

## **Group Response: Painting**

We were very impressed with so many of the paintings we saw submitted. There were certain themes that seemed to come up again and again and it was interesting to see how those themes were treated. Themes of portraiture and identity were very well-represented, with less emphasis on nature and non-representational pieces. Several times there were groups of paintings organized in diptychs or triptychs, which can be a risky move. Often there was one or two stand-outs in the grouping but very seldom worked as a whole. While we did see technical mastery on many levels, correct anatomy is an ever present challenge to get right. Some excelled in this area, and some were less successful. Finally, presentation was as diverse as the artwork itself. When presenting work, it is crucial to pick something that enhances or complements the piece rather than distracts. Again, we were very pleased with the exceptional talent and maturity represented by such young artists. It was a privilege to be able to engage with so many outstanding pieces.

## **Group Response: Photography and Digital**

We were extremely impressed with the strength and variety of the work. The work that stood out to us was the work that was able to communicate a message or feeling. We thought original concept was important as well as technical execution. To us words and statement became critical in making the final decisions.

### **Group Response: 3D and Mixed Media**

As a group we were impressed with the ambitious diversity of materials. Accepted works showed strength in the craftsmanship of the differing processes and materials. Works that stood out conveyed a sense of original thought. Many pieces had concepts that expressed consideration beyond initial ideas. We look forward with confidence of this work and hope to see the development of these artist in the future as our friends and colleagues.

## **Group Response: Drawing**

We were very impressed with the quality of work we saw today. The artwork that wasn't drawn directly copying a photograph stood out the most. Creative compositions that also showed competency of the medium were easily the frontrunners for us.

One thing we saw time and again was that the students sometimes forgot to care about their presentation. Things like crooked mat-cutting, the image not fitting in the frame, dirty or scratched or broken frames, etc., were off-putting for us.

The works also showed powerful expressions of emotion and personal perspectives, which was impressive, particularly when the aesthetic quality of the work matched the conceptual content.

We encourage student artists (and their teachers) to consider using high-quality drawing materials including illustration board, cotton drawing papers, charcoal, india ink, graphite, etc. Attention to the quality and care of the work shows the value that the artist places on their idea.

As a final suggestion, we would love to see student work emerging with originality and aesthetic quality as chief concerns. Let the work itself convey the statement or story you want to tell, without redundant text.