

"Doing Art with the Artists Workshop" in Spring 2023

Student Success Support Section, Student Support Center



Tokyo Tech hosts the Art with an Artist seminar twice a year with the aim of inspiring creativity in its students through the arts. This spring in 2023, the event was held at Suzukakedai Campus on May 24. Eleven of the twenty students who joined the bilingual session were international students, creating a particularly diverse environment at the event.

Artist Zuse Meyer

A graduate of the Berlin University of the Arts, painter and poet, Meyer is a former lecturer at Tokyo Tech. She is currently based in both Berlin and Tokyo for conducting creative activities, and runs an art school and art workshops in both Europe and Asia.



Ms. Meyer providing one-on-one advice



Students focused on Ms. Meyer's lecture

The lecture, hands-on practice sessions, and final critique were led by the lecturer, Zuse Meyer, who holds long-lasting ties to the Institute.



Lecture on Dürer, Rembrandt, van Gogh, and Max Beckmann's portraits

The theme of this seminar was "The Human Face" (portraits and self-portraits). The lecture began with the portrait and self-portrait works by the painters from the 15th ~ 16th centuries such as Dürer, and then moved on to Rembrandt from the 17th century, van Gogh from the 19th century, and Beckmann who thrived in the 20th century. The lecture covered not only the background of each era, but also the personal history of the painters, the realism seen in their works, their love for the families, the evidence of their lives, and the emotions of the artists.

It was emphasized that the artwork and the inner-self of the creators are inseparable. Portraits are not selfies, and each portrait work is unique. Self-portraits are not objective but entirely subjective. Every human being is different, and even if the same subject is painted, there are never exactly the same two artworks.

Practice Session — Portrait



Participants receiving explanation about single-stroke sketching



Warm-up activity:

Single-stroke sketching

To warm up, students were requested to create a sketch using only one ongoing single line. On small sketch papers, the students practiced drawing their own faces in one continuous stroke while looking at themselves in the mirrors. Ms. Meyer said, "If your hand stops, hesitation might arise. It is important to just keep drawing." The students obtained new experience from this practice.

Drawing the person sitting across by using pastels

For the next task, students were requested to draw the other student sitting across, on larger sketch papers by using pastels. Different from single-stroke sketching practice, this time the students were encouraged to draw freely and earnestly, with their own sensibilities. The finished works of the students were remarkable, capturing the unique characteristics of the subject person.



Students focused on artworks

Drawing self-portraits with non-dominant hand by using pastels



Students drawing self-portraits

The final task was to draw a self-portrait on a larger sketch paper with the non-dominant hand. "Your dominant hand is always thinking. Try to draw according to your own sensibilities with the non-dominant hand." With warm encouragement from Ms. Meyer, each student completed a unique work.



Students listening to Ms. Meyer's final critique



Colorful painting works displayed

Comments from participating students

- I am very happy to join this seminar. I enjoyed a lot and tried my best to unleash my creativity. Thank you for organizing this seminar. It gives me a break from my monotonous study schedule.
- I enjoyed being able to draw freely and express myself through art.
- The seminar was fun, and I am glad to be able to communicate with other participants.
- I had a great time. Please hold it again next time.
- I really enjoyed and made me more interested to practice drawing more.



Ms. Meyer and students taking a group photo



The next Art with an Artist seminar is being planned for Ookayama Campus in November.



Contact

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