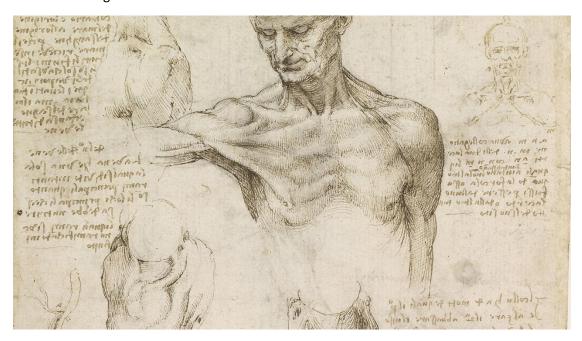
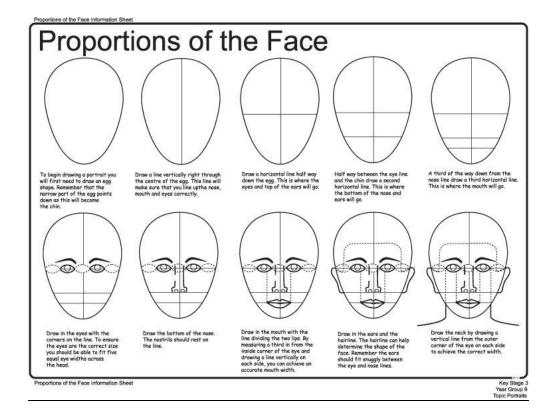
Portrait

Anatomy and proportions

In some ways this workshop is a return to basics to re examine the fundamentals in observational drawing. In other ways it is an excuse to look deeper and teach ourselves to ask 'how does this work' whilst observing





Artists of interest

William Coldstream

Wikipedia -

Coldstream was committed to painting directly from life; he once remarked, "I lose interest unless I let myself be ruled by what I see". [19] His type of realism had its basis in careful measurement, carried out by the following method: standing before the subject to be painted, a brush is held upright at arm's length. With one eye closed, the artist can, by sliding a thumb up or down the brush handle, take the measure of an object or interval. This finding is compared against other objects or intervals, with the brush still kept at arm's length. Informed by such measurements, the artist can paint what the eye sees without the use of conventional perspective. The surfaces of Coldstream's paintings carry many small horizontal and vertical markings, where he recorded these coordinates so that they could be verified against reality. As a result of his painstaking methods, Coldstream worked slowly, often taking scores of sittings over several months to complete a work. His subjects include still-life, landscapes (usually centered on architecture), portraits, and the female nude.

Coldstream was the teacher of Ewan Uglow at the Slade





William Coldstream

Ewan Uglow

The Workshop

I shall ask you to paint a portrait in black and white focusing on the structure of the head, observing images of the scull to understand what is going on under the surface of the skin. I shall go on to discuss the measuring techniques of the 'Slade school' to help improve drawing and understanding