

Post FX Video
Dean Baker - Mentor
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Quiz 1 - essay

Art Is What You Make Others See

Kit Brown

Edgar Degas said, "Art is not what you see but what you make others see." Through my educational experience in art, the craft exists in a world that depends totally on what others see and how they feel about what they view. I began studying art on my own and then in college. I had a scholarship to attend DAVE School, a one year college program in digital animation and video effects. It was a tough curriculum, but it was only one part of what I expect to learn.

I came to Film Connection to learn how to handle a camera, how to edit real life subjects, direct, and how to be a part of a film-making team. The ultimate goal is to one day own my own studio to work in all facets of film production from pre-production to post-production.

The eye of art in film-making is the camera. The camera sees the action, gives the viewer the sense of being in the middle of the action and above all, gives the audience proof positive that what they are seeing must be true. This is incredibly important to give even the most outlandish concept the visual appearance of truth.

In fiction, stories are simply a person's view of a certain thing that happened. They are subjective and are filtered through the storyteller's experiences and prejudices, and what you find is that depending on the story, you might believe it or you might not trust the author's perceptions. In contrast, the filmmaker shows the action, shows the setting, captures the facial features and voice inflections of the characters. The team behind the camera make others see the action, feel what the characters feel and allow a viewer to make his/her own opinions about what they see in a way that it is more reliable, more believable than mere words.

In non-fiction, documentaries and histories, words can paint a vague mental picture, but the camera gives a sense of proof and truthfulness to support what the author wants to convey. Tutorials on how to do an unfamiliar task become easy. When one watches someone else do it, the viewer simply repeats the process. Learning to handle a camera is one part of the production process that's important for me to learn.

At DAVE school, I learned to edit using multiple programs. We did little with human subjects, so it's also my hope to learn more about editing

film and learning techniques used for live action film. This is important to round out what I know about editing and compositing.

Directing is probably the most laborious task in film-making. The director has to see the project from beginning to end and envision the entire process to make the art come alive. If all facets of the process goes well and the direction all wrong, the film fails. The director needs to understand every part of the production process and to be able to coach the actors and other artists on what the vision for a scene might be. I see direction as the ultimate art in film. I hope to be able to assist my teacher and to sometime try my hand at direction.

For my time with Film Connection, I also hope to learn to be a part of a film-making team. It takes a team to work in a successful studio. It's an opportunity to work with others and to learn from others. It's a good preparation for life beyond the Film Connection program.

I'm hoping that I might learn these facets of film-making: operating the camera, editing human subjects, directing and being a part of a film-making team from my time at the apprenticeship and to build on what I already have learned to take the next step in my career.