



Dear Students,

Here's the latest news on opening our building. Governor Cuomo extended the pause order for New York City till June 13th. That means we will not open on June 1st and are now aiming for our next contingency date, June 15th.

However, he announced a shift in policy that may give us reason for optimism. Any region that meets the seven metrics for re-opening prior to the next official date can start Phase 1 of the re-opening rather than waiting till June 13th. The city is currently meeting four of the seven requirements. If things continue on the current track, we may meet all seven soon. Fingers crossed, we will keep monitoring.

The past week was a busy one. The Faculty Council met, the Board had a full meeting and the Fellows presented their work to the Board. The Faculty and the Board continue to impress me with their dedication to the school's mission and your artistic growth. Many of both groups have volunteered to meet with students on a weekly basis throughout the summer. We'll add them to the Visiting Critic sign-ups.

Next week, as part of our listening campaign, we are holding Mini-Town Halls with the Faculty. They will follow the same format as those we held with the students. We look forward to sharing ideas that come out of it. As I said in last week's letter, no one of us is as smart as all of us.

Here's the Visiting Critic line-up for next week:

Wednesday, May 20

Vincent Desiderio (1-2pm) Senior Critic and long-time Academy inspiration

Bernardo Siciliano (1-2pm) Dynamic surfaces, fearless painting

Amy Bessone (3-4pm) Contemporary painter whose work focuses on "feminine archetypes"

Friday, May 22

Sarah Schmerler (1-2pm) A&C instructor, focus on conceptual underpinning

One of my colleagues asked me this week how I dealt with stress. It's probably safe to say many of us are dealing with it these days, so I thought I'd share my approach. I have two coping techniques. First, a daily focus. What can I do about a problem today? I may have a plan that goes far into the future but all we can ever really manage is today. So I do what I can and try to let the rest go, at least until the next day. Second, I rely on others. When I can't figure something out, I talk to people. I try to gather as many ideas as I can and select the best path from among them.

Being part of the Academy community is a huge advantage. There are always people to talk to. From the Town Halls to the Student Assistance Program, and the Visiting Critics to the feedback from your fellow students, we're here for each other. That makes me proud and happy. It also gives me faith we'll get through this.

Art calm and carry on,

David