



The

Palette

AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE DuCRET SCHOOL OF ART WHEN THERE'S SOMETHING TO SAY IN THE ARTS!

The duCRET SCHOOL of Art

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Message from Frank Falotico, Director

Welcome to the second installment of *The Palette!* As another school year winds to a close, I would like to extend congratulations to our 2009 graduating class. I wish you all the best of luck! And I wish everyone a terrific Summer! If you have any questions about the information you read in *The Palette*, feel free to contact me here at the office. Enjoy!

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On location: The duCret School of Art gets exposed on film



It seems that The duCret School of Art is not just for art anymore! On Monday, April 27th, the painting studio at the duCret School became a "studio for the day" for photographer and alumni John Fortunato. A leading pharmaceutical company commissioned John to take a series of photographs for an upcoming new product. The product release will involve people in a variety of scenarios, one of which being a painting studio. As locations were discussed between photographer and client as to where to find a location to do the shoot...a loft in Manhattan, etc...Mr. Fortunato suggested the studios at duCret. "We wanted to find a *real* art studio," said John. School director, Frank Falotico, submitted a series of digital photos showing the painting studio and the deal was closed! So bright and early on a warm, sunny morning crew and models arrived to take over the painting studio. This was also a fantastic opportunity for many of the students to see a professional

Photographer John Fortunato, along with clients, crew and models, prepare for another series of photos.

photo session unfold before their eyes. They got to see the planning and detail involved, the lighting and positioning of the models in their roles.

Photographer John Fortunato graduated from duCret in 1976 and taught art for two years. After 4 months of backpacking through Europe, John attended Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, CA. in 1978. Starting as a photographer's assistant at a catalog house, John soon moved into a

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John directs his models on how to look like real art students.

duCret Gets Exposed

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staff photographer position. In 1985, he opened up his first studio and became a successful fashion photographer doing shoots for Cosmopolitan magazine and various retail fashion clients.. Not long after that he focused on “people photography” which involved children initially and then moved into “lifestyle” images showing families, business people, etc. At the same time John found himself doing less studio photography and more location work. “Diversity,” commented John, “is a key element to continued success in today’s economy.”

Jersey Devil sighted at duCret

Aside from being used as a photographer’s studio, another portion of the school was recently utilized to film segments for an episode of Monster-Quest on The History Channel. Former student, Mike Melillo, owner of Blacklightfright.com in Clark, NJ was commissioned to do a sculpture for

the program. “I saw a posting on an internet sculpting forum looking for a monster maker in NJ. I responded and met with producer/director Tom Phillips, who was impressed by the quality of my sculpts and hired me on the spot,” said Mike. The sculpture was based on alleged eyewitness accounts of a sighting of the creature.

“When it came time to shoot the final reveal of the creature, Tom inquired as to whether I knew of a large, artsy commercial space around that we could dress up as a gallery setting...duCret came to mind immediately,” mentions Mike. “Tom ended up renting the cafeteria and has used it since for another shoot. He also fell in love with the school, having never heard of it before and being amazed to find young artists being trained in classical fashion in such a great atmosphere.”

Longtime friend of duCret, graphic novelist, Frank Thorne, also appeared briefly in the episode as a sketch artist.

Spring Student Art Show

The Spring Student Art Show, a showcase of work for the students currently attending duCret, kicked off on Sunday, April 26th, with an opening reception and many in attendance. Over 90 pieces in a variety of categories such as fine art to graphic design to jewelry were on display. Third year student, Joe Knechtel, won First Place in the Graphic Design category and also scored Second Place in Digital Illustration for his image of Doors frontman, Jim Morrison.



Student Joe (KNEX) Knechtel stands by his First Place entry “Iron & Wine” in the Graphic Design category.

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