdon Cartridge paper and also the newsprint for drawings for collage.