

Final report
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6 June 2018

Marc and I had our final meeting yesterday. It was good to see the work he brought in, to talk over his semester so far and to delve into ideas on where the work might be headed. We had good, frank discussions, not only on his work but also on the struggles he encountered this semester and the re-adjustment to being in school.

He brought in drawings from two distinct series, each a project that has been ongoing for some time and that continues to unfold. The “address book series” are all vertical and on lined pages from an old address book. While most of the pieces date from 2016-2017, there are some more recent ones that he showed me at the previous meeting. It’s great to see how he experiments and plays around in these using a wide variety of marks, making images that range from purely abstract patterns and biomorphic forms to highly rendered representational beautifully volumetric images with subtle shading. The range these is terrific and also unexpected, particularly if you’ve only seen his landscapes. Plays on pattern, text, scale, humor give these a free spontaneous feel. The other series is one of drawings done under a strict restraint of time, each drawing done in two minutes, five images of the same subject. These are more notation-like, more fleeting in feel, and the best of them have a wonderful economy. There are a good number of drawings in both series, and Marc is continuing to add to each. It might be great for Marc to think more about where he wants to go with these. Is the additive effect solely in the number created, the volume, or do they change over time? They have a feel of a visual diary; could that be exploited? How much further could he push these with the excellent restraints he’s imposed?

Marc is very engaged whenever we speak at the studio. He is very open about his questioning of he wants his work to be, both formally and conceptually, and within the contemporary discourse. And he’s also questioning where to put his focus. It’s a time of searching and doubts and hesitations which, as uncomfortable as it is, is all part of the process. But he has struggled this semester to put in the required studio hours. It seems as though much of the work he brought to the meetings was done before this semester began and I’m concerned about the need to structure his time so he gets studio work done. We talked frankly about this, thinking up ways secure studio time and re-orient his priorities. It is always a struggle to balance the academic work, the studio time and the demands of personal life, and Marc seems aware the need for an adjustment on this.

Between now and the end of the semester Marc plans to jump back into paintings he started at the beginning of the semester. This is a perfect time for that. The drawing series have been good ways to get the mind sparked to visual thinking but may have also acted as more of a place holder. Now, wonderfully, he is eager to get back into painting, with all its complexities and densities and rhythms, and I know he’ll come back to it with a renewed vigor and intensity.