



Work by Atticus Santilli '26

Upcoming Events

Through July 19 2024 *Senior Exhibition*, Main Gallery

July 19 Admissions Tour at Rock Litz

July 29 Deadline for *Creativity Is...* panels return to PCA&D

Through Aug. 9 *In the Flow*, Nichole Madonna '10, Hayden Gallery



CT&L Corner: Taking a closer look at assessments: 'We assess what we value'

From **Dr. Adam Smith**, Director of the Center for Teaching & Learning and Manager of the Learning Commons:

Assessment is a word that can carry different meanings depending on your role in an institution. Administrators will think about assessment along the lines of accreditation, while instructors are more likely to think about assessment in terms of grading. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines assessment as simply “the action or an instance of making a judgment about something.” I appreciate how this definition acknowledges the subjectivity of assessment, which can be obscured in educational definitions of assessment, such as “... the systematic process of collecting, evaluating, and using information to determine how well we are meeting our educational goals.” In education, assessment involves questions of alignment: did we have clear objectives, and did we meet them?

Yet, this question of “Did we do what we set out to do?” can seem at odds with the sometimes unpredictable outcomes of exploring artmaking. How do we value creative processes in ways that can (or maybe can't?) be assessed directly? This year, I worked with an instructor who wanted to encourage some amount of risk-taking in their students' artmaking. Logically, they included an element of risk-taking on the rubric for certain assignments. In conversation, we discussed the benefits and drawbacks of trying to quantify the subjective attitudes we want our students to cultivate in their artmaking. Either way, it was clear that, in addition to foundational

objectives, the instructor also valued students' growth as artists in more intangible ways.

One of many quotes attributed to Albert Einstein suggests that this tension is part and parcel of assessment: "Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts." Further, the assumption that things must be counted to be assessed is not one that necessarily follows. [Formative assessment](#) involves any attempt to "monitor student learning to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by instructors to improve their teaching and students to improve their learning." Getting a sense of what students have learned (or not) allows us (both teachers and students) to make appropriate adjustments as we go, no grading necessary.

This summer, a group of faculty and I have been reading *Let's Talk About Critique*, and one of the key critiques of critique (say that five times fast) is that critique is often treated solely as a [summative assessment](#), a giving of feedback at a point when we can't do much about it! When I look back on my own time as a student, I wonder how many times I have turned in a paper, only to get copious notes that I can't do much with (Hint: more than once).

We assess what we value. While we benefit from clear standards and objectives, conversation with most teachers also brings up intangibles. The question of how we assess values such as creative risk-taking may not be straightforward, but we leave things up to chance when we focus on what's measurable without looking for what matters.

New payroll training held this week

Be sure to check out the Friday email from **Michele Wherley**, Human Resources and Administration Manager, regarding our new payroll partner, Inova Payroll. There will be two virtual training sessions this week. The first part of the session will cover clocking in and out and requesting time off; the second part of the session will be training for managers to approve timesheets and time-off requests submitted by team members. **The training sessions will be held Thursday, July 18, at 1 pm, and Friday, July 19, at 10 am.** The sessions will be recorded for those who cannot make either training date and for student employees, as well as new employees who come on board in the future.

Facilities' woodworking equipment up for grabs

Don't miss your chance to snap up some woodworking equipment that's being deaccessioned! In a Thursday email to faculty and staff, Director of Physical Plant **Dan Freiler** noted we're nearing the final phase of converting the old basement Facilities woodshop into a classroom woodshop, with the resulting purchase of new equipment. Check the email for photos of equipment that is up for grabs as a result. If you know of someone who would be interested in the old equipment, contact Dan as soon as possible; it needs to be off-site by the end of July.



PCA&D Presents

IN THE FLOW

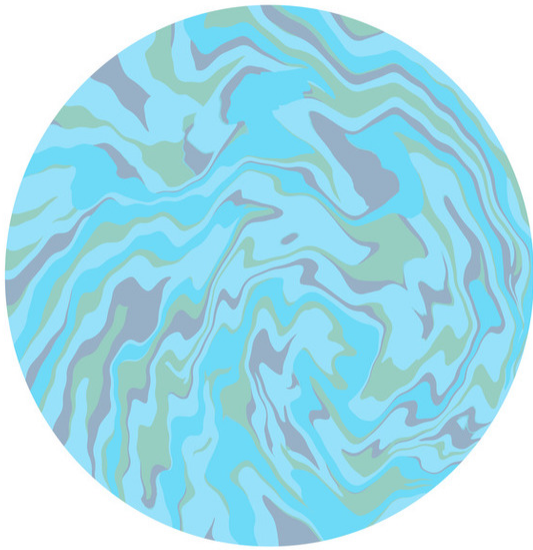
LAYERS OF CONNECTION AND GROWTH

Artworks by Nichole Madonna '10

Hayden Gallery welcomes *In the Flow*

Work by alumna **Nichole Madonna '10**, *In the Flow: Layers of Connection and Growth*, has arrived in the College's Hayden Gallery. A Fine Art graduate, 2D and 3D visual artist, and passionate art instructor, Madonna's creative journey thrives in the realm of abstract mixed-media art, where she skillfully layers recycled materials and hand-painted collage papers to form captivating pieces. Madonna's artistic focus lies in the exploration of color, texture, and movement, infusing her works with an enchanting sense of life and emotion.

Open through Aug. 9, *In the Flow* will be open during the building's open hours and to the public during First Fridays.



PCA&D SENIOR EXHIBITION 2024

June 21 - July 19

Final week in the Main Gallery: *Senior Exhibition*

PCA&D is proud to present *Senior Exhibition*, a selection of work by the Class of 2024, in its Main Gallery, through this Friday, July 19. The show features a sampling of the thesis work in illustration, painting, animation, game art, photography, video, sculpture, graphic design, and design thinking, created by our most recent alumni. This is an exciting opportunity for those who missed the annual weekend *Senior Show* event in early May to continue to celebrate PCA&D's graduates through a condensed version of that large-scale exhibition.

CCE & Exhibitions partner on Amtrak display case art project; here's how to participate

PCA&D's Exhibitions Department and Center for Creative Exploration have teamed up with support from the City of Lancaster Office of Public Art to host an opportunity for the Lancaster community to showcase their visual response to the prompt "Creativity is..." in an exhibition that will be installed at the Lancaster Amtrak station in two of the public art cases from Aug. 9 through Nov. 14. The hope is to engage Amtrak station visitors and travelers through this collaborative installation that will involve the creation of artwork.

From now through July 29, community partners, PCA&D students and faculty, and Lancaster community members are invited to join a workshop, event, or visit partner curio. Gallery & Creative Supply on West Chestnut Street to pick up a 6-inch-by-6-inch canvas panel to create their response to the prompt. Names of artists will be included on

signage in the station cases. Please return completed panels to PCA&D by the July 29 deadline.

Interested in a CCE class? Don't forget discounts and community scholarships

Faculty and staff: you can request your employee benefit for discounted Center for Creative Exploration classes for yourself as well as for your children or spouses. Email ce@pcad.edu to let them know the class or workshop you're interested in and they can work with you to get you a special code. Also, as educators, you can request scholarships for students in grades 1-12 for CCE classes. If you know a student in our community who would benefit, [head here](#) and complete the request form. Questions? Email ce@pcad.edu.

Hear of gig work, part-time or full-time jobs for students and alumni? Let Career Services know

Help fill our Student Portal Job Boards with opportunities for our students and alumni. They can range from gig work to part-time, and even some full-time jobs.

There is a high demand for work opportunities among our student body in both the creative and non-creative sectors.

If you hear any great opportunities please pass them along to the Career Services Team at CareerServices@pcad.edu so we can connect our students to employment opportunities.

Web resource: The Faculty/Staff Portal

You can find a [Faculty/Staff Portal](#) at the very bottom right corner of the PCAD.edu [homepage](#). It links to all sorts of useful information, from retention reports and class schedules to the academic calendar, maintenance and events requests, and much more.



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