



Dear Students,

It's the end of week four of life on lockdown. I was fortunate enough to connect with several of you in critiques this week. As always, it was an inspiration. Meeting you in your home studios and seeing your dedication and focus, despite everything, lifted my spirits.

I think perseverance is one of the lessons we're meant to learn from this situation. It's a crucial skill. Especially for artists. Life always manages to get in the way to some degree. I'm convinced the biggest difference between those who succeed and those who don't is simple: they refuse to give up.

We're facing a test. There's no easy answer or simple fix. The Academy is doing everything in its power to deliver on our promise but we can't please everybody all of the time right now. It's our aim to deliver the best education we can, given the circumstances, and in the process meet most of your expectations most of the time. We have two overriding goals: your safety and your learning.

Here's the latest news:

- As per Governor Cuomo's announcement the Academy will be closed and online instruction will continue through May 15.
- We hope to have MFA and CFA students move into studios Monday, May 18. We are developing various contingency plans for summer should federal, state and local authorities push back the return date.
- The majority of these plans are aimed at giving MFA/CFA students additional studio time, workshops and model time this summer.
- The MFA 2020 Thesis Exhibition will take place on site at the Academy following Final Critiques. It will also be featured in an online exhibition.
- Open Drawing will meet online again tonight from 6-9pm.
- All students are welcome to sign up for the Linden Fredrick Master Class Webinar, taking place tomorrow and Sunday: Registration URL:  
[https://nyaa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_JjCkg-J7Rra3Cxi-jjG59w](https://nyaa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JjCkg-J7Rra3Cxi-jjG59w)

I want to address one other important issue. Some of you have expressed concerns regarding the financial solvency of the Academy. I want to assure you that we are fine. Our admissions applications are holding strong and filled with talented candidates. Our cash flow is good. We have reserves in the bank. We have taken advantage of federal funding programs aimed to carry us through this time. And, most importantly, we have a committed Board that will not let us fail. We will continue operating and delivering our mission next year and long into the future. Please don't waste any energy worrying about that. Save it for making art!

Art calm and carry on,

David

PS – I can't end without mentioning some things that made me happy this week: Eric Fischl's day of critiques, Dexter Wemberly's IG Live talk with Doron Langberg, Alyssa Monks' virtual studio tour. Our community is alive and flourishing...and making me proud.