College Benefits an Artist

After careful evaluation of my life, the decision to start college was something I felt was necessary. I’m a 48 year old mother of five children, with no career. I am a self- taught artist and as you know how the saying goes… “starving artist”. Well, not quite starving, but felt education would help me out as an artist.

I felt it necessary to go to college to see what kind of career options would be available to me as an artist. Struggling to sell my art, or finding a full time job as an artist, I contemplated on what it was I needed to do. College seemed to be my only answer. I felt that with more education I would be able to learn more about art, learn how to market my work, the language of art, and maybe even find a job as an artist. In the article, “Benefits of an Education in the Visual Arts” Carmina Clanciulli states “Formal training in the visual arts through a baccalaureate program allows students the opportunity to mold, shape and enhance their natural talents.” That is exactly what I need.

Though only in my 3rd semester, I’ve already learned so much. In my painting class I’ve learned a lot about color, contrast, composition, and content. The 4 c’s of painting, color, meaning warm/cool, contrast, meaning light/dark, composition, meaning , the design, and content, meaning, your idea. My point is that even though I am an excellent artist, I had no idea about the language of art. I just painted what I saw in my head. With education I’m learning the language of art, new technics, drawing, design, and the history of art. I know that this will benefit me as an artist to be able to market my work, as John Berger states in The White Bird, “ Art does not imitate nature, it imitates a creation sometimes to purpose an alternative world.” To really learn to create you need education to become a better artist and this ultimately makes you a part of a discourse community.

In English class I’ve learned a lot about writing, and language, the different styles of writing, and that helps me when I am working on the internet to market my work through social networking. I’ve got a business facebook page I’ve designed a free web page on weebly, and I have also joined an artist club. It has benefited me in writing skills and language. In speech, well, communication is the skill there, both my informative, and persuasive speeches were about painting and I was able to teach the class how to paint a flower, which went really well by the way, but in turn I learned that even teaching painting classes could be an option for me, another way to market my work. Drawing Class has been an exciting adventure, it has challenged me to use a pencil and other mediums that are available for artists, and I surprised myself on how well I could draw, there again not only will this benefit my painting, selling my pencil and chalk drawings is another option. I was also informed that there is a class on comic strip design.

It’s going outside the box that can benefit any artist and going to college can be an exciting new adventure, you are not only getting a better education, you are really learning how to be a better artist, as Carimina states, “ In addition to instruction in art, faculty at art schools provide career development and support. They teach coursework that includes strategies for resumes, grant proposals, and portfolios, and provide contacts for employment opportunities.” This is also a great aspect in going to college and to me that is going outside of the box to expand my horizons, to market my work, to become a professional artist.

So far I’ve had a great experience here at mid. I’ve had great instructors, and nice peers. I don’t feel out of place, which is something I feared. I have learned so much and really enjoy coming to school. Art is of course my major and because I love painting and all things artistic, learning more about it is wonderful. With my busy home life I sometimes struggle to get my homework done, and I think that has been my biggest struggle. Writing in English has also been a challenge, being I haven’t had any schooling in 30 years, everything is new to me. I was so proud of myself though when I got an A in Eng.110, an A in all my art classes, my speech class not so well, but what can I say, the experience was everlasting and I can’t be good at everything. All in all, I love coming to school and learning new things, and that even surprises me! So if you’re an artist, and haven’t been to college, I would highly recommend it, there is so much more to learn and if you love what you do you will love to learn more about it. If you would like to see my work you can go to: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Beginnings-Decorative-Painting-and-Designs-by-Sheila/139079536153073?ref=hl> or my website at weebly: <http://newbeginningsdecorativepaintings.weebly.com/>.

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