



Advanced students in printmaking interviewed visiting artist Mike Marks about making work and his life as an artist.

SDSU: Why did you pursue art?

MM: Pursuing art came somewhat as a result of wanting to make sense of the world around me, and understanding where my interests lie within that.

SDSU: What are major concepts explored in your art?

MM: Alterations in environment, the mark of humans on landscape, the ways nature is experienced and as a result represented. I connect the surface of a printing plate/block, and its ability to hold the marks I've created as parallel to the histories and marks embedded in landscape. Themes of loss, beauty, and fragmentation occur throughout my pieces.

SDSU: What words of advice can you offer undergraduate students pursuing art and design?

MM: Making art and putting it out there often positions yourself in a vulnerable place, and it's good to be open and honest about that. Embracing and owning your vulnerabilities builds stronger character. ~~Value the~~ and value what you make.



The Stuart Artist-in-Residence program

Each fall, a national or international artist is invited to make art on campus for one month, interacting with us through lecture, critique, open studio hours, and an exhibit. Students learn from the artist and observe how their artwork develops.

Last spring I was a student representative on the Artist-in-Residence committee. I learned about