

**Art Department Annual Assessment Meeting**  
**Learning Domain Assessment Conversation Summary**  
**Tuesday, May 05, 2020**  
**10 a.m. VIA TEAMS**

In attendance – Matthew Lopas, Melissa Gill, and Maxine Payne

This year the Art Department assessed the learning goal

“Acquired the necessary technical and methodological skill to make visually engaging works of art.”

**Evidence**

1. Portfolio of works selected for the senior thesis exhibition
2. Exit Survey (three out of four seniors responded)
3. Capstone rubrics

The Department went over the senior exit survey question by question

Given this group of data and our experience with the students what are we doing well and what do we need to do moving forward?

Gill- Generally the capstone works well to force students to think/rethink their work  
Perhaps we can be more flexible in what we allow students to work with in terms of materials?

Wondering about ways to teach the different processes of the actual evolution of a creative idea and how to teach students to be more creative.

Lopas- We have to play to our strengths in terms of what we know. (Acrylic vs Oil)  
There are only three of us  
Risk taking

Payne- Encourage students to consult all the faculty, not just the single faculty member who is in their medium. We have no technical support. We have to have technical support in order to expand our curriculum.

The entire group concluded that our seniors are in fact acquiring the necessary technical and methodological skill to make visually engaging works of art as specified in the rubric. This was primarily displayed in the art work they produced for their Thesis show. However, the exit survey and capstone rubrics were also discussed. It was noted that there could be more breadth in our offering. The primary roadblock to offering more technical and methodological instruction are lack of new equipment (a CNC machine and a roll printer), and lack of faculty.

## Senior Exit Survey – Art Department -2020

*Please note this survey is taken very seriously and will help the department better meet future student needs. As these forms are anonymous, they will in NO WAY effect grades.*

### Department Goals:

1. On a scale of 1-10 (1= almost nothing; 10= immensely) assess the degree to which Art Department courses have contributed to your development in the following areas:
  - Acquired the necessary skills to make visually engaging works of art-  
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
10 4 10
  - Acquired the necessary skills to create a coherent body of work-  
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
10 4 10
  - Gained knowledge in the theory, history, and philosophy of art-  
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
7 8 9
  - Learned to effectively conduct research –  
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
8 10 9
  - Learned to effectively communicate about art both in writing and verbally-  
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
10 7 9
  - Learned to think critically about your own and other's artwork-  
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
10 9 9
  - Gained an understanding of how your own work relates to historical art-  
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
8 10 10
  - Gained an understanding of how your own work relates to contemporary art-  
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
7 7 10
  - Learned professional practices in your field; documentation of images, etc.-  
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
8 9 9

Please take as much time and space as necessary to answer the following:

2. If there are any program goals referred to in question #1 that you feel are not being addressed effectively in the department? What are your recommendations to address these shortcomings?

Seems to be all there.

Acquired the necessary skills to make visually engaging works of art: I think this could be expanded by having teachers explain what they want to see earlier on. In my experience, Lopas attempted to help me do this in my third class with him, once he realized I was sticking around in the art department. This in turn was unhelpful because I cannot paint in oil and wasn't given an opportunity to heavily practice acrylic painting which I would consider my main medium. So generally he tried to help, but I can't oil paint so my work remained not so great.

Acquired the necessary skills to create a coherent body of work: There was very little information given on this until senior year, I really wish this information was taught earlier on. The only example I can think of where a series was taught to me was in sculpture. Otherwise, there was a printmaking series, but it was do it yourself, not taught as a series. I do believe though that Photography classes are centered more around this, but I did not take any.

I wish there had been more classes offered more strictly related to art theory. There were plenty of art history classes, but I'd had more classes that were similar to the Senior Seminar class we took, which I felt was very important for my education.

3. Did the "*Beginning Drawing*" course you took adequately serve as a foundational course for the major? Why or why not?

Yes, it is when I realized that I liked art.

I had Melissa Coper Smith and she was an absolutely wonderful professor and her teaching greatly helped me learn about tons of mediums in drawing and how to properly talk about work.

I think that it is a good class to offer, but I do wish there was some way around it for people who have had years of drawing experience prior to college. I kind of felt like I wasn't learning anything new, and at a very slow pace, but only because I've done a lot of drawing. Maybe there could be way to opt out through some sort of evaluation, or at least a level of Beginning Drawing that is a little more stimulating for non-beginners.

4. If you were enrolled in a “stacked” course (a course in which two levels of the medium meet at the same time, i.e. Intermediate and Advanced Painting), did you feel this detracted from or enhanced your learning? Please comment.

Distracted, I felt as if my advanced sculpture class was ignored since there were only 2 of us.

This was not particularly helpful in painting. But it was fine in Ceramics.

It did both for me. When I was in a lower level, I got to be around students better than me who challenged me. When I was in advanced and everyone else was Intermediate, at times I wish I had someone else to push me.

5. How well did your Practicum: Studio course prepare you for your Senior Exhibition? Please comment.

Exhausting

It went well especially due to the work focused on professional practices.

It prepared me very well! I loved getting time to work, and critiques that made my work stronger.

6. How well did the Practicum: Senior Seminar course contribute to your understanding of critical thinking and contemporary issues in art? Please comment.

Very engaging

I enjoyed this class and found it very helpful. Especially the Odyssey trip to New York. I wish there would have been more assignments into looking at contemporary artists.

IT contributed very well—I learned a lot I really didn’t know about, and I’ve surprisingly had quite a few conversations about art and some of the stuff covered with people outside of Hendrix. In these conversations I always feel like I know what I’m talking about and can add thoughtful things to the conversation.

7. Please comment on the Visiting Artist Program and whether or not you found it valuable in your art education.

I’m unsure about that program.

This was awesome. They do well to bring in interesting artists. A great way to learn.

I found it valuable, I just wish there had been more. Also, it would have been great to have mandatory meetings with the visiting artists so we could talk to real working artists about our art.

8. What does the department do particularly well, and why?

Good facilities

There are some classes where you have a lot of freedom and some where you don't. A good way to expand your horizons.

I think generally everyone in the department is very good at what they do, and is incredibly passionate about their own work. For this reason, I've always felt engaged in my classes, because I know that they are equally as excited about what they're teaching.

9. What other concerns or comments do you have that will help us to evaluate the Hendrix Art Major program?

Felt overwhelmed senior year, and also even though we didnt have to do framing, it seems unnecessary because of how much it costs. We are college students!

Professor Maakestad was awesome and I thoroughly enjoyed his classes, I hope the school can find a like-minded replacement.

The only real qualm I have about the art department is how small it is—I love every single art professor at Hendrix, but sometimes I did wish that there were more than one professor per medium. Also, I wish there was more involvement in the art department—I think more time needs to be spent reaching out to students at Hendrix. Thanks for everything!

**\*\*When you finish this evaluation is complete, please email it to Susan Ablondi our Area Assistant at [ablondis@hendrix.edu](mailto:ablondis@hendrix.edu). This will insure your anonymity from the department faculty.**