

# Drawing with Light

## Experimental Drawing

### Program Description

Grade 4 - 12

Inspired by the dramatic lights and darks of 19th Century photography, students will play with tone using ink washes, charcoal and conte. Starting in the Gallery, students create tonal studies using graphite. In the Studio, students develop their own composition by lighting still life objects to create positive and negative spaces. Using ink washes, charcoal and conte, students drip, blend, highlight and smudge to explore drawing with light.

### Big Ideas

- Experiment with mark-making and tonal studies
- Explore artwork from the past and present to investigate the connection between drawing and photography
- Play with a variety of mark-making and drawing media to create several drawings using areas of light and dark



## Connections to Alberta Education Programs of Study

### Fine Arts

#### DRAWINGS

Investigate: Students will select and identify line, value and texture in the natural and manmade environment for image making.

- Value in drawing is affected by the qualities of surfaces and the qualities of light.

Articulate and Evaluate: Students will learn to use the basic vocabulary of art criticism in descriptions of their work.

Identifying and discussing one's problems in drawing and composing images is part of learning to talk about art.

- Discussing one's responses to one's own drawings and images is part of learning to talk about art.

#### COMPOSITIONS

Components 2: Students will experiment with techniques and media and with the transformation of space in compositions.

- Value or colour can emphasize negative space over positive space

## Project Overview

1. Students begin by brainstorming ideas about what art and drawing. They explore the characteristics of drawing and the connection between drawing with light and photography.
2. Gallery explorations provide a drawing warm-up for students. Students explore AGA exhibitions including *19<sup>th</sup> Century French Photography* to create tonal studies and sketch photographs using tone. Students then visit the exhibition *UP NORTH* to discover the ways in which artists can draw with light with different media, by looking at and sketching their impressions of the work of Canadian artist Kevin Schmidt.
3. Students then experiment with a variety of media in the studio. Paper still life compositions are the subject of three experimental drawings: examining negative and positive space with ink; creating a reductive drawing with charcoal and eraser; and finally capturing highlights and lowlights with conte.
4. Students critique their work and the process by reflecting on the challenges, successes and which media/process they preferred.

