



MANIFEST DRAWING CENTER

Edgar Cano

The Expressive Hand: Gesture, Figure & Materials

MATERIALS LISTS

The Expressive Hand: Gesture, Figure & Materials

February 20 - 22, 2026

Course Description

This unique workshop centers on gesture, tactility, and the expressive power of materials through sustained work from the live model. Rather than focusing on a single medium, participants will investigate a wide range of drawing tools—including charcoal, conte, graphite, ballpoint pen, and ink—to experience how each material responds to pressure, movement, and the body of the artist.

Through a combination of quick gesture studies and longer sustained poses, students will explore proportion, structure, movement, and expressive mark-making. Edgar's teaching emphasizes that gesture exists on two levels at once: the pose of the model in space and the gesture of the hand as it moves across the surface. By working across both dry and wet media, participants will gain firsthand insight into how different materials shape line, value, edge, and spatial clarity.

Short demonstrations, material-specific exercises, and individualized feedback guide the weekend. Students will also be encouraged to experiment with layering and combining materials to expand their visual language. Group reflection and critique help reinforce technical discoveries and personal growth.

This workshop is best suited for artists with some prior experience drawing from the live figure and offers a dynamic, physically grounded approach to understanding form through materials and movement.

Materials List:

(Participants are welcome to bring additional drawing materials of their choice, though this is entirely optional.)

Dry Media

- Vine charcoal (soft, medium, hard)
- Compressed charcoal sticks and charcoal pencils
- Conte crayons (black, white)
- Graphite Stick
- Ballpoint pen (black)
- White chalk or white pastel pencil

Wet Media

- Black ink (India ink or sumi ink)
- Small and medium brushes suitable for ink
- Brush pen (Pentel Pocket Brush or similar) (Optional)

Paper & Surfaces

- 18" x 24" white drawing paper (pad or loose sheets)
- 18" x 24" newsprint for warm-ups
- Toned paper (gray, tan, or mid-tone)
- Black paper (for white-on-black drawing)
- Optional: sketchbook for notes and small studies
- Paper for ink

Tools & Accessories

- Kneaded eraser
- Hard eraser or eraser stick for highlights
- Chamois cloth (for charcoal work)
- Drawing board with clips
- Fixative spray (unscented)
- Measuring Stick / Straight Line Stick (lightweight wood dowel, 1/4"–1/2") (Used for sighting angles, proportions, and straight-line construction)

Level of Study:

"This class is suggested for individuals with some Figure Drawing experience. Basic knowledge of drawing from a live nude models is expected."

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