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FORT WORTH COUNTRY DAY

Local Artist Critiques Student Pieces

9/21/2018

Thanks to a grant from Supporting CAST, Fort Worth Artist **John Hartley** came to campus to do a critique with Painting/Drawing students in **Lauren Cunningham**'s classes, all levels (Level 1 through AP). In addition to giving technical and compositional feedback, Hartley also encouraged students to express themselves, tell a story with their art, and think outside the box on assignments.

Hartley's visit was a valuable learning experience for all students. "[He was] invested in improving our work as students who are learning," said **Mary Johnson '21**. **Lauren Farlow '22** added, "I liked listening to him critique the other students so I could learn what to do and what not to do. [He] expand[ed] our knowledge of art."

Before the critique, Hartley gave a presentation about his evolution as an artist, starting from childhood. **Vanessa Silva '20** shared that she "enjoyed looking at Mr. Hartley's work and seeing his progress throughout his career."

Cunningham first met Hartley in March 2017. At the time, one of her AP students, **Teddy Margo '17**, took an interest in Hartley's work. "I arranged a class field trip to visit John's studio, so we could meet him and view his art in person," Cunningham said. "Teddy also brought his AP portfolio, which John critiqued. John gave such wonderful feedback to Teddy that I have been scheming ever since how to get him to FWCD's campus to interact with more of my students."

"The perfect opportunity presented itself this year. My students are doing watercolor paintings of toys, which is John's primary subject matter," she continued. "He was the perfect artist to come talk with the student's about their works-in-progress."

The toy paintings will be completed in October and on display in the Upper School Commons.

About Supporting CAST

CAST – Creative Arts Students and Teachers – funds visual and performing arts programs at Fort Worth Country Day that would otherwise not be supported. These experiences enhance students' artistic visions, open their minds to the arts world beyond FWCD and engage them in hands-on work with dynamic

professionals. This year, Supporting CAST granted more than \$25,000 to fund enrichment activities for the 2018-19 academic year and to host receptions for visual and performing arts events on campus. To join CAST, visit www.fwcd.org/CAST.

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Fort Worth Country Day (FWCD) is a JK-12 private, independent, coeducational, nondenominational college-preparatory school located on approximately 100 acres in Fort Worth, Texas. The mission of Fort Worth Country Day School is to foster the intellectual, physical, emotional, and ethical development of capable students through an academically rigorous college preparatory program that integrates the arts and athletics.

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