



Dear Faculty,

I want to give a rousing round of applause to the faculty who taught online today! I sat in on, dropped in on, Zoomed in on six classes and they were all AMAZING!. They were all very different from each other and still managed to be inventive, deeply interesting and they definitely delivered the unique content of our mission.

Matt White taped a two-hour video demonstration of sculpting a head from memory and compressed it to twenty minutes that he could pause, point at important decisions with the cursor and then move on. Nandi, his student was working alongside of him from her home and didn't miss a beat.

Margaret McCann used Zoom to engage her 16 students in a group critique where the students used the share feature to show works they had prepared relating to existing master pieces. The works looked great and the student participation was really impressive.

Steve Mumford prepared a PowerPoint on different interpretations of History Painting and the ways it has shaped contemporary discourse. He gave an incredible presentation on the French Revolution and David's shifting political positions and the ways that his work acted as a form of propaganda (pretty interesting considering our own time).

Barbara Segal used Zoom to see where her students were in their development as carvers and offered alternatives to working in stone including soap, food and soft woods. She promised to bring in guest carvers from around the world every week (who wouldn't want to sit in on that)?

Mu Pan gave an in depth look at his own sketch books and his wildly colorful view of life and supplemented it by sharing catalogs of artists the students might not be aware of. He also used Croquis Café to have the students draw in their sketch books from the model. It's free and not a bad way to break things up. <https://onairvideo.com/>

And finally, Steve Assael worked on a painting that he had in his studio as a demonstration of composition and working from his memory of a model who is no longer available. This was with a large class of fifteen students who would be working from photographs of a set-up they had been working on in class which seemed like a perfect corollary.

All in all, I was incredibly impressed by the inventiveness of the faculty and with how easy it was to navigate the Zoom world. On to day two.

Best,

Peter Drake
Provost
New York Academy of Art

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