

# LIFE *after* SCHOOL

## Brett Harvey

After gaining some real-world experience as an Assistant Preparator at the Currier Museum of Art, Brett Harvey, BFA Painting 2008, entered the MFA program in sculpture at the New York Academy of Art in New York City. The Currier Art Center provided studio space where Harvey spent a year and a half sculpting and painting. "When I got out of work I would walk across the street to the studio and paint or sculpt until about 11 or 12 o'clock, go home and then wake up and do it all over again, even on weekends. Not only was I trying to prepare for grad school, I was also just doing what I felt I needed to do to be a successful artist. We don't get breaks."



BRETT HARVEY / Detail of Self Portrait as Munsell's Colors, 2009, 5 panels

During Harvey's sophomore year at the Institute, painting faculty member, Marcus Greene, introduced him to the New York Academy of Art. "I had a couple of instructors at the Institute that had completed the MFA program and I loved both of their teaching styles. That gave me a big clue that this program would work for me," he said. Harvey, a talented figurative artist,



recognized that he would benefit from a program that would challenge him in areas that needed development before he could secure gallery representation. Harvey said, "I knew there was a lot more I needed to learn and NYAA gave the intense traditional training as well as freedom to explore conceptual ideas I was looking for."

To students who are thinking about graduate school, Brett advises, "the best thing to do is look at the resumes of contemporary artists that you like. Look at what schools they attended, research those programs, and of course, talk to your instructors about their own education." He also thinks students should not take rejection from a school or show personally. "Just because you were not the right fit, does not mean you are not a talented artist. In this 'anything goes,' post-modernist environment jurors and graduate schools have their hands full trying to determine what is 'good art,'" he said.

Managing the busy schedule of graduate school and the hopes of finding a preparatory job, Harvey is focused on his future career as a professional artist. Although it has been a bit of an adjustment from New Hampshire, Harvey says he is excited to have the resources New York City provides.

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