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Graduate Independent Studio Project II

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Residency Summary: Group 2

Reflecting on my 2018 June residency it felt like an emotional seesaw of knowing and not knowing what I am doing or where I am going. I entered this session frustrated and unsatisfied with my work, which was on display during the critiques. As the week progressed the two different seminars, "Critical Theory 2" and "What for?," gave insight into some possibilities of research topics for this semester. I left the residency energized and wanting to prove myself.

The individual and group critiques of this residency showed that I needed to have more completed work in order to receive more constructive feedback. When I arrived and presented in the first critiques, I displayed my work in four separate groups – two oil paintings (32"x24"), seven acrylic paintings (12"x9"), twenty pen drawings (6"x3") and ten pencil drawings (9"x6"). The subject matter in the artwork was landscapes with figures, observational drawings of hand tools, and imaginary scenes. Showing them separately resulted in confusion to the viewer and myself, as the ideas and messages of the work were lost. After these initial critiques I reorganized and edited out works and arranged them together on one wall, which read as one work made from several pieces. It had a much stronger impact in this

format and felt more interesting and engaging. The interaction between the landscape paintings and the hand tool drawings was one of man versus nature. It was not apocalyptic but the created a feeling of lost control. It was still not clear precisely what was being said but an overall atmosphere in mood was present.

The “Critical Theory 2” seminar with Peter Rovostky was insightful and broken into four blocks- archive, network, humor and politics. I feel that the topics of humor and politics will provide the foundational concepts to support my work. I found them to be more thought provoking and tactile when compared to the archive or network sections of this seminar. The topics and strategies of humor and politics were very engaging and something I wish to research more this semester.

The elective seminar with Tomashi Jackson, “What For?: What Contemporary Work Are We Making and Why?” was socially broadening and developed my self-awareness. The class focused on the context in which individuals create their work. By learning how the social and environmental conditions of these individuals connected with their work, we took time to reflect on how our work interacts with our own local, national and international communities. The seminar also provided information on other local resources within the Boston arts community that I was unaware of and I am looking forward to interacting with in the future.

Looking ahead into this semester I would like to keep it simple. In the first semester I was overly ambitious with what I wanted to accomplish and in the end I was overwhelmed and unhappy with what I presented. Now, having a better sense of what is expected and what is possible in this timeframe, I have some strategies to

manage my time more efficiently in order to hopefully succeed in my goals for this semester. Specifically, I want to paint and draw more images from my head, including landscapes, figures, and any other imagery that introduces itself. I would like to embrace my fears and let myself go. I plan to continue experimenting with and mastering techniques to portray the moody and atmospheric qualities that I enjoy seeing and creating. I look forward to seeing where my work takes me and to receiving feedback during the January critiques.