



Dear Students,

I've been so impressed, but not surprised, with the resilience of our community. Everyone seems to be doing their best to "art calm and carry on."

Though each day brings new circumstances, we're doing our best to respond quickly. I start each day with a meeting of the school's Emergency Management team where we process the latest news and respond with the best strategy to safely and effectively deliver on the Academy's mission: teaching you the skills and techniques you need to accomplish your artistic goals. In this letter, I'd like to give you our latest thinking on some of the questions and concerns I've heard since the crisis started.

#### Tribeca Ball/Open Studios

We are currently exploring other ways to get your work in front of the same crowd. We are developing an online gallery and sale. Because our collectors look forward to the personal interaction with our artists at Tribeca Ball and Open Studios, we also still want them to hear your stories. If possible, send me ([dkratz@nyaa.edu](mailto:dkratz@nyaa.edu)) a short 60-90 second video selfie talking about your work and what you've focused on during your time at the school. Technology permitting, we will add it to the online gallery so our audience can meet the artist behind the work.

#### Portfolio Reviews

We plan to offer one-on-one, online portfolio reviews where you can meet and get feedback from many of the same gallerists and artists you would normally have met this spring. We will be sending out a questionnaire so you can tell us which gallerists and artists you would most like to meet. Let us know and we'll do our best to make it happen.

#### Thesis Critiques

We plan to hold full panel critiques just as we have every other year. It's one of the most important events at the school and something that is usually attended by all the students. If it's safe, they will take place at the school. If not, they will be held online and we'll invite you all to join the audience.

#### Thesis Exhibit

We will devote our Summer Exhibition this year to the class of 2020. If conditions allow, it will be in our Cast Hall. If not, it will be presented online. If that turns out to be the case, we will also devote some space at next year's Tribeca Ball to an exhibition of your work.

#### Remote Learning

Online classes start next week. We'll do everything we can to make it a rich experience. Our faculty are currently hard at work reinventing our unique curriculum for delivery in this new format.

In closing, I want to say I miss being in the studios with you. The best part of my job is the time we spend together on Wednesdays for studio critiques. Your work always inspires me and, more than that, I learn something from every single visit. It goes without saying that we've never seen a challenge like this. My biggest hope is that out of immense crisis comes great art.

Sincerely yours,

David

PS – I'm always looking to post your work.  
Please send me images of what you're doing from home.

PPS – I've been enjoying the Instagram account [@NYAA2020gallery](https://www.instagram.com/NYAA2020gallery).  
Post there as well. Let's stay connected to each other and in front of our audience.