Cheryl McMickle

**Subtractive Drawing: Charcoal/Graphite**

Objective: The learner will create a drawing by removing (subtractive) charcoal or graphite with an eraser.

Standards: CR.2.VAI.1 Use the Elements of Art in Artistic compositions (Value and Form).

Cr.3.VAI.3 Create Artworks with specific intent from direct observation using dry and wet media.

Vocabulary: Ground, Subtractive, Value, Observation, Form, Shadow, Cast Shadow, Gradation, Still Life

Materials: Drawing paper, newsprint, charcoal (or graphite sticks), tortilions, chamois (blue shop paper towels-quartered) erasers, objects for still life

EQ: How do artists use alternate techniques to create form and depth in their work?

5 min: Get students thinking about subtraction as taking away. What is that like in drawing? Making marks is adding/removing is subtracting.

15-20 min: Create ground – Students cover their paper with the side of the charcoal and smear it with the blue paper towel. They may need to apply it twice but keep it to a medium coverage. This will be the middle tones of the picture.

1-3 class periods: Draw with erasers – Students begin drawing by pulling out large shapes of light. While they can draw the contour lines, the real benefit will come from them looking for the big shapes. Then they will work details with charcoal and erasers (white chalk is an option as well). If a mistake is made or something needs to be done over, just smear and add a little charcoal to it. Very forgiving.

Final step is to spray fix with either fixative or hair spray.

Daily clean up tips: Students should put away pictures, erasers, charcoal, etc. BEFORE they wash up!

I like to have student put a sheet of newsprint over their pic when we take them up.