



Brent Jones, Master

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Why I Chose Nicole Schantz and Mary Aherne

At the start of every school year, I'm always excited to witness what artworks will materialize throughout the year. In addition to that, I am curious to see what students rise to their full potential or surpass it. Whether it be a vast improvement in their skill level, conceptual development, introspection, or creating quality and quantity of work; seeing these small victories is joyous. I find myself inspired by these students who possess a level of intelligence and intuition that teach and allow me the opportunity to stay relevant and knowledgeable.

This year I have selected Nicole Schantz and Mary Aherne for my grasshoppers. I had the pleasure of teaching Nicole all four years of her high school career. During that time, it has been a true joy watching this young artist develop her skills and artistic voice. When first meeting Nicole I was amazed by how her visual language and artistic style were developed beyond her years.

The second student I have selected, Mary, has only been studying with me for two years. However, during that time I have become thoroughly impressed with Mary's focus and industriousness. Since teaching Mary, I have come to know Mary as someone who knows what she wants. When questioning Mary about her decision-making, she always has thought out and researched explanations defending her choices. That being said, Mary is still open to accepting criticism and feedback when valid.

Artist Statement

Working with knowledgeable, skilled, and driven students at moments can become inspiring and transcending. I feel as though I am collaborating with a colleague, rather than teaching a student. It motivates me to continue my artistic and creative passions separate from teaching. The students also challenge my comfort levels in my content knowledge, skill, and current trends. In the end, my students drive me to become the best teacher and artist that I can be.