Cartooning

Drawing & Painting 1
What is a cartoon?

• “a visual humorous comment about something that’s familiar to all of us.”
• “a laugh at the truth”
• “shows some of the foibles and ridiculousness about normal life”
• “a moment that’s been singled out as different from the next one”
• “a marriage of a funny idea with a funny drawing”
Consensus?

A cartoon is an instant communication of a funny idea.
What makes up a cartoon?

- Cast of characters
- Dialog or caption
- Movement & Composition
- Setting & Mood
5-minute discussion

- Do you agree with this consensus definition of cartoons?
- Can you think of other cartoons that don’t fit this definition?
- Think of the 4 main elements of a cartoon: **characters, dialog, movement, and setting**. Can you guess some examples of each? Why do we need each of them?
Characters

- People* we immediately recognize from every day life – generic and universal
- Stereotypical
- “Auditioned”
- Fictional or non-fictional
- Living or non-living
Dialog

- Draw viewer’s attention to the funny part
- Relate to the characters
  - Matched
  - Mismatched
- Polished
- Placement
Movement & Composition

• Gesture & Body language
• Facial expression
• Image sequence (left to right)
  – Punch line goes at the end!

“Your audience can’t appreciate a twist unless they first know what’s straight.”

“I take it, then, that we are not the first safari ever to visit this area.”
How does the direction change the effect?

- Balance
Setting

- Specific place to indicate situation
  - Background
  - Costumes (accessories)
  - Props

Mood

- How the place is portrayed
  - drawing style
“Evolution’s been good to you, Sid.”
• Contrast
• Texture

“If it all boils down to this: You can forgive but you can’t forget, and I can forget but I can’t forgive.”
"I may have a lot of faults but being wrong isn't one of them!"

"This should be rated 'R.' Some people can lip read, you know."
• Atmospheric perspective
5-minute reflection

- What did you guess from your discussion that we talked about in the presentation?
- What were you surprised about?
- What don’t you agree with?
- What do you still have questions about?
The Deal with Details...

- Give the impression of a subject without exactly mirroring it
- Draw only the essence of the form
- Leave space for viewer’s imagination (they apply their own connection to it)

“...an interpretation rather than a reproduction.” – Mort Gerberg
Drawing Styles

- Hatching
- Crosshatching
- Pattern fill
- Motion
  - Overlapped, repeated
  - Simplification
Other cultures: different look
Warm-up exercises

- **Doodling**
  Make quick little sketches of anything you see or imagine (thumbnails)
  - Practice drawing objects
  - Free association thinking (mix and match objects)

- **3-minute idea**
  Sketch someone in an action pose: draw the same body position but change what they’re doing
  - Ex. Look at somebody carrying a lunch tray; change it to carrying a __, pushing a __, doing the macarena, etc.