

As a student looks on, visual arts teacher Mr. Kendall works on a mold of a cup. "What I hope to do is teach [the students] to constantly make connections between art and the world they live in," Kendall said. ▶ In her PCA Art class, senior Winnie Jiang works on her second concentration piece. "Art has been my passion since middle school," Jiang said. (Photos: Terri Washington and Allison Killinger)



▶ With a picture pulled up on her phone for reference, senior Yadira Hernandez paints a portrait of her great grandmother. "As an artist I can express what I'm feeling through art [...] it's something I'll keep on doing," Hernandez said. (Photo by Allison Killinger)

▶ For a project, junior Antonia Roman works on a linocut piece of an expressive face. "I liked the projects in art because it made me branch out on different styles of art," Roman said. ▶ To complete a series for the senior showcase, senior Braelyn Diamond works on a piece about psychological issues. "I joined PCA because I felt that a program dedicated to creating and being expressive would only enhance my art capabilities," Diamond said. (Photos: Allison Killinger)



ART for the ALMA MATER

mr. kendall brings new color to campus

▶ allison killinger, designer
▶ chandni amin, writer

▶ "I told the kids all the time that you had to think, interpret, and express yourself," Mr. Jason Kendall said. "You thought about an idea, you had to interpret that idea to understand it, and you expressed yourself in an action."

Right from the beginning of his time back teaching at his alma mater, Mr. Kendall had already started reshape his students' ideas of the world and art itself.

"He was this teacher that gave me the impression that he might not teach very well, since the first day we did really weird activities to get the class going," DeCarlo Figueroa, junior, said. "But as time passed, he showed me that even the weirdest things could have a big meaning behind them."

Mr. Kendall came back to Columbia to teach with a degree from NYU and a lot of life experiences. Returning with these things, he hoped to teach his students not only about art, but also about the real and art worlds themselves.

"So my 'what if' question [here is] 'What if I can prepare our PCA students for that jump from high school art to college and provide them with the skills, both critical and creative, that they'll need to make [it to] the top of the class wherever they choose to go?'" Mr. Kendall said.

What teaching his students these skills exactly entails during his classes, however, is a completely different story.

"He told us we were going to the dump to find stuff [for a project]," Figueroa said. "[It] totally tripped me out."

With how absolutely outside-of-the-box they were in their creations and executions, Mr. Kendall's teachings were making all the more of an impact on his students.

"Mr. Kendall helped me to grow as an artist in the fact that he taught me to look at art in a different, less traditional sense," Margaret Greene, freshman, said, "and showed me what art can really be." ▶

AWARD-WINNING ART ▶

eleven art students win awards in the state fair

▶ 2-D Awards

Rosemary Johnson: First place
Shabazz Eutsey: Merit award
Evy Giles: Merit award
Mabik Kelly: Merit award
Laura Pacheco: Merit award
Jenny Yewon Shin: Merit award

▶ 3-D Awards

Natalia Staples: First place
Ines Peterkin: Third place

▶ Photography Awards

Ian Graybill: First place
Yessica Naranjo: Third place



Itai Almor: Best in Show 2-D

▶ As a part of a photography project, sophomore Victoria Cullis takes pictures. "I loved being in the program. It was the perfect way to express myself without being criticized by others," Cullis said. (Photo by Terri Washington)