

Dawei Xu – Artist & Educator, Shine Art Academy – Q&A

Q1. Can you give us an insight into your teaching process at Shine Art Academy?

For children of different age groups, we conduct summaries and analyse outcomes of previous courses each term. We then develop realistic teaching goals based on that information. We discuss with our teaching staff to find out the most suitable methods and contents for the lesson which will inspire students. At this stage, we are open to experimenting with different methods, and are seeking feedback from enrolled students.

Q2. How many students are currently enrolled at Shine? What is their age range?

Since our establishment, more than 500 students have participated in our various courses and holiday programs. The pandemic has had a big impact on our enrolment numbers, so we currently have about 150 students this term. Our students are aged from 5 to 17 years old.

Q3. Can you explain the different types of techniques and materials that you introduce to your students?

We introduce students to a variety of different mediums and materials. Partly because art itself and materials are closely linked. Based on the introduction of these materials, students will not be limited to skill practicing; they can also find the drawing methods and materials that are suitable for them at a certain stage.

Q4. As an art teacher, how do you balance this and your own artistic practice?

Teaching has had a very positive impact on my artistic creation. As a teacher, I often need to study lots of new things, fresh painting methods and different art ideas. For me, these are all incorporated into my creations. But research takes a lot of time, which will often leave me with just a couple of hours a day for my own art practice. I wish there were 30 hours in a day!

Q5. Who are your favourite artists? Who do you draw inspiration from?

James Jean and Takashi Murakami are my favourite artists. Shohei Otomo's style is also fantastic. I am interested in both modern and contemporary art. I like very pure works of art, either technically or stylistically.

Q6. How do you inspire your students?

We show paintings and artworks related to the theme of the lesson during classes. These generally give students an intuitive understanding. We also play documentaries about the creation process of particular artworks and recount stories behind the artwork and the artists. We break down these creative steps and let students practice similar methods, it often inspires our students to create their own projects.



Q7. Please also let us know if you have a social media account that you would like us to promote.





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