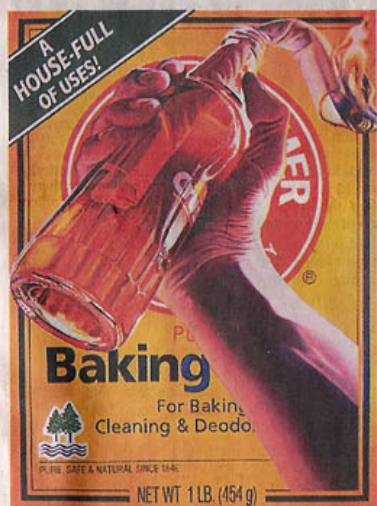


Visual Arts

Reflections of the new masters

With graduation season comes a new wave of art-school graduates, their Masters of Fine Arts degrees conferred by Massachusetts College of Art, Boston University, and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. What do you learn in such programs, and when you are done, what comes next?

BY MICHAEL PRAGER/GLOBE STAFF



Clockwise from top left: "Exam 2003," by Allan Doyle; "W" by Melissa Dold; detail of an untitled work by Ittetsu Funada; detail of an installation, "Cocoon," by Sookyoung Eo; "Har Hammer," by Jason Chase.

Jason Chase

Boston University
Age: 25
Born: Colorado Springs
Resides: Somerville
A contemporary artist you admire: "James Rosenquist. He's one of the founders of Pop, and his work has been inspirational to mine."
Was art school worth it? "I have to say yes."
Why? "The amount of time it affords to you to do nothing but concentrate on your work. I wanted to bump up the resolution of the rendering of my paintings and become a more patient painter. To be able to sit with a painting constantly for upwards of, for some, six months."
How did school change your art and/or process? "Before I came here, the meaning of the paintings was a hell of a lot more shallow."
How did you choose your medium? "I've always painted in oil. And BU specifically is a painting school."
What makes your voice unique? "I think my work tries to engage a conversation not just with someone with an education in art history. It tries to get a dialogue going with anybody about the images in the world about us."
Where do you find your inspiration? "Anywhere from the grocery aisle to the neighborhood I live in. It's always just moments of walking around and responding to what my eye catches."
What's next? "I'm in a show currently in the Gallery @ Green Street. I'm going to be in a show this summer at the Nielsen Gallery down on Newbury. The next thing is to fire up the studio and continue the work."

Melissa Dold

Boston University
Age: 29
Born: Redwood City, Calif.
Resides: Boston
A contemporary artist you admire: "Terry Winters. He's a printmaker and a painter. I agree with his whole philosophy of painting, as well as how he integrates printmaking and drawing and painting all together."
Was art school worth it? "Definitely."
Why? "Because I had two years to focus solely on my painting."
How did school change your art and/or process? "I started taking printmaking, so when I started making woodcuts and etchings, the visual language of my works changed drastically."
How did you choose your medium? "When I started 10 years ago, there was a natural moment when I fell in love with oil painting. I feel like I didn't have a choice. It just suited me and my personality and what I wanted to say."
What makes your voice unique? "I'm trying to be as personal as possible. I try to really draw on my own experiences."
Where do you find your inspiration? "From other artists, from the landscape, from everyday existence. Every walk I take. Every path I take."
What's next? "I'm going to paint. I just rented a studio in Somerville and I'm going to try to find teaching opportunities."

Allan Doyle

School of the Museum of Fine Arts
Age: 32
Born: Kingston, Ontario
Resides: Cambridge, Ontario
A contemporary artist you admire: "Gerhard Richter. He seems to have accomplished a remarkable level of mastery both technically and in his historical and theoretical knowledge."
Was art school worth it? "Yes, it was. One, because it will allow me to be a university professor, which is what I always wanted to do. Two, it made me a better artist. Three, it allowed me to meet some really interesting people who will be helpful in my career."
How did school change your art and/or process? "It helped me find my own voice within the contemporary art scene within America, something I hadn't been that familiar with until I came to the US."
How did you choose your medium? "I think it kind of chose me. You mess around with a bunch of different stuff, and suddenly something feels right."
What makes your voice unique? "I would say that my interest in the history of art, the theory and philosophy of art, and really traditional technical issues are some things I try to triangulate. Usually you're in one camp or another."
Where do you find your inspiration? "In museums and on the Internet, for the current body of work."
What's next? "I'm actually going to do an MA and perhaps a PhD in art history/critical theory, and still make paintings."

Sookyoung Eo

Mass. College of Art
Age: 32
Born: Kwangju, South Korea
Resides: Boston
A contemporary artist you admire: "Tom Friedman. He uses the characteristics of the material and exaggerates it in order to transform the material without sacrificing where it came from."
Was art school worth it? "Yes, of course. I feel like I grew as an artist and as a person."
What changed in your art and/or your process? "When I started at Mass. Art my background as a fiber artist was directed more toward a marketable product. I've learned about the source of my art and what drives me to find meaning beyond what commercial art offers."
How did you choose your medium? "The material is decided by the requirements of the idea. For the work in my thesis show, the idea was accumulation. I needed a material that would express this in a very direct way. It actually took me a long time to find just the right size and quality of bead to use for '3,000 Prayers.'"
What makes your voice unique? "I am an individual, so of course what I have to say is different than others. I am from Korea, so my thinking and aesthetic is probably contributing to a distinct voice or at least the appearance of difference."
Where do you find your inspiration? "I have many different sources, ranging from nature to other artists' work to my family and my experience in this new culture."
What's next? "Keep developing. Keep working. I would love to keep doing what I'm doing. Find a studio and just keep working and at the same time make money. I work in a textile design studio in the South End."

Ittetsu Funada

Mass. College of Art
Age: 28
Born: Ehime, Japan
Resides: Boston
A contemporary artist you admire: "Matthew Ritchie. He has a vocab color, a sense of architecture and specificity."
Was art school worth it? "Yes, it is so much more open [and]... it I get criticism and relationships with peers."
How did school change your art process? "I used to focus primarily printmaking, but I started using materials like light boxes and making installations."
How did you choose your medium? "I always looking for new material. I time I chose to engage with acetate vellum, which have so much possibility for transparency."
What makes your voice unique? "It is crazy and my process is painfully count numbers, sometimes 1 to 8,000. But I believe in my instinct."
Where do you find your inspiration? "I try to analyze myself, inside myself and I try to find contradiction between self and the larger grouping of society."
What's next? "After I graduate I continue making art at home or gallery space. I want to develop more box images [and] to keep counting fibers but maybe in different ways, different characters or language."