



THE FACULTY CORNER

FROM THE ANACAPA SCHOOL VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT. . .

DIGITAL VOYAGE: MEDIA STUDIO

In Digital Voyage, students learn the basics of storytelling as well as the art and techniques of digital filmmaking. The spring semester Digital Voyage: Media Studio class consists of new and returning students. The crew is honing their writing skills and preparing to shoot two short thriller films in the coming weeks.

Students will work in the Celtx software suite to plan, write, and schedule their film shoots. They will then shoot their films on the school's new HD video camera and finally edit them in Final Cut Pro X on the school's 27-inch iMac computers, which were especially designed for video editing.

Early in the semester, the class critiqued exemplary samples of storytelling such as NPR's "This American Life," which is known for taking rather ordinary people's stories and turning them into epic tales. Students also learned a bit about the history of the media they are working in as the class viewed Ken Burns' "Empire of the Air," a saga about the early days of heated competition in broadcasting.

With an eye toward the business-end aspects of the arts, students also studied some of the implications of modern copyright laws which can make sampling, remixing, and parody all the more challenging. Armed with an understanding of art, technique, and policy, this year's young crew is eager to have their ideas seen and heard and with the instant distribution power of the Internet, students now have the ability to send their productions around the world!

~ Levi Maaia

PHOTOGRAPHY

First semester was an exciting time for Anacapa as the Photography elective was re-established. We soon forged a symbiotic relationship with the Performing Arts class when they provided us with practical assignment work and we provided them with artistic material to enhance their performances. For the Performing Arts show *Born in the USA*, the Photography students produced the images shown as each song was performed. Their technical knowledge supported creative expression, and the students produced beautiful, intriguing images that portrayed the emotional life of each song. The students also practiced "street photography" on State Street in order to provide the Performing Arts students with photographs on which they could base a scene sketch.

This semester, as with the last, we started with units on the exposure triangle, creative uses of aperture and shutter speed, and the elements of composition and design (where the students noted the crossover between Studio Art and Photography). We will be creating images to be entered in the Santa Barbara Fair & Expo as well as providing material for Anacapa's Art Show in May and the 2012-2013 yearbook. In addition, the students will continue to hone their shooting and editing skills in order to build their own portfolio of work.

Much of the knowledge gained in the practice of photography pertains to the rest of life: you learn from your mistakes as much as from your successes, perseverance pays off, the more you learn of the technical side of things the more you can rely on your intuition, etc. It is exciting to see the ways in which these photographers grow and how they express themselves through their photography.

~ Alison Nigh Strelch

(over please)

STUDIO ART AND ART OF THE WORLD

To me, it is fascinating that every culture in the world creates a form of visual art. From the Aboriginal Bark Paintings of Australia to the newest effort of Christo in Germany, artists have been inspired throughout the ages to communicate their ideas; though viewers may not understand the spoken language of an artist, we can often understand his or her art. In Studio Art and Art of the World, two of the primary objectives are for Anacapa students to both appreciate a myriad of visual expressions and to gain the skills to participate themselves in this universal language that is art.

Both classes spend a considerable amount of time studying the work of other artists: in Art of the World indigenous art forms are studied which usually are not associated with an individual artist, while in Studio Art the main focus is Western Art so by the end of the year the students will be responsible for recognizing and being familiar with the work of at least 100 specific artists. Anacapa students learn to understand the connections between an art form and the culture that created it, the historical time period when it was made, and the ideas that the artist wanted to share and how the artist accomplished that—all skills that enhance students' ability to appreciate the work that they have studied, while training their eyes to analyze and thus better understand all art.

Most of class time in both classes is spent with students working on their own projects with a variety of different media. Art of the World this year has worked with paper, yarn, paint, clay, and soap to name a few; Studio Art has employed many different black and white media first semester and is now busy learning the intricacies of color. Making one's own art brings a tremendous amount of appreciation for the skill of the artists we study, while studying art of others enhances the students' own efforts—it's a wonderfully symbiotic relationship.

While it may be impossible for all students to learn all the spoken languages of the world, by learning about art and working to create their own art, all students can make meaningful connections with others. As crowded together as we are becoming on this planet, this will be more important than ever before.

~ **Suzie Sichi**

CERAMICS

You will be happy to know that our Ceramics class is getting their cardio workout this year in class! The ceramic technique of slab rolling requires that the students put all their strength into rolling out even slabs using "sticks and bats" (our terms for rolling pins and guide sticks) to create slabs of even thickness. They have used this method to make beautiful plates for the auction, cylinders for textured vases, and pots and cut slabs to piece together box shapes.

Last semester to bring in a little local history, the students wrapped fresh slabs over their thighs to make roof tiles just like the ones we see all over Santa Barbara. Then when the tile was bisqued, they glaze painted exquisite views of the Santa Barbara Mission. This semester after the students learned about "Space" during the Synthesis Unit, they went to outer space in Ceramics class! They made fantastic disk-shaped tiles with a planet or space object of their choosing that will soon be displayed on campus. You will have an opportunity to see all these pieces and more at the Santa Barbara Fair & Expo in April and our own Anacapa Art Show in May. We all look forward to sharing our Anacapa Visual Arts projects of 2012-13 with you!

~ **Paula Campanelli**