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Nature of a Painting Studio

Amber Sieradzki
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By Amber Sieradzki
And FSU Department of Fine Arts
Professor Lilian-Garcia Roig

Abstract

Under the supervision of the Department of Art’s Professor Lilian Garcia-Roig, I learned many aspects that go into a successful painting studio. One of the most important factors of a painting studio is the end target, or where you will get to exhibit your work of art. I was fortunate enough to oversee the curation and set up of one of the many shows that Lilian Garcia-Roig was exhibited in. Driptorch, the show that was held in Thomasville, Georgia during the months of November to January, exhibited a collection of artists that included two Florida State University’s Department of Art Professors, Lilian Garcia-Roig and Mark Messersmith.

Research before Driptorch

Before I went to Thomasville to help with Driptorch, I had independent time to research aspects of curating a show and owning a gallery. This research prepared me for the tasks that I would be given during the set up of the show. With the help of my research, I was able to make informed decisions of where to place certain pieces of art, and also communicate effectively with the museum owner.

Nature of a Painting Studio + Driptorch

I learned that while working on paintings in the studio, it is good to keep in mind the end goal. For many artists, the end goal of a painting is to be able to contribute that piece to an on growing, cohesive body of work. Having your work be cohesive with each other is a big part of having a strong portfolio. Like Lilian Garcia-Roig’s work, every piece of hers contributes to her bigger body of work. Each of her pieces have visual and conceptual links between them. With Driptorch, having similar cohesive ideas between the different exhibiting artists was an important part of the show’s overall theme.

Conclusion

Overall, the opportunity to work one on one with a professor in my department was a rewarding experience that I wouldn’t have had without the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program. One of the greatest things I took away from this project was the idea of new career goals. This project opened my eyes to the professions of a museum owner, curator, and also a professional exhibiting artist.