



Dear Students,

The BIG news for me this week was your ART SALES on Tribeca Ball Online. So far there have been 116 work sold, totaling over \$100,000 in sales. Wow! People are loving your work.

Thanks again to the team who put the site together: Heidi Elbers, Gianna Putrino, Harry Michas and Nicholas Burkhalter. It's the first time we've ever built our own proprietary sales site. The evidence shows it's been a big success. Just as important as the sales figures are the viewership numbers: 9,019 Pageviews, Unique Pageviews: 6,824 (first timers). That's at least TEN times the number of people who attend Tribeca Ball in person.

We sent out a survey this week to get your scheduling preferences. We asked when you would be willing and able to return for summer studios; 44 of you said June 1; 56 said June 15; 69 said June 29; and 17 said they would not return for the summer.

We also asked the Class of 2020 when they would like Thesis II critiques. Eight of you responded you would like your work critiqued at the end of May; 33 wanted critiques later in the summer after possible studio time. We are making both options available. There will be online critiques on May 27. And for those of you who will be working in your studios this summer, we are planning for in-person critiques on August 11-13, so as many people as possible will get the full six weeks of studio time.

But since dates and plans are always evolving based on circumstances, the Student FAQ page is up on the website. To see it now, [click here](#).

I'm also happy to announce another great Visiting Critic line up this week:

Monday, May 11

Damian Loeb (1pm-2pm) Artist Advisory Council member

Tuesday, May 12

Todd Kramer (1pm-2pm) gallerist

Wednesday, May 13

Sam McKinnis (11am-12pm) His Whitney Houston portrait was on the cover of ArtForum

Jasmine Wahi (1pm-2pm) Curator from the Bronx Museum and Project for an Empty Space

Nicholas Sanchez (1pm-2pm) Academy Fellow 2014

This was the last week of online classes. Peter Drake has been sending letters to the staff and faculty each week describing them. They're beautiful to read and remind me how dedicated our entire community of artists is to learning. I'll close with the last paragraph of Peter's letter this week...

Seven long, exhilarating, exhausting, inventive weeks

What can I say about the faculty and students at the Academy? No one saw this coming and there was no way to prepare for it. Katie Hemmer and Sarah Sager learned Zoom and taught the entire faculty and staff how to use it. The faculty reinvented the wheel and found creative and stimulating ways to conduct classes online. The students had to make studios at home, make great art in quarantine and overcome Zoom-fatigue. The work that I've seen has been truly impressive, the quality of teaching has been a miracle, the support from the staff incredible.

Thank you, all. The Academy community is truly special. Whether online or in-person, our light burns bright.

Yours,

David

PS - Community is important, especially to artists who, by definition, spend a lot of time alone. Given that, these times can be especially trying. I'm looking forward to Noelle Timmons' interview with Amanda Jurist, Self-Care & Coping Strategies for the Artist next Monday at 1:30pm on Instagram.