

Reflections From Abroad 2017 - 18



Education Abroad and a Sense of Place

By Dr. John E. Peters
Dean of International Programs



Waiting to welcome dozens of new students arriving in Florence for their freshman year

I was fortunate to grow up at a time and place when kids were free to roam the county streets; make their own, mostly innocent, fun; enjoy time with family; and learn with excellent teachers in a great public school system. In grade school I just assumed that *The Andy Griffith Show's* Mayberry was based on my hometown (even though Mayberry did have a stoplight).

That day at Sammy's, I was only half listening to my dad's conversation, preferring instead to read my *Spiderman* comic book, sip at mouth-burning hot chocolate, and occasionally glance out the window to see if anyone I knew was passing by. In those years, my dad worked at the local Safeway grocery, and my mom owned an antique shop called Jackson Antiques. I haven't lived in Jackson for more than half of my life, yet many people remark that the majority of my "stories" come from my childhood, from Jackson.

Fast forward to this year. My daughter, a high school senior in Florence, recently sent me a link to a wonderfully personal YouTube video, "Sense of Place," she had made for a school

project. In the mysterious way coincidences work, I had just been reviewing a colleague's syllabus that included the sense-of-place theme. Coincidence, yes, but surprise, no. Academics, authors, poets, and songwriters from a range of disciplines talk about the idea of a sense of place and explore why some places hold particularly special meaning for individuals and communities.

While a sense of place may start with a specific environment, location, or a single individual, it goes deeper. It emerges from a coalescence of natural, cultural, and social phenomena, but it is also visceral, something you feel with both head and heart, something almost tangible. Such a place helps us understand who we are and informs how we see and interact with the world. It offers us joy in the moment and often for years to come, even when it may no longer be a part of our daily lives.

In my daughter's video, she traces moments that have special meaning for her, focusing on family, friends, music, sports, and her interactions with people in different environments and landscapes. Prominently featured are her early childhood years in Zimbabwe and South Africa; time spent in New York, Florida, and California; and her teenage years in Europe. Some people in the video I know, and many I do not. The first time I watched "Sense of Place," I wondered how a short sense-of-place video could contain, well, so many places.

It's a beautiful video, and it's a great reminder of the importance of place in our lives. I do not study in Zimbabwe. Thorlp





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About

Marist Abroad promotes international engagement and academic, personal, overseas internships, and intercultural programming.



Our programs offer a variety of study abroad experiences that support a broad range of educational objectives with affiliated programs on six continents. Marist Abroad is open to all Marist students meeting eligibility criteria and upon successful application.

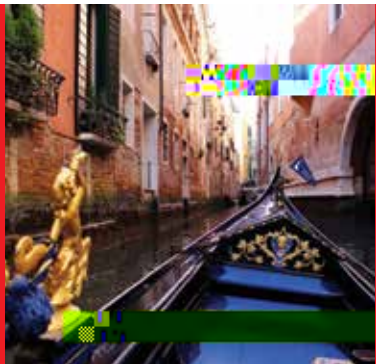
Some Marist programs are open to non-Marist students as well. We offer semester, full academic year, J-term, spring attachment, and summer programs that enable students of any major to study abroad and complete degree requirements within their four-year plan.



Marist College, in partnership with Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici, is the only U.S. college or university with a full branch campus in Florence offering both undergraduate and graduate degrees. Bachelor's degrees are available in studio art, art history, conservation studies, digital media, fashion design, interior design, Italian, and global marketing communication. Graduate studies lead to a Master of Arts in Museum Studies.

An undergraduate Certificate in Sports Communication is offered every spring semester, and summer programs include the Venice Biennale Studio and Art History Program and the ASPIRE Program in France.







I really didn't want to, but I had to, because I knew I would regret it if I didn't. The Samoan kids took the plunge, and then Mike leaped, and Erin wanted to, so I had to! I guess I felt peer pressure, but I like to think of it as good peer pressure.

The drop felt interminable, and I didn't know what to do with myself in the air for that long. Finally the ocean's



Every Sha-la-lá-lá-lá



up with his furry of Spanish. I felt like an

of the past: the frst time you heard “Hotel

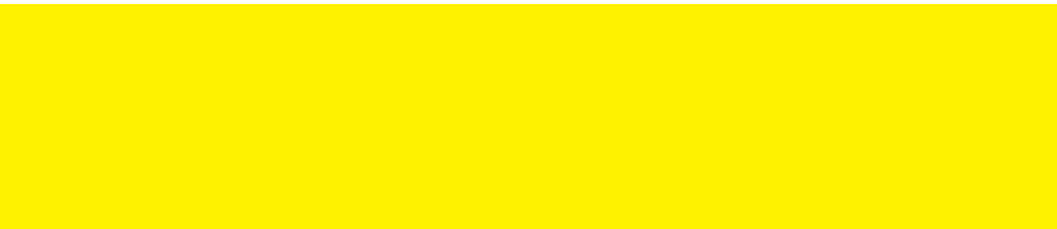
the rush of horns in Stevie Wonder’s
“Sir Duke” playing on that old turntable

fourth grade; or the Bee Gees’ “How





On the first day of my internship at the Hammersmith & shaking. My stomach wasn't doing so well either. "I can't believe it. This is it!"



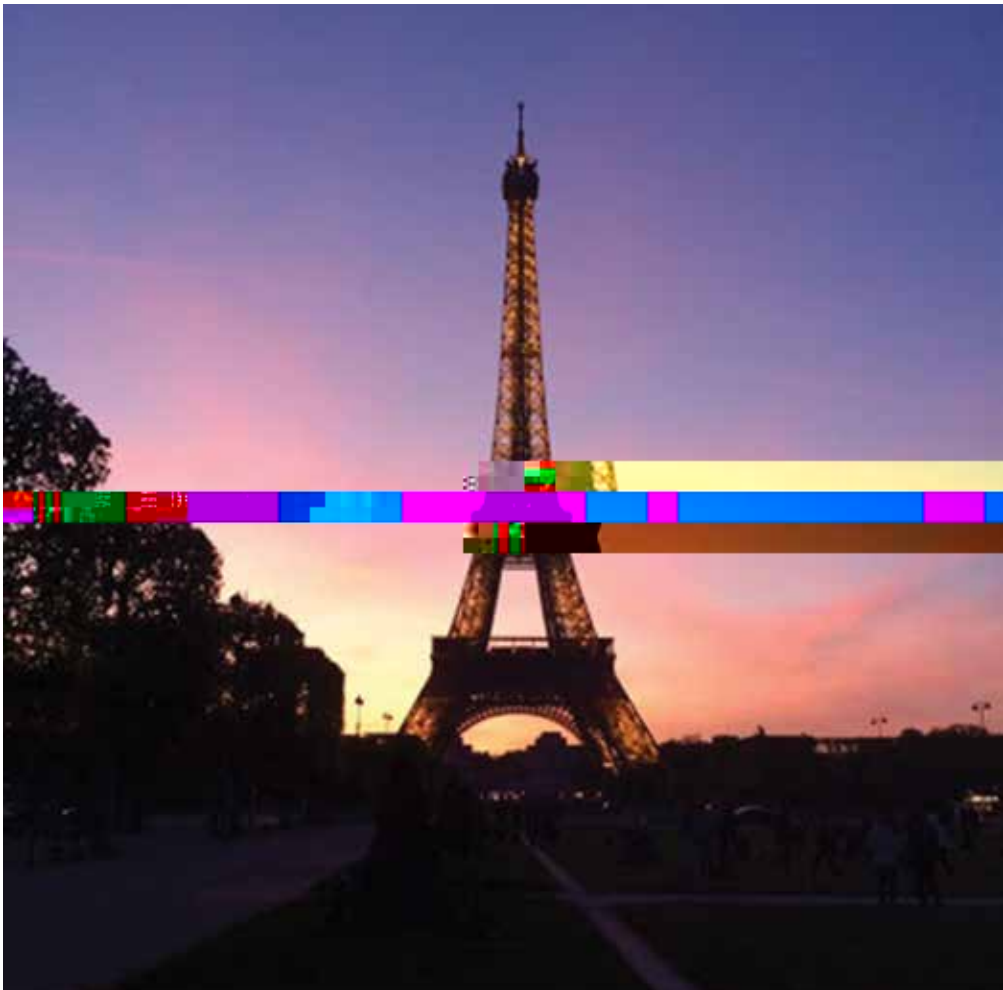
Amazingly, what turned me around was agreeing to take on yet another challenge! At home, I trained in martial arts for 14 years, and about eight months





Get ready for adventure.
Start your application today!
marist.edu/abroad

MARI



A Year Like No Other, with a Very Fashionable Twist

By Danielle Melillo



I have had so many extraordinary life-changing experiences because a handful of incredible professors and staff at Marist College believed in me and pushed me to live my dreams.

It was a summer internship in Paris that brought me the most special moments in a year filled with special moments, a summer position that opened and will continue to open doors for me to step through and explore. On a job-related trip to Asia, I was accompanied by my boss for three days, and then I traveled alone for eight. That my boss trusted me to represent her company throughout Hong Kong and Singapore – solo – was both a confidence-builder and a high compliment.

I jumped in head first, engulfing myself in the tantalizing food and bountiful cultural opportunities in Asia while gaining firsthand experience of the work life and consumer demographics in the region. So much activity in just 11 days. I met with buyers and marketing teams to discuss product distribution in Hong

“A full year abroad – a semester in Florence, a semester in Paris, and a fantastique summer internship in the City of Light that led to a business trip to Asia.”



Kong and Singapore and helped run two press events for the product launch of a new skincare line in Asia.

During the internship I worked closely with many stores throughout Asia as an assistant distributor. Being able to use both marketing and sales skills while abroad furthered my attraction to future work in international markets.

In just one year, I soaked up Europe (17 countries!), traveled to Africa, and worked in Asia! New cultures and foreign languages bring with them new perspectives that will forever color my career and personal life.

If someone told me 18 months ago that I would be overseas for a full year, I would have thought, “Not happening. That’s a long time.” I learned that to really grow, you sometimes have to go after goals you think may be unrealistic, because they may not be! So to anyone reading this and thinking about studying abroad, go!





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Marist Students Abroad – and Lenses – Open!



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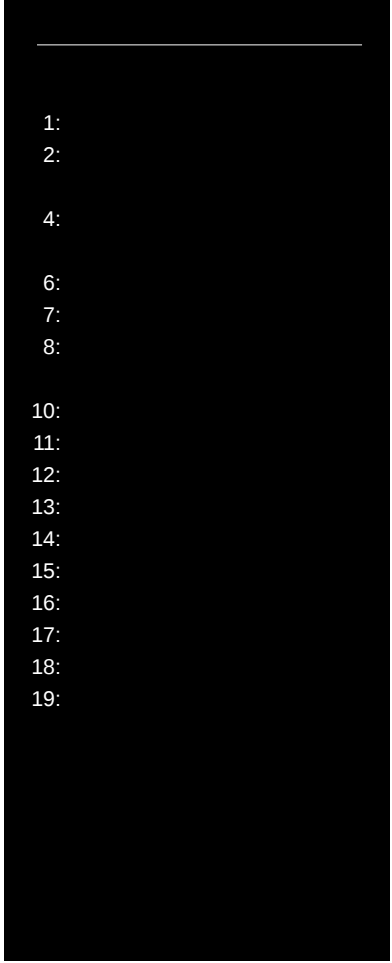
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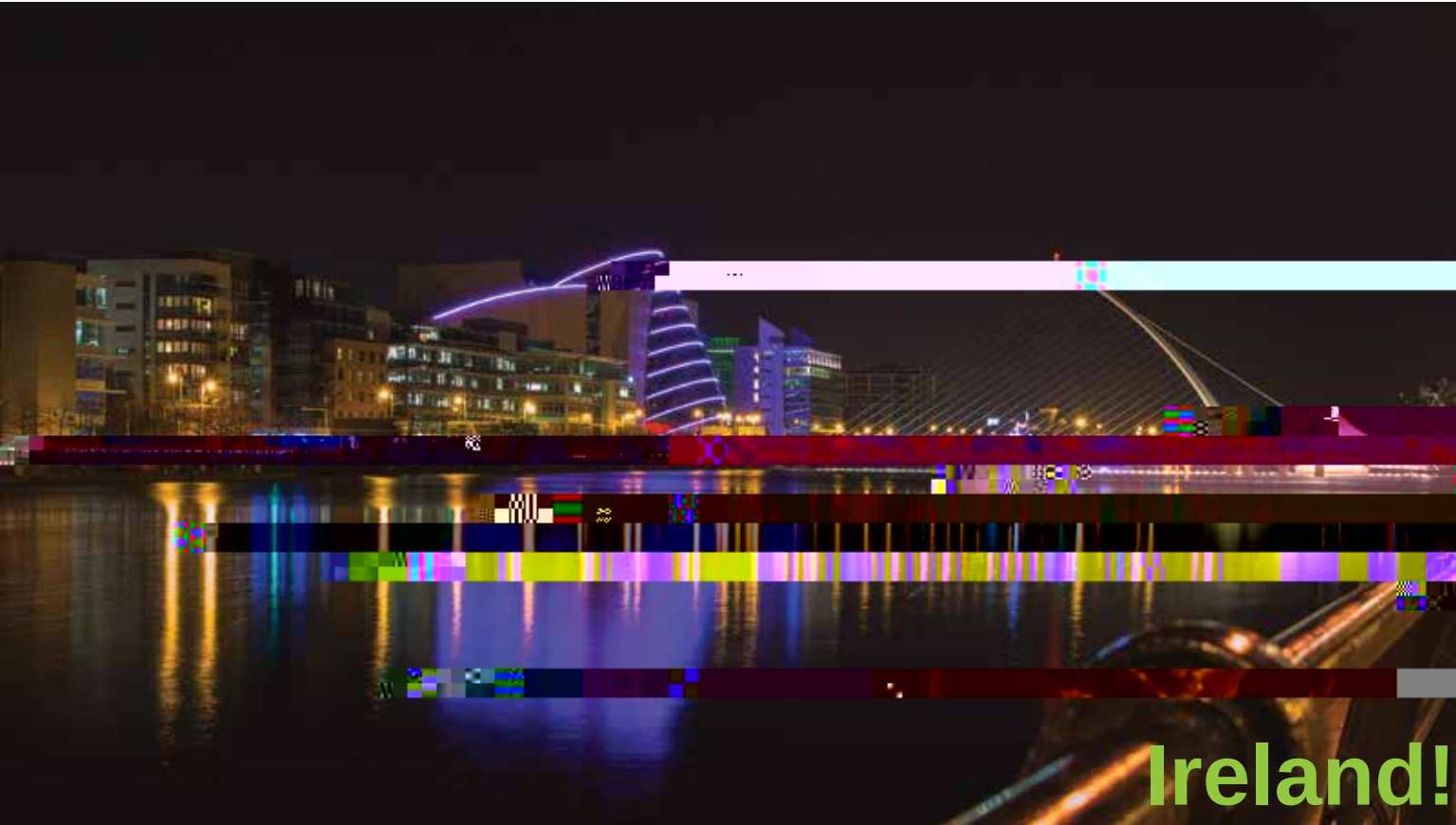


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Keep Their Eyes

Though they did not claim prizes in this year's photo contest, Marist students abroad submitted these prize shots. Enjoy all 80 entries at





Introducing the Freshman Dublin Experience



Marist's newest program, launching in fall 2018, is open to students from most majors at Marist. Requirements: commitment and a sense of adventure.

Marist created the program in partnership with the London-based Foundation for International Education (FIE), also a leader in the development of innovative freshman programs. Currently, students from more than 50 U.S.-based colleges and universities participate in FIE's programs.

Classes for the Freshman Dublin Experience will meet at the highly respected Dublin Business School, a private, fully accredited institution offering undergraduate and graduate courses in business, finance, anthropology, psychology, film studies, media studies, literature, and drama. Founded in 1975 and located in central Dublin, the Dublin Business School is now Ireland's largest independent institution of its kind, with a student population of almost 10,000.

Courses, educational excursions, and experiential education

The program's courses are wide ranging, but all students will take these courses in Dublin:

- **Irish Life and Cultures** is an interdisciplinary, first-year seminar course examining Irish life and society through reading, lectures, and field experiences in Dublin and other places



in Ireland. Subjects range from Irish economics to the politics of peace and conflict in Northern Ireland.

- **Writing for College** helps students develop and hone their writing and critical thinking skills while exploring subjects significant to historical and contemporary Ireland and the European Union.
- **First Year Forward** challenges students to place what they are learning in their courses into context – a formative, experiential, and singular opportunity for growth and development.

Each required course complements the others and engages students not only in the classroom, but also through group excursions, individual exercises, and small group work. Beyond these anchor courses, students will choose others at the Dublin Business School that align with their majors and interests. Students will typically complete 10-11 courses during the academic year and then join Marist's New York campus for their sophomore year.

On the move

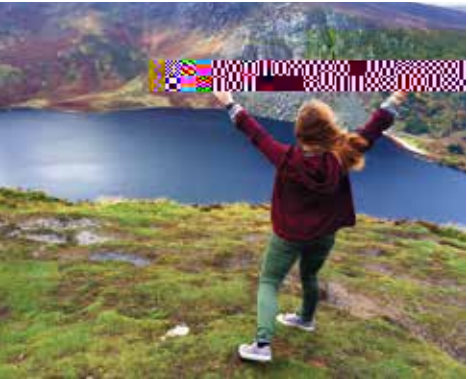
In addition to local excursions, there are two extraordinary trips. While exact itineraries will vary from year to year, students are likely to experience excursions like these:

Weekend in Northern Ireland. Start with a guided tour of the political murals in Belfast and Derry, taking time to discuss their social, political, and historical significance. Then enjoy a private tour of Stormont, site of devolved power in Northern Ireland and the home of the Northern Ireland Assembly. There could be a Q&A session with Members of the Legislative Assembly from different parties



or an opportunity to observe the Assembly in session. A guided historical walk of the Derry City walls (Derry is the only surviving walled city in Ireland) and visits to the Giant's Causeway and the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge within the picturesque coastal landscape of County Antrim round out a weekend of learning, questioning, and seeing Northern Ireland past and present.

- **Two-night stay in the West of Ireland.** The itinerary for this adventure west is likely to include a visit to the medieval city of Galway and then a full-day tour of Connemara to visit Kylemore Abbey and take in the sights and sounds of the cultural heart of Ireland. A ferry trip to the exclusively Irish-speaking Aran Island, Inis Mór, will allow students to experience firsthand a people facing cultural change.





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I was a Marist pioneer, the first to study in Samoa for a semester. I am also the first person in my family to study abroad, and when I try to share the experience with friends and family, I still feel somewhat speechless, because it was so transformative.

Studying abroad is one thing, but studying abroad in a developing country such as the Pacific Island of Samoa brings unique challenges. I applied to study there because of its potential to reshape my values and my sense of self. I am happy to say that Samoa did that for me with a rich program of lectures; seminars; educational excursions; independent study; and homestays on Fiji, American Samoa, and Samoa – as well as orientation in Hawaii.

For more than 50 years, Samoa has been an independent nation. In official United Nations terms, it has recently graduated from the category of a least-developed country to that of a developing country.

Samoa and the other Pacific Islands have rich indigenous cultures and practices. From the art of tattooing – often covering large areas of the body and looking like clothing – to kava, the national drink

made ceremoniously from the root of a pepper-like shrub, there was a feeling of authenticity that blew me away. I studied Pacific Island communities and social change as well as the many factors, including globalization, that have an impact on a developing nation. For the first time, I learned about how Western countries like the United States have colonized island nations such as Samoa, Fiji, and Hawaii, and contributed to the loss of land, life, and culture. The introduction of Western concepts has compromised and challenged some traditional values in the Pacific Islands. On the upside, I learned how Western influence has helped many small islands including American Samoa by creating jobs and a more stable economy.

In the United States, individuality is encouraged early on, not that we aren't expected to be able to be part of a team, an organization, or a community. But in Samoa, a greater value is placed on community than individualism, and living in such an environment has made me challenge some of my thinking, which is always a good thing.

One of the highlights of my time abroad was the freedom to develop my own

research project under the guidance of a mentor and advisor. I examined corporal punishment policy in Samoa and the difficulties of implementing and enforcing it. Corporal punishment is prohibited in schools, but many Samoan teachers and principals use it as a form of discipline or behavior management, possibly because historically it was acceptable in Samoan culture. Talking with teachers, administrators, students, and people in the community made the experience very personal and broadened my understanding of cultural differences and how they affect attitudes, values, and choices. I did not know that corporal punishment is still legal in more than a dozen states in the United States!

Samoa pushed and prodded me into becoming more flexible and capable of stretching further than I have ever had to at home. One of the most important lessons I brought home with me is how to get more comfortable with the uncomfortable. I have been seriously infected by the travel bug in the best possible way, and I know that studying abroad was only the launching pad for the rest of my journey.

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Freshman in Florence, Sophomore in New York. It Works!

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L...V...G...M...

*But freshman year? The whole year? Will I
feel out of it when I return to Marist in New
York? Will it be harder to make friends?*

Fair questions, all, and we believe the
answers are yes and yes (if you seek
the adventure of a year abroad) and
then no and no. We might not always
have answered no and no to the last two
questions, but two wonderful programs
at Marist are easing re-entry for students
taking advantage of our prestigious
Freshman Florence Experience (FFE). One
is our FFE Mentors Program, and the other
is the FFE Alumni Network.

Students studying abroad their freshman
year grow so much as people and
students that we are inspired by the
confidence they gain as they successqt thrin tb p q tht] ti as

Three Semesters Abroad – Why Not?

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Venice Biennale 2017

“The Marist Venice Biennale Program is unique at Marist and in GSPN



projects. Well-managed, “structured” freedom is one of the key success factors of this program, where inspiration and work style dictate a student’s routine, and following the muses is indeed a true option.

As visiting staff from Marist as well as an art historian, I remember perfectly the ambience of the studios when escorted there by Professor Smith my first night in Venice. Two weeks into the program, much of the artwork was already at an advanced stage, and each customized space revealed something about the student who inhabited it.

Every odd year, coinciding with the celebration of the International Exhibition of the Venice Biennale of Contemporary Art, Marist College and Istituto Lorenzo de’ Medici (LdM) collaborate to offer a rigorous month-long program in studio art and art history.

Student studios are in Chiesa di San Geremia (St. Geremia Church) in Venice. The work area has an open floorplan and plenty of light filling the historic building with energy. Each student enjoys a private space set off from the others by panels.

Studios are open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., freeing students from the constraints of more limited hours, so they can leave, grab something to eat, go for a walk, and still devote many working hours to their

There were areas so well organized that the evolution of a work of art became immediately apparent; no captions were needed to explain these artists’ creative processes. Other spaces revealed the unique charm of a work in progress. They brimmed with beautiful chaos in which random objects – snacks, brushes, beads, pieces of paper, inspiring photographs, or dismissed preparatory work – revealed something personal about the artist.

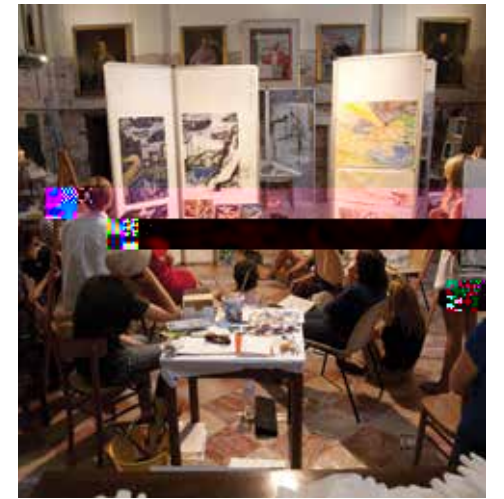
When I first arrived at the studio, some students were out getting some distance from their work, perhaps doing fieldwork in a city where art is virtually impossible to avoid. Those in the studio were reading, painting, thinking, talking. Some wore

headphones, watched series or movies, listened to music, or did multiple things at the same time! It was a flow of creation. Most remarkable was that little in the studio resembled a typical class or a school; it was more elevated than that. It looked more like the studios of a group of professional artists in residence.

Biennale program participants determine the medium, subject, and technique in which they will immerse themselves. Victoria Vuoso, for example, had taken a class in digital art at Marist and enjoyed the work so much, she wanted to further develop it. Mia Blas decided to work on abstract paintings in the old tradition of using handmade Venetian watermark paper.

Taylor Mancuso wanted to sculpt, and after taking photographs of random people around Venice, she created a bust that embodied all the people she encountered during her stay. And Kaitlyn Clows’s interventions on ready-made Venetian masks touched on the idea of the hidden self. All of these students concur that their tenure in Venice helped them better understand process, from getting started to working through bumps along the way to completion. A bonus of being part of a small program is the precious and exclusive time and attention each student enjoys from Professor Smith and Professor Gori.

2017





Experience 2016-17

Gabrielle Abrams
Katie Ahern
Alexandra Barnes-Schwartz
Tahiti Beaupre
Sarah Bond
Brynn Bottalico
Colleen Bradley
Alexis Broadnax
Katherine Burns
Lily Caffrey-Levine
Giselle Canko
Matthew Carpenter
Alexandra Cirovic
Megan Clarke
Rebecca Cole
Genesis Cortez
Olivia Cushman
Vasudha Devkota
Clairice Drexler
Katherine Feren
Hasion Gaston
Lauren Gisolf
Sarah Glass
Louis Higuera
Isabel Holden
Sonia Ikram
Steven Alan Jacobs
Olivia LaManna
Emma LeMay
Ivy Martinez
Jillian McCarthy
Amelia Nick
Sedinam Norvor
Kelly Obrycki
Emma O'Reilly
Alessandro Pirovano
Corinne Quinn
Brigid Rush
Alexandra Schmitt
Erin Sullivan
Rachel Sullivan
Olivia Vollaro

Campus Bachelor's

Hannah Armstrong
Madeleine Boland
Nicole Briel
Caroline Cimino
Kate Dieringer
Maria Dos Santos
Jennifer Durfey
Catherine Eble
Sara El-Jazara
Lara Epifanio
Mackenzie Fairchild
Anabel Fernandez
Daniela Filio-Flores
Maria Garcia
Alexis Harris
Avalon Hechinger
Madalyn Helgeson
Aida Hernandez
Minvielle
Nina Hsu
Juliana Inglese
Kim-Alexis Kratsios
Adonai Laureano
Julia Lindemon
Adelaida Lopez
Elizabeth McNeill
Camilla Mecagni
Anne Meringolo
Aimelie Moen
Thea Moussa
Ieva Prankeviciute
Nikki Ramirez
Tegan Rodricks
Kylie Savage
Nina Scheff
Johanna Schwabl
S(Ivy M33 OrQSeaManna)Tj0 -1.333 Ti667 TD(Gabr.QSeru51ey)cSerohanna Schwabl





	Spring 2017 Semester			
Brandon Arena		Karelin Santana	Kelly Peaks	
Camille Chambliss		James Sharkey	Nina Peppel	
Christopher DelGatto		Halli Stewart	Sydney Rojek	
Emily Denny		Carleigh Teague	Joshua Selkowitz	
Nicholas Esposito		Elio Velazquez	Brianna Tantimonaco	
Lesly Garcia	Lacy Catto		Jenna Whitehead	
Laura Gardner	Molly Chavenson			
Ethan Gibbons	Nicholas Cox	Sydney Cardoza		
Giovanni Gonzalez	Brian Dalton	Devon Dawson	Brendon Boldt	
Cristian Hernandez	Gregory Dooney	Kristin Dolan		
Leonardo Keefe	Myasia Farley	Morgan Downes		
Ivanna Lahoz	Colby Gray	Kelsey Ediger	Elizabeth Bouyea	
Leslie Lazcano	Joseph Greene	Michelle Eggink	Kate Fields	
Eric Macksoud	Allison Greir	Charlotte Harrison		
Ceydy Maldonado	Jennifer Gunther	Elizabeth Inman		
Kacey O'Brien	Andrew Herber	Stephanie Kaminsky	Madison Colledge	
Lauren O'Reilly	Shane King	Emily Keller	John Moore	
Tiffany Rosario	Leslie Lazcano	Willow Manning		
Anneliese Saltarelli	Brianne Linden	Melanie Marotta	Anneliese Saltarelli	
Alexander Silva	Kristen Miragliotta	Allyson McQuillan		
Lindsay Wells	Samuel Nast	Stefanie Mongiardo		
	Peter Ohanesian	Stella Morfessis		
	Jasmine Rodriguez	Audrey O'Donnell	Ashley Harrington	

Joseph Nasca
Kaylee Neff
Kayla Orlando
Meghan Polk
Christopher Rachek
Lyndsey Regis
Paola Rivera
Stephani Schell
Taylor Gee
Kerri Hannigan
Kelly Harris
Ashton Korona
Jiachen Liu
Danielle Melillo
Caitlin O'Brien
Jessica Rieger
Tom Tanne
Michelle Uranaka
William Wise

Krisztian Koves

Richard Mannarino

Ross Adler
Matthew Batory
Meghan Brennan
Darius Devitt
Kasey Geremia
Emma Greenberg
Liam Harwood
Heather O'Hara
Brendan O'Sullivan
Alexandra Tesman

James Ambrose
Pearl Amin
Barbara Aprilakis
Taiina Ayala
Gianna Bazzano
Alexandra Beers
Julianna Boras
Devin Buonanno
Taylor Burke
Jessica Campbell
Nicolette Cibelli
Amanda Cote
Tabitha Delacruz
Colin Delahoyde
Emily Denny
Kristina Dibble
Eleanor Downie
Thomas Drogalis
Hannah Dunn

Jennifer Durfey
Catherine Duxbury
Jenna Ficula
Megan Finocchiaro
Lauren Frawley
Brian Gannon
Julia Gerogiannis
Isabelle Hanke
Bradford Harris
Sarah Heath
Cassandra Jaeb
Amanda Kanski
Erin Kelly
Kelsi Kobata
Steven LaMaita
Jacob Levinson
Matthew Mazzoni
Jakina McCaulla
Stephanie McNamara
Lauren Mechler
Marcella Micillo
Claire Mino
Liam Moyles
Michaela Murray
Caitlin Nelson
David Otis
Joseph Palermo
Sam Pardys
Lauren Picone
Laura Platts
Gregory Potter
Zachary Pranger
Marisa Proscia
Jason Randall
Krista Ricke
Kaitlin Riley
Amanda Romano
Julia Santiago
Joseph Simeone
Alexandra Stephenson
Kayla Trockman
Anthony Tucciarone
David Vilecco
Nicole Violi
Sabrina Walls
Lauren Wright
Kimberly Yip
Patrick Zambri

Jensen Akey

Andrew Arrigo

Carol Ann Asselin

Erina Caferra

Vallie Joseph

Michelle Linker

Daren Pagan

John Randis

Zachary Recolan

Kristi Tolentino

Francesca Treglia

Peter Murray

Maxim Vitkin

Jillian Craig

Patricia Camarda
Devin De Los Santos
Ryan Guzhnay
Meaghan Houlihan
Daniel Minogue
Juliann Negrón
Marco Schaden

Elena Tesluk

2017 Faculty-Led

Jensen Akey

Andrew Arrigo

Andrew Bauman
Briana Bozkurt
Henry Catchpole
Zoe Eastwood
William Esposito
Shannon Foley
Tyler Galske
Elizabeth Garrison
Connor Gillis
Riley Hughes
Megan Klem
Grace McCue
Eric Pagliari
Jillian Preece
Patrick Quinn
Riana Ramirez
John Ryan
Victoria Schaefer
Michael Sirico
Molly Smith
Barbara Stall
Julia Towey
Brandon Traditi
James Wolf

Gina Annunziata
Jessica Bosak
Casey Bryant
Christine Carletta
Mario Cesareo



Liam Cullen
Caroline DeWald
Paige DiFiore
Julia DiMarzo
Kiera Fitzgibbon
Kerry Gaye
Jennifer Gehrlein
Mary Gnibus
Tara Kinsella
Ashley Larraga
Nicolette Muro
Brianna Paganini
Tristan Rowley
Cameron Smith
Olivia Stivala
Skyler Van Valkenburgh
Eleanor Virgilio

MARIS

“The purpose of life is to live it, to taste
experience to the utmost, to reach out
eagerly and without fear for newer and
richer experience.”

