

*The newsletter this week has been written by Master's student, Maeve Munson, and Undergraduate student, Sadie Pijanowski.*

Hello CAS Parents and Caregivers!

We were so excited to see the kids back for week two. We loved meeting them last week and were so happy to see them again.

We took some time this session to get to explore the artworks in the gallery (see photos below!). Students learned more about Kara Walker and her artwork in the Athenaeum. A group of our pre-service teachers created three art activities inspired by her work for the students. Each group would observe and discuss a group of Walker's artworks in the gallery and then move to the artmaking activity inspired by those specific drawings. Activity 1 focused on analyzing and restructuring lines from Kara Walker's work to create abstract silhouettes with ink wash. Activity 2 involved studying the figures in Walker's work and creating gestural figure forms with black paint. Activity 3 responded to the gallery work involving words through instinctive blackout poetry.

We ended the session with a quick video of an interview Walker made about her work and organized student portfolios as a space to archive artwork throughout the program.

Throughout the first couple of sessions, we've tried to assess student abilities and interests to better form the curriculum of the sessions around your students. We have seen the advanced capabilities of this group and will work towards fostering their artistic talents throughout the rest of the sessions. We want this program to be guided by students' creative inquiry and remain flexible as we get to know their artistic processes and interests.

In the next session, we will lead a studio day in drawing techniques. Students will have the opportunity to learn some of the techniques we've learned during our time at the University by participating in two sustained drawing activities. We hope that these activities will offer your students some of the advanced drawing skills they seem to be looking for!

We are very appreciative of students' participation and excitement about the contemporary art studio and aim to continue this momentum moving forward!

Looking forward to seeing everyone next week!

Sincerely,

Maeve and Sadie

