

THE AIM OF THE ART DEPARTMENT AT HUNTER COLLEGE

The aim of the art department at Hunter College is to give the student all the necessary technical skill and historical information, everything that comes under the heading of facts -- but more important, to present the facts imaginatively, so that they become exciting points of departure for the student's own sense of adventurousness and creativity. Without a sense of adventure, historical and technical facts about art are useless, cold and inert, something outside the student's real self. You will see, from the reproductions of the teachers' work at Hunter College, that there is real adventurousness in their own work.

Educating young people is a problem in human growth, which can only come about from exploring the world. Art is one way of exploring the world. In teaching, more experienced people lead the less experienced to new experiences, to an exploration of the world of art -- its past, its present, and above all its future possibilities. Naturally, to explore means that one is adventurous -- that one is capable of experimenting, of intellectual independence, and in art one must also have a warm heart. All these things together make up the human imagination, and it is imagination that transforms neutral facts and materials into something with personal meaning; and the student who begins to make something with personal meaning is becoming an artist, and beginning to understand the essential nature of art.

To be able to express oneself is one of the chief joys of being mature,

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and the expressiveness of the visual arts differs from that of words.

In the art department at Hunter College, we would like you to learn to become completely expressive through the visual arts, which is one of the most beautiful ways of becoming mature.