

PORTFOLIOWORKS

FALL 2020



Large scale graphite and ink wash drawing by Paris based student applying to US and UK art programs.

UPDATES

We send you all greetings from Paris and hope that you are all well and feeling as hopeful and optimistic as we are about 2021.

We feel fortunate that PortfolioWorks was able to adapt easily to the safety requirements of the pandemic. We have always worked online with our international students, so when our local students could not longer come to the studio we already knew how to continue the work at a distance. Unfortunately, the burden of this change fell mostly to the students, who had to transform their bedrooms into studios and create everything themselves without the benefit of direct technical or direct emotional support they had hoped for. What

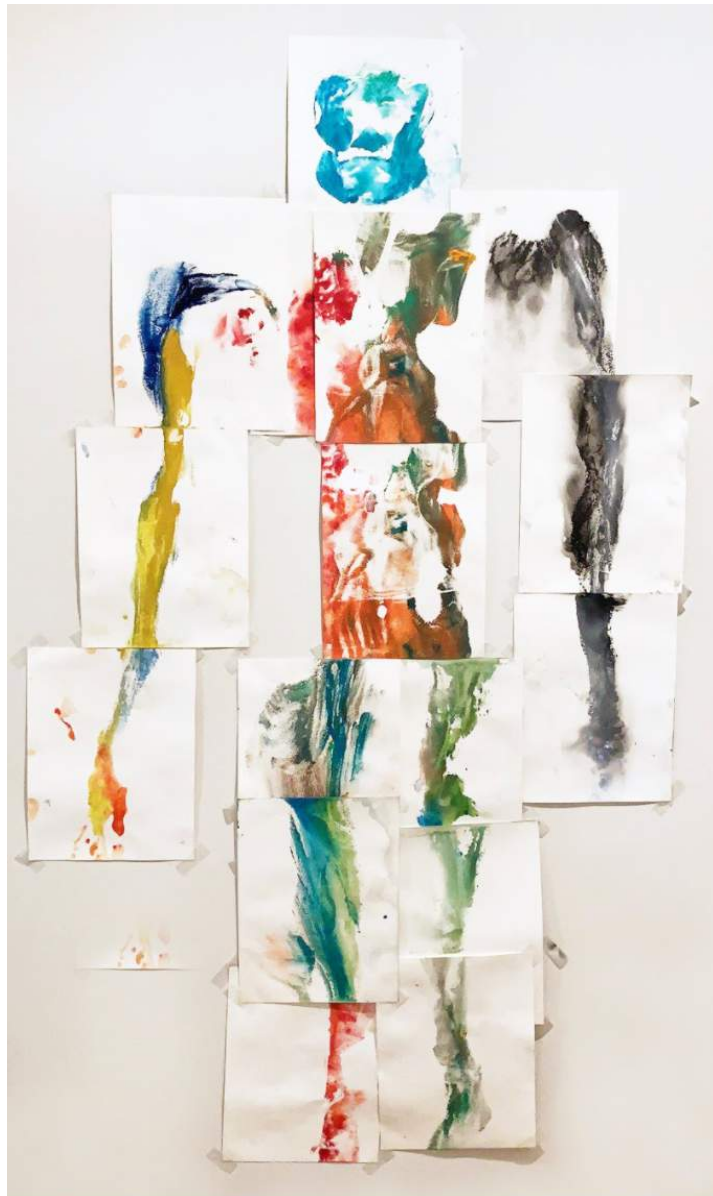
this demanded from us is longer emotional antennae able to reach through screens, more frequent follow-ups, reminders, and essentially 24/7 availability to all our students, in particular around deadlines.

The pandemic brought other changes, as well. We realised that students were not learning some of the skills they would be receiving under normal classroom circumstances, such as life or observational drawing skills, which are essential to demonstrate in some portfolios, in particular those going to animation programs. Students have also been unable to attend other support classes like pre-college art programs, drama programs, or group portfolio development classes. To help compensate for these limitations we added a summer pre-college package to our services and two excellent and experienced new advisors/instructors, Clarence Tokley for drama and Rami Baglio for life drawing. We have heartily welcomed them on board and are already seeing the impressive results of their work. You can read more about them in the following introduction.

We are full on at the moment, like many of you, with our students wrapping up their projects and making final edits before the upcoming deadlines. Pandemic be damned, our students are optimistically working their tails off, with architecture, animation, fashion, design, film and supplemental portfolios heading off to CalArts, SAIC, NYU, VCU, Northeastern, Cornell, Renesselaer, RISD, Pratt, Parsons, U. of Penn, Skidmore, Vassar, Bard, IE Madrid, Mendrisio, Architectural Association, ECAL, UCL Bartlett, Central St. Martins, Marangoni London, Bournemouth, Farnham, City and Guilds, Ravensbourne, Cambridge School of Visual and Performing Arts, and others.

We will be in touch again in the Spring and in the meantime wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays, Happy New Year, and Happy Inauguration.

Maggie and Allison



Assembled body prints made by Boston based student applying to US BA and BFA Architecture programs.

INTRODUCING RAMI BAGLIO AND CLARENCE TOKLEY

We are pleased to welcome Rami Baglio and Clarence Tokley to PortfolioWorks. They will apply their considerable experience to helping students develop their work in the areas of life/observational and drama/monologue selection and preparation.

Rami Baglio is an American artist who lives and works in New York City and Florence Massachusetts. She works in oil paint and assorted drawing media, exploring various forms of self-portraiture and observational drawing and painting. Observing and working from life as a means of understanding light, form, and



movement are integral to her work. This becomes an access point to investigating the psychology of given subject matter, whether people, objects, spaces, or abstract thoughts and ideas. She is the recipient of numerous awards in the arts, and exhibits her work internationally.

Rami has a comprehensive background in figure drawing and painting. She spent years studying classical drawing and painting with Studio Escalier, The New York Academy of Art, Florence Academy, The Ryder Studio, and the Art Students League of New York. She holds an MFA from The New York Academy of Art, where she is currently a faculty member and instructor, and a BA in studio art from Hampshire College.

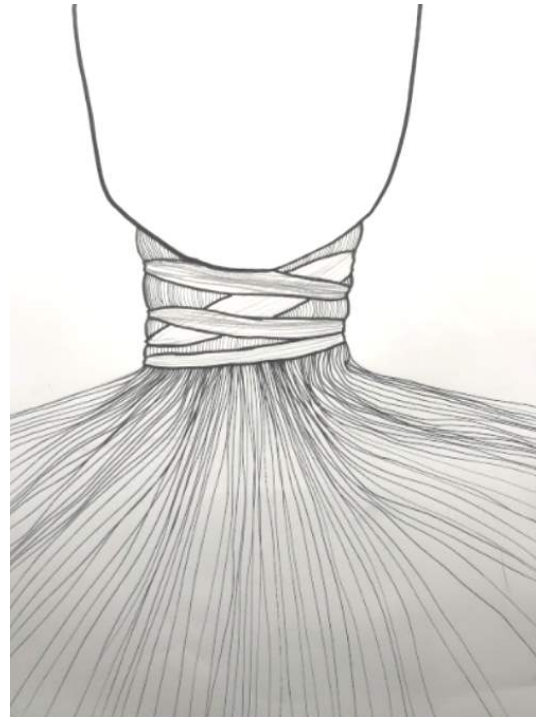
Clarence Tokley

Clarence Tokley is a Paris-based teacher, filmmaker, and producer. A native of New Jersey, Clarence attended Rutgers University, obtaining a degree in History and Film Studies. His work incorporates a wide range of styles and techniques that mirror his varied course of study in acting. He has studied acting in Philadelphia, New York and Paris. His approach incorporates the techniques of Strasberg, Meisner, Hagen, Stanislavski, Viewpoints and others. Clarence believes that an actor must find the right tools to place in their tool kit to achieve the truthfulness and presence needed to connect to their work, partners and audience. He tailor fits his approach to each individual and their strengths and needs. His work reflects his collaborative spirit and focus on body, voice, face and movement. Helping the actor achieve the balance to keep their instrument prepare and open to being presence and oneself.



When he's not teaching, Clarence continues to work professionally in film and theatre production

in and around Paris. He's co-founder of the theatre company The Big Funk Company and worked and produced a number of award winning projects and short films. He has a strong love for creating, collaboration, and helping students achieve their dreams and goals. Clarence wishes to continue exploring his craft and growing as an artist, person and educator.



Drawings by Paris based student applying to UK fashion management programs.

PORTFOLIO PROCESS #2



Student: International Relations college graduate (UK)

Art Training: Self taught, some photography

University goals: Initially Masters programs in Photography or Electronic Art, then switched to Masters programs in Fine Arts, UK

Communication mode: Exclusively Zoom

Hours of advising/instruction: 20 hours

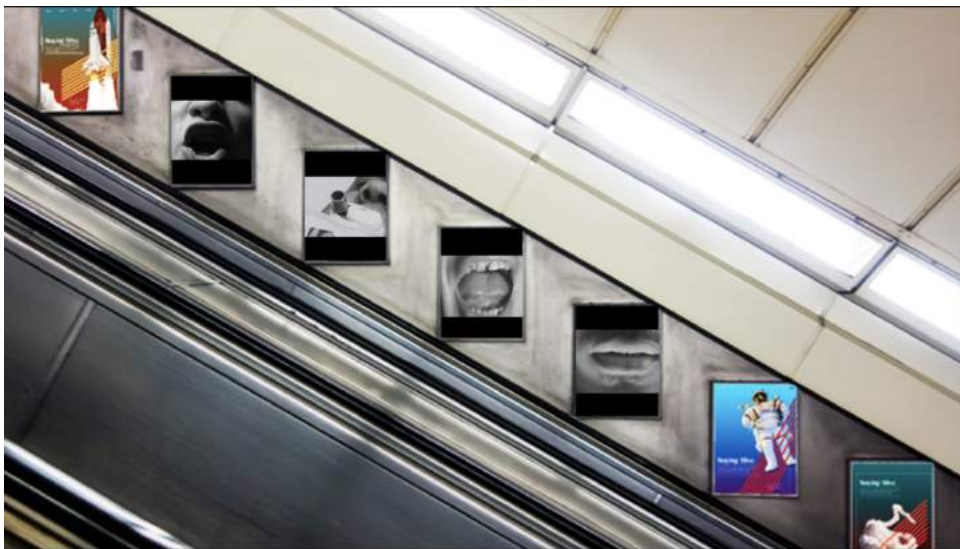
We chose to write about this Paris based student because we think her story might be encouraging to those of you with students who have not been working on their portfolios and have limited time to prepare one.

Our International Relations UK college graduate wanted to apply to a Masters program in photography but had no portfolio-worthy work and no art training. She had no outside visual arts support other than our work together from April through July--almost four months. Fortunately, she was very hard working, motivated, and reactive to our input and was able to produce a number of very personal and interesting projects for her portfolio application to Goldsmiths (UK), where she was admitted to the Masters program in Photography: The Image and Electronic Arts. In addition to our guidance, she was helped by an excellent college advisor for her essays, so her application excelled at all levels.

What was particularly exciting to us at PW was to discover that our work with her had changed her interests and inspired her to change her plans for the future. Her curiosity had expanded beyond the medium of photography and she

wanted to apply to general visual arts programs, which would demand a portfolio with more emphasis on an array of media and a broader integration of visual arts concepts and references. We got back down to work and she applied herself for another month to giving more depth and breadth to her work. She was admitted to two highly selective UK masters programs--the London Royal Academy of Arts and the Chelsea College of Arts.

The extraordinary lesson we learned from this experience was that any student with a passion for creation, a will to work, and good guidance can create a portfolio that will draw the attention of selective programs, even at a Masters level. It confirmed to us what we already knew: creative programs (not including highly technical ones like animation for industry) welcome portfolios that do not necessarily demonstrate technical skill, but showcase strong personality, imagination, risk-taking, experimentation, and critical thinking.

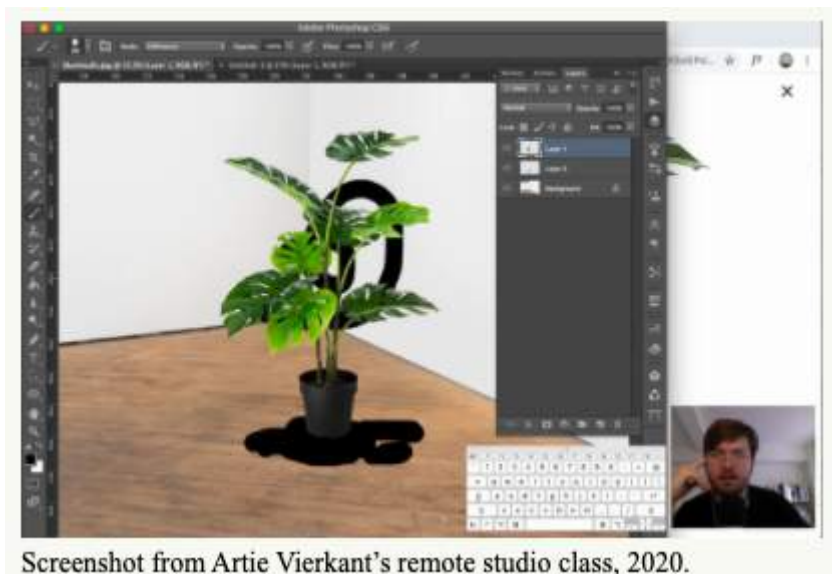




Found footage film public installation project by Paris based student applying to UK Masters program in Fine Arts

Found footage film public installation project by Paris based student applying to UK Masters program in Fine Arts.

CAN YOU TEACH ART ONLINE?



Screenshot from Artie Vierkant's remote studio class, 2020.

An insightful article from April, 2020 in [Art in America](#) discusses art faculty's adjusting to art teaching during the pandemic. "Though particular challenges posed by the shift online vary widely across disciplines and institutions, the

crisis invites a fundamental rethinking of art education—one that's already revealing lessons for the post-pandemic future."



Photograph by Paris based student applying to UK fashion programs.



Sculpture and performance by Paris based student applying to EU architecture programs.

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Fall 2020 Newsletter

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