



TAOS ARTS CLUB ~ TEEN ART STUDIO

Presents

OF UGLINESS & BEAUTY

AN EXPLORATION THROUGH DRAWING

This exhibition was born out of an investigation into the study of Beauty and Ugliness. What is Ugliness? What is Beauty? What is the voyeuristic notion behind our attraction to the gruesome and the horrible? Where does the magnetic appeal of the sordid and the scandalous come from? Nature reveals that what we often shield ourselves from and shun in everyday life. Is this what we're most attracted to subliminally? Is ugliness in the eye of the beholder? Is beauty? If what is deemed as an ugly subject is drawn beautifully, is it still ugly? Throughout history, artists have obsessed on the themes of the grotesque and the divine.

Investigating these very ideas, each of the students included in this exhibition have spent the past year creating profound and subtle examples of sublime drawing in an attempt to further understand this intellectual and philosophical question. They have spent endless hours exploring what is beautiful and what is monstrous. Investigations and inquiries into these themes, their pervasiveness in contemporary society and how can they tastefully be expressed in our current visual arts culture were a motivating force.

It is the credo of Michael Hensley's Artistic Anatomy class that, "True Art, inspired by nature, should aspire to be timeless and universal."

Michael Hensley

Founder, Artistic Director, Instructor

Taos Arts Club / Teen Art Studio



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MISSION

It is the mission of the Taos Arts Club, Teen Art Studio to use art as a vehicle for positive change in the lives of today's youth.

The Taos Arts Club, Teen Art Studio combines both art instruction and life skills education. Activities help the youth in our community come into a greater awareness of their intellectual being through self-expression and creative reasoning. Youth are also encouraged to make healthy life choices for their futures while at the same time feeling a sense of community.

Many of the area youth come from disadvantaged situations due to a complex variety of social and economic factors. The Artistic Human and Comparative Animal Anatomy program strives to fill a void in youth art education where there is a lack of access to quality art instruction and art studio opportunities.

GOALS

The Taos Arts Club, Teen Art Studio aspires to foster the intellectual, creative and emotional development of youth through the love of art at all levels of age and ability.

Reflection, imagination, and the realization of possibilities extend beyond the studio and are core elements in the success of this program. Activities reinforce the lifelong practices of persistence and self-discipline, critical thinking, courage and risk-taking.

Furthermore, it is the aim of the Taos Arts Club, Teen Art Studio to create and harbor an art environment that develops confident, technically skilled, creative artisans who have a life long passion and love for the arts.

Michael Hensley
Founder, Artistic Director, Instructor
Taos Arts Club / Teen Art Studio