

# The Secret Life of Objects

Illustration Assignment

*“The drama of your toaster and coffee cup.”*

**Objective:** The objective is to use staging, juxtaposition, value and the handling of materials to create a compelling visual drama out of everyday common objects.

**Materials:** Graphite pencils and/or Dip Pen, India Ink, &/or Brush

**Size:** 5” x 7”

**Assignment:** Create three 5” x 7” scenes with a beginning, middle, and end by using a common everyday object(s). The object is to be the visual star; the backgrounds should be kept unimportant or treated only tonally. Visually exploit, exhaust the object. Consider the use of contrast and scale to achieve pictorial drama and variety: rough vs. smooth, big vs. small, empty vs. full, one (simple) vs. many (complex), black vs. white, up vs. down, male vs. female, line vs. mass, active vs. calm, light vs. heavy, flat vs. round, shallow vs. deep, etc. Obtain the objects and bring them to every class meeting during the length of this assignment.

**Note:** This project can be expanded to a single graphic novel/comic page with 3 or more panels. The paper size for this modification is 11” x 14” with the final art on Bristol paper.

**Thumbnails Critique:** 5 drawings of your objects and three thumbnails for each scene.

**Rough Critique:** one 5” x 7” rough for each scene (3 total)

**Final Critique:** Final art of each scene done with an ink technique. Mount all the scenes together on 15” x 20” black illustration board.

## Grading Criteria

### Thumbnails

- 9 thumbnails (Three each scene)
- Idea exploration
- Clarity in drawing and value as indication of final version
- Proportional to finish size

### Roughs

- 3 roughs (one each scene)
- Clarity of Narrative
- Clarity of composition
- Drawing and value supporting the image and message
- Proportional to 4” x 5”

### Final Art

- Clarity of Narrative
- Clarity of composition
- Drawing and value supporting the image and message
- Proportional to 5” x 7”
- Presentation on Black illustration board

**Turn in the thumbnails, roughs, and in-class exercises in a 9”x12” envelope for grading on the final art due date**

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