

Ames C.art Artist's Group

Welcome to the Ames C.art Artist's Group! We are happy to have you join us and hope you will find our group a positive and useful place to explore and grow as an artist.

We are a *working* group of artists who support each other as we share

- our own work
- feedback on each others' work
- work we admire
- art news and opportunities with each other
- skill building exercises

We meet once per month at a location TBA, Monday evening from 7-9pm at a Date TBA (check <http://meetup.com/amescart> for upcoming dates).

After brief introductions (as needed) and some "business" time (announcements, upcoming call for artist deadlines, member's upcoming shows, etc), we share any original work. An artist may share one work at a time and receive feedback from the group until we get around to all. After that, members may share more as time allows. We then will spend the rest of the time drawing and talking about general art topics. Each meeting we focus on a different type of drawing skill, material, or technique each session (negative space, portraiture, tonal, landscape, botanical, architecture, ink, pastels, etc). We try to divide the time in half, 1 hour for sharing, talking, and feedback; and 1 hour for drawing as a group.

To share one of your works: bring the original and any supporting work (sketches, research) so we can offer better feedback. If you do not have an original work at a meeting, share a work you admire if you'd like or just "pass." Give feedback or enjoy the discussion.

When sharing an original work:

- 1) **One at a time.** Often we will get back to whoever wants to share more than one.
- 2) Tell the group if you do NOT want feedback before you show your work. Otherwise you will get some. We are a working group.
- 3) It is understood that all feedback is simply that, and that the artist is the ultimate decision-maker on what, if anything, to change.
- 4) You may receive feedback in the meeting verbally, in writing by someone who makes notes and gives them to you or via email later by another member who would like to give you some feedback after taking more time with it. *Again, if you do not want feedback, please mention that.*

When giving Feedback:

- 1) Be respectful, no personal attacks, no non-constructive feedback "I don't like it" or "It looks like..." or "It's pretty".
- 2) Offer constructive criticism: "I like the color choice because....", "this area doesn't seem to flow as well as this area, maybe try..."
- 3) Give others the opportunity to share, give feedback, offer insight. In other words, don't hog the conversation.

We also encourage sharing your artistic triumphs, however big or small, with the group. We like to encourage each other.

For questions between meetings: info@amescart.org