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Why I Chose Benjamin Kelly and Evelyn Herczyk

For this year's Master and Grasshopper selection, I chose Evelyn Herczyk and Benjamin Kelly. This was the first year that I had the pleasure of instructing Evelyn Herczyk in class. After observing her in class for the first few days, I could see Eve possessed abilities at an advanced level. Besides her skill; Eve has a mature intuition and intelligence that gives her insight in knowing what she wants out of her work and how to execute her work visually. I found Eve to be meticulous and aware when working with whatever medium. I look forward to seeing what she will do next year as a senior.

My second grasshopper selection is Ben Kelly, a student I have had the honor of instructing for the past three years. Throughout that time, I have come to witness Ben's dedication, perseverance, focus, and progress in his skills. Ben always entered my class with an open mind and a plan for progress on whatever he was working on. In the time I have known Ben, he has made tremendous progress in his drawing and painting skills. I hope he continues to foster the progress that he started.

Every year I attempt to share with my students what I have learned throughout my life. Whether it be the art practices I developed throughout my secondary education or the professional experience I earned while working in the professional art field. I want to be to my students, the guide I wish I would have had at their age. I try to instill in my students good studio habits that they can take and apply later in life. With that, every student is different. Whether it be their physical skill, conceptualization or their creative problem solving; each student is learning skills and content that is specific to their particular needs and interests. The intent is to develop art students that have an awareness of themselves and their visual language.

Master & Grasshopper Exhibition 2024