

**Collin County Community College District
APPLICATION FOR SABBATICAL LEAVE**

Instructions

Please complete this application by responding to all items. Attach requested documentation (in the order requested) and secure the appropriate signatures prior to submitting the application to the chair of the Sabbatical Leave Committee. **Please submit the original and 10 copies.**

Name Rex Kare

CWID 110793715

Title Professor of Art

Division Fine Art

Have you ever been granted a sabbatical? N If yes: Dates of Prior Sabbatical(s): _____

Please provide a brief description of your previous sabbatical project:

Sabbatical Leave Period Being Requested

Dates: Beginning Date August 2023 Ending Date December 2023

Length: One semester Two semesters Other _____

Applicant's Agreement

ABSTRACT

Please give a summary description of the project and its significance in improving teaching and learning at Collin College. Please use language that can be readily understood by persons in areas of expertise other than your own. **PLEASE DO NOT EXCEED SPACE PROVIDED BELOW.**

In art, portraiture, the rendering of likeness of the sitter, is a cornerstone of an artist's skill set. Regularly, to supplement drawing from a live model, it is common for students to draw from casts of sculptures, allowing them to focus on proportion, technique, and details that they may sometimes miss during a live timed session.

Traditionally, the sculptural forms that students would reference are casts of portraits from classical antiquity and reflect a specifically western European concept of beauty and proportion. As a product of academy training at the New York Academy of Art, I can attest to the need for a greater diversity of facial forms and features in the examples that I came across in its cast hall.

My intent for sabbatical begins with starting a collection of plaster casts of portrait sculptures for the Collin College Art Department, which will be accessible to all drawing and painting students specifically for this practice of learning to draw from observation. To start this, I propose to sculpt several busts in clay from live models during my time on sabbatical. The subsequent casts in plaster from these clay portraits and facial forms, as well as from a couple sculptures I completed previously, will be placed on display in the drawing studio in the Plano campus for use in exercises and assignments.

Secondly, and maybe more importantly, these portraits will begin to reflect the broad racial diversity that exist in our own diverse community, setting for our students a very inclusive and broad benchmark of concepts of beauty and proportion. I can only make so many in a limited amount of time, but my hope is that over time, more will be added.

Additionally, I will continue my involvement in online workshops regarding anatomical drawing and painting best practices, so that I can continue refining and updating the content of my courses and approach to teaching Life Drawing, and Painting at Collin College.

Collin College Sabbatical Leave Proposal

Fall Semester 2023

Rex Kare - Fine Arts

Professor of Art/ Life Drawing, Painting, Drawing I, II

A. Objectives

1. I will sculpt a series of portraits and detailed facial forms for Life Drawing, Drawing, and Painting students which they will be able to reference for their drawing and painting exercises. From these sculpted forms I will produce two sets of the series in plaster: one set for daily use and display in the drawing and painting studio, and the other (if desired) to be archived and used for reference by the college library. These forms will include structures of the face such as eyes, noses, and lips individually, and complete faces, and will reflect the racial diversity of our community.

- Rationale: An essential resource in the foundations of observational drawing, life drawing, and painting, the plaster forms, traditionally cast from western European sculptures, reflect the aesthetic ideals of facial structures in the classical western tradition. By providing examples of a greater variety of facial types sculpted from a broader range of races, students, through their use of these forms will gain a better understanding and awareness of the diversity in facial structures. By building a collection of plaster forms from which students can draw, we enhance and make unique the educational experience of our art students at Collin College. Additionally, I and other professors who wish to can create instructional reference drawings which can demonstrate the process of observational drawing.

2. I will participate in online workshops led by subject matter experts in anatomical drawing, such as those offered by Roberto Osti and the New York Academy of Art, which will reinforce and broaden my understanding of artistic anatomy, and best practices in teaching Life Drawing.

- Rationale: If there is a more effective way to convey to my students the concepts I teach in life drawing, I want to explore it. Learning from other practitioners allows me to refine my teaching methods, and hopefully provide a more meaningful and effective learning experience for my students.

3. As a cohort of the group "Painting Best Practices" I will participate in the Painting Best Practices online monthly forum which addresses issues in contemporary and historical painting materials and techniques. Also, I will continue my completion of online courses through Painting Best Practices.

- Rationale: Staying abreast of the evolving world of painting process and materials allows me to refine and retool my approach to teaching painting at the collegiate level.

B. Summary Timetable

August through September 2023

- Organize resources (live models and photographic references). Execute reference drawings from live models and photographic references for the sculptures.
- Attend online sessions of Painting Best Practices and Anatomical drawing workshops.

October 2023

- Sculpt in oil clay all forms, including full busts, separate sub forms of the eyes, nose, lips, and ears.
- Continue to attend online sessions of Painting Best Practices and Anatomical drawing workshops.

November 2023

- Begin process of creating molds of all forms sculpted.
- Continue to attend online sessions of Painting Best Practices and Anatomical drawing workshops.

December 2023

- Cast plasters of the sculpted forms and prepare them for hanging in the drawing studio.
- Continue to attend online sessions of Painting Best Practices and Anatomical drawing workshops.

C. Bibliography

Ackerman, Gerald (2003) *Charles Barye and Jean Leon Gerome Drawing Course*: ACR Art Books

Aristides, Juliette. (2008) *Classical Drawing Atelier, A Contemporary Guide to Traditional Studio Practice*: Watson-Guption Publications

University of Delaware, [Resources \(udel.edu\)](https://www.udel.edu)

Roberto Osti, <https://www.robertoosti.com/>

Painting Best Practices, [Home - Painting Best Practices](https://www.paintingbestpractices.com/)

New York Academy of Art, New York, NY, <https://nyaa.edu/>

Pennsylvania Academy, Philadelphia, PA, <https://www.pafa.org/>

Florence Academy of Art, Florence, Italy, <https://www.florenceacademyofart.com/>

Tommy Ladd- Schaefer Art Bronze, Arlington, TX, <https://schaeferartbronze.com/>

D. Resources

All fees associated with workshops, C.E., and materials for the cast project will be paid by me, the sabbatical applicant.