



Dear faculty,

Well, our amazing faculty continue to impress. The best part of sitting in on all of these classes has been seeing in person how dedicated, talented and willing to push their own boundaries our faculty have been.

Indirect painting is one of the toughest classes to teach. Students are usually new to working in glazes and have to wrap their minds around a new way of thinking. Today Marshall Jones made it look easy. He started his class with a video of a Cadmium Red underpainting with Viridian wash on top for the shadow masses and Thalo Blue Green Shade with white for the light masses. He then showed multiple sketches of the same principles that he's been working on for the class. All of them were stunning.

Jordan Sokol was doing one-on-one critiques with his students and I sat in on one with Brandon Brownlee. Brandon is working on a series of "overlooked" scenes from around the house. It's a great project to work on if you're stuck inside. One of them had a green bottle of detergent peeking out from behind a clothes washer that had an almost gem-like quality. It's the kind of work that makes you reconsider your surroundings.

Rie Hasegawa showed her students examples of artists who specialize in lithography who are underappreciated in the larger art world. Denise Victor stood out for me and I had never seen the work before.

I think Wade Schuman may have one of the hardest classes to replace. "Man and Beast" is a treat for all of us. Wade always manages to get live horses, goats and the occasional wallaby for his class. Instead, teaching from Maine, he introduced the class to works by Grandville and Dore. I had forgotten how mesmerizing Dore's work is with drawings of fantastic beasts and chimeras. Even without live animals Wade kept the entire class enthralled.

"Citizen Kane" is one of the most beautifully composed movies ever made and Dan Thompson used it as a springboard for his CFA Drawing class. The students showed each other sketches of future projects that had wonderful Film Noir angles, and lighting that seemed to reference "Day for Night" effects. There was one sketch that could have been a poster for "Body Heat", what a blast!

The day ended with Vera Illatova's Theory and Practice of Composition. She put together a fascinating presentation of film makers who were either influenced by painting or influenced later painters. Dario Argento's color influenced Elizabeth Peyton for instance. She also introduced the students to the Arte Informel movement which had a big influence on Rauschenberg. She had also given the students a funny assignment to make one book of color that was "beautiful" and one that was "repulsive" and then had them guess which was which. Hard to tell sometimes. Great day though.

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