

# Artist Mentor Mid-Term Report

Spring 2019: Due March 29, 2019

Please fill out the information below and e-mail along with your report to the MFA Office at [mfa@lesley.edu](mailto:mfa@lesley.edu) with a copy to the student and to the student's faculty advisor. If you prefer to mail a hard copy please send to Rebecca Joy at the address below.

Student	Mentor
Marc Morin	Andrew Fish

Faculty Advisor	Date
Deborah Davidson	March 28, 2019

On the following page(s) please give your written response to the student's progress with regard to the following:

- Degree of productivity
- Level of engagement
- Ability to think and work independently
- The student's understanding of his/her work within a critical/art historical context

Also, please specifically address the following questions:

- Do you believe the student is involved in 20 hours of studio work per week, which is required for full credit in the studio component of the program?
- What do you suggest the student should accomplish before the semester ends?
- Do you consider the student's investigation and accomplishment to be on the graduate level?

MFA in Visual Arts Program  
Lesley University College of Art and Design  
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I have had the pleasure of working with Marc Morin for the past few weeks as his mentor in the MFA program at Lesley Art and Design. We have communicated via email and in person, getting together at the college and once at his studio in Swampscott, MA. Marc also attended an opening for an exhibition that I curated at Northeastern University and was sociable with myself and other participating artists. He has shown himself to be curious, attentive, and ambitious in his pursuit as a professional artist.

I believe that Marc has been productive in his studio art practice this semester and has been engaged in a vigorous drawing regiment that has produced a lot of small and medium-size drawings. He has placed a priority on *quantity* to keep his hand moving and his mark-making loose and free. He has been exploring different mediums including crayon, marker, acrylic paint, and pencil to fill small address books and index card-size pieces of paper, working through a wide range of aesthetic ideas and experiments.

Marc's level of engagement is impressive. He does not seem to have any trouble motivating himself to work. He has a home studio that occupies an area of his house designated to making art and has work in progress, some of which was still drying when I visited. I am not exactly sure how much of his studio practice derives from daily visits or intermittent bursts of productivity, but I believe he has a pace and process that allows him to be spending at least 20 hours a week in the studio, pushing the work forward. He has stated a desire to create a unique, individual style that addresses his emotional and intellectual concerns.

Along with his studio practice Marc has expressed an interest in teaching. As a result, I have arranged for an opportunity to let Marc sit in on one of my classes and even substitute for me one week while I am away. Marc was enthusiastic about this opportunity and made sure that his work schedule could accommodate for it. I am encouraged by examples like this, where Marc prioritizes his professional interests and ensures that he can take advantage of opportunities.

One of the areas of improvement that Marc and I have discussed centers on his expressed desire to be more focused. I could not agree more. His awareness of this fact is encouraging and means that he will most likely find success in resolving it.

I see Marc's work up to this point in his career as being scattered. He has shifted his work in ways that straddle painting, illustration, commercial art, and graphic design. Although I am aware that these shifts can signal a healthy degree of experimentation I think it would be most useful for him to concentrate on a few key specifics. I am encouraging him to pick one medium that he can explore and experiment with, digging in to the alchemy of the medium, and effectively mastering it in his work. I feel that this will free up his mind to think about concepts and intent without bouncing back-and-forth between mediums. We have begun to discuss which medium he is most interested in and I am hoping to see a new body of work around this medium.

Before the end of the semester I would like to see Marc produce more focused work, investigating an idea or process more deeply than he has in the past. I am hoping that he will engage in a new series of work that not only surprises himself, but brings new energy and enthusiasm to his practice.

Along with the work, I would like to see Marc revamp his CV and website and possibly apply for a future residency. I believe this will help him gain better focus and confidence in his identity and expand his community of fellow artists.

I will be meeting with Marc again next week and look forward to more discussions about aesthetics, concepts, materials, and the life-long pursuit of artistic expression.