

## Davis Street Drawing Room

### PROMPTS for CLOSE LOOKING

If you would like a tactile experience, choose a few black lace fragments or white linen scraps from the designated table. Select paper and drawing tools, a thread counter, digital microscope, or a hand held magnifier. Examine each fragment closely, feel the texture in your hands, note visual and physical qualities, irregularities and differences.

Otherwise, pull up a stool to any of the formal displays. Use a sheet of hard foamboard on your lap as a surface for your drawing or writing. All art supplies will be provided apart from a laptop for the digital microscope.

#### **BLIND CONTOUR DRAWING**

Looking through a thread counter or magnifier, contour draw that magnified section. Keep your eyes focused on the textile fragment and slowly draw around all the inner and outer edges that you see without looking directly at the drawing itself. Focus on irregularities, holes, and variances in density.

#### **CONTINUOUS LINE DRAWING**

Once the pencil or pen hits the page, do not lift it up until the drawing is complete.

#### **TRACING**

Layer tracing paper directly over a textile fragment and draw all that you can see.

#### **DRAWING DETAIL**

Without magnification, draw to scale with as much detail as possible. Looking through a magnifier, draw that magnified section with as much detail as possible.

#### **EXTEND WITH COLOR, TEXTURE, PATTERN**

Add more information to a white cloth surface or black lace structure. Invent a new drawn textile image.

#### **PHOTOGRAPHY / COMPUTER IMAGING**

Make a suite of still photographs, either on your laptop using the digital microscope or with your camera and a thread counter or magnifier. Photograph a drawing, manipulate and/or repeat the image to create a larger composite.

#### **MICRO/MACRO WRITING**

Make an open inventory of all describable features, beginning with the whole textile. Note its properties: its color, shape, texture, weight, irregularities and edges. Then, using a thread counter or magnifier, follow a single thread-line: how does it move? How does it join other threads? Consider the relationship of parts to the whole.

#### **SIMILE AND METAPHOR**

Make comparisons between two unlike things that evoke new meaning using "like" or "as" (simile) or by direct comparisons (metaphor). "This linen is mended like a botched scar. It's as opaque as a fugue state. This stitch is a wandering stream." You may also try negation: "This lace is not chaotic like disaster. It's not as black as my mother's hair."

#### **ASSOCIATIVE WRITING**

Beginning with a single feature of the textile, create a chain of associations: "The circular pattern of this lace reminds me of a puddle, which reminds me of the green house by the lake..." &c. Start over with a new textile feature every three minutes. Let intuition and pleasure guide your leaping.

### POINT OF VIEW WRITING

Consider the signs of life in the object: holes, mendings, and embroidery. Imagine the person who made or used it, or write from the perspective of the textile itself. What has the cloth witnessed? What kind of room did it exist in? If you are focusing on the formal displays of rolled house cloths or folded linens, you may wish to interrogate the meanings you find in its current presentation. How does the state of great care affect your approach to this utilitarian domestic cloth?

### QUESTIONS

Questions addressed *to* the textile, *about* it, *around* it; all you do not know and wish to know and will never know.

### CONTEXT

Consider a textile within a cultural context, either a cloth from the Drawing Room or something related to your own familial or cultural background. Extend, subvert, imagine, invent. Bring your knowledge of history, architecture, or conservation to a drawing, diagram, illustration, or text. Feel free to consult books in the library. You may also want to reflect on your experience in the Davis Street Drawing Room.

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*For those who wish to contribute a "study," either a visual or a text-based response, to the Drawing Room archive, each study will be acknowledged by the maker/author name and date of creation and contained within an 18 x 18 inch stacking drawer. **All responses are owned by and will be returned to the creator.** Please note: The invitation to share a study with others is not a requirement of the Drawing Room experience! Your investigation can also be taken home with you, or shared at a later date, as you wish.*