



THE FACULTY CORNER

FROM THE ANACAPA SCHOOL VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT. . .

The immense variety and impressive quality in the stunning display of student artwork at the Santa Barbara Fair & Expo shows how involved Anacapa students are with the visual arts. It is very rewarding for us to teach our respective art classes. We see it as an opportunity to help students use their creativity to make something completely original and personal, which can be a significantly distinct experience compared with their work in other disciplines. With our instruction, students learn essential concepts and criteria for quality art, as well as the specific procedures and techniques required by each medium. Perhaps more importantly, once the students have a good understanding of the guidelines, they learn a life lesson that is very valuable—that discipline and patience yield success.

Each student who begins our classes brings past experience and with that a certain level of skill and self-assurance. Some already think of themselves as artists, while others are quite convinced they have no talent at all. It is exciting for us as teachers to watch their competence and confidence improve as the course proceeds because the evidence of growth, both artistic and personal, is substantial. We see it and they see it.

We recently asked our students to briefly explain what their artistic experience this year has taught them, and we share some of their responses here:

My artistic experience has taught me to appreciate different forms of expression.

*Whether it is in photography or ceramics, I can express myself
in so many different ways. Also, I have learned that being a good artist
isn't about how pretty or complex your artwork is, but the love you put into it.*

G.H. – 11th grade

*It has taught me to be patient and reach out to new ideas / things
that I have never tried before. When something goes wrong, I just have to be patient
with myself and keep going. When trying something new, I have to try my very best.*

O.G. – 8th grade

My artistic experience has taught me to not rush, instead go slow.

Whatever you're working on tends to turn out better.

N.F. – 8th grade

*I have learned many new techniques and skills that improved my artistic ability.
My experience has also taught me to be much more patient and spend more time on my art.
I now try to take my time so I can get all the details that I want and make better pieces.*

K.F. – 9th grade

(over please)

*I have learned that with a basic knowledge of shape and space,
anyone can make something that can be art. I never thought of myself as artistic,
and as a result, I never tried to push myself in that direction.*

I see that I was wrong and can stop doubting myself.

A.C. – 12th grade

*Art has taught me how to produce work by a deadline and
learn to appreciate it even if it is not perfect or my best work ever.*

It's taught me to enjoy the process of the project.

I.R. – 11th grade

Art has taught me that perfection is not always necessary, and imperfections can be lovely.

I am now capable of seeing my work as finished.

A.G. – 12th grade

If you miss the students' work at the Fair & Expo (or if you just want to see it again!), be sure to come to the on-campus Anacapa Student Concert and Art Show on Monday, May 23. It is sure to be a great show!

~ ~ Suzie Sichi and Paula Campanelli