



Reflections from Alumnus Michael Fratangelo ('01 B.F.A) on His Time at SoVA and His Creative Process

Oct 1

I started down the path to be a painter in the fall of 2000, in John Bowman's Beginning Oil painting class. I had no intentions of pursuing art as a career, but lightning struck in his class. Professors pulled me aside, asking, "Is that what you really see? You really have something." I knew I had found my calling.

I am a firm believer in Joseph Campbell's idea that you should follow your bliss. I knew I had found my bliss with painting so I had no choice but to follow that path. People often ask me how one becomes an artist. I don't think this is possible; you either are an artist or you are not. If you are, as Picasso said, you work out of necessity. You truly have no choice, and if you don't, you will suffer. It is often a cross to bear.

I am so grateful that I went to Penn State, because at Penn State you can venture into different career paths. Where you start out may not be where you end up. I

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