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Dimick assesses the relationship of art, talent

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Most of us have marveled at the works of famous artists, thinking that if only we had their natural gifts that we too could join their ranks. Natural talent, it is assumed, the absolute requirement for any artist, and that no one else quite has the same passion for art, nor is there the drive to pursue it. However, according to Dimick, an associate professor and area head of drawing in the department of art and design at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, “I think that the idea of talent can undermine people who have interested and I question how important talent is to become a decent artist.” He said “it is extremely important to be a very good artist, but the art of drawing and translating the two-dimensional world onto the two-dimensional plane can be taught.”

Born in Oak Park, Ill., and raised in Alton, Pete, Dimick said he became interested in art at a very early age. He went on to obtain his bachelor’s degree in fine arts from the Tyler School of Art at Temple University and a master’s degree in fine arts from Indiana University. Visual artists like Dimick use a variety of tools in their craft. “The first thing that comes to mind is graphite, like the simple pencil,” he said. “There are many different manifestations of it. There’s graphite on paper, graphite on vellum, silver that is scratched across a surface. These are some of the tools.”

One of the main tools our students begin with is charcoal because it gives us so much information. It can be pushed back and wiped off with their hands and revisited. It shows the artist the kind of train he, and then of course it moves into shadows, which allows people to think tonally and render light. So these are the foundations, and then we move into water-based media.”

With today’s technology encroaching upon all of the life and work, how have computers influenced the way artists are trained and express their ideas? “I think the difficulty of the hand-drawn and the difficulty visual of any of the electronic kind we really good to train the hand and form a kind of an understanding of how to compose and work through ideas by hand, even if you are primarily a digital artist. It is a way of exploring, in a kind of a mark that is singular and decisive, as opposed to something that is easily changed and that has infinite permutations.” The set form that allows the interplay between hand drawing and computer generated images is in the work of 5D creations. “I just love working with students who are 3D artists,” said Dimick, who also works in this format. “I start with a photograph on canvas and I purposefully close the edges of the photograph, so when the viewers see the work in person they see this kind of conflation between photography and painting, and so the photograph determines the color and the perspective and the direction of the light of the inversion surreal. So I have conceived 95 percent of the painting as an elaborate frame for the photographs.”

Many famous painters also did a lot of drawing in their careers—such as Da Vinci and Picasso. But, what is the real difference? “I think of drawing as a verb,” Dimick explained. “It’s drawing in painting, it’s in print making, it’s in forming your visual thoughts. We think of it as more specific with the traditional means of charcoal or graphite and such, or we can think of it as a way of seeing, a way of forming this idea of active composing.”

Dimick is working now on projects that explore time and space, about different events that are captured photographically and are brought together so that one is interested in that kind of idea of constructing a new narrative in making connections, and they come from the things that are about life and death.”

### Aldermen Romero College Talk

Agora Romero is the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. His show, “Segue,” is on view every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. on WSIE, 89.7 FM. He can be reached at College_Agos_Romero@siue.edu.

### Residents take advantage of electronic recycling

Residents are taking advantage of the free electronics drop off at the Maryville area recycling event. Multiple vehicles were a sight to see throughout the day, with the Maryville Police Department, Fire Department, and the Maryville School District were all present to help.

For more information on the event, call the First Christian Church office at 636-7950.

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