

## ***Preparing Students for Real Jobs in the Real World***

With the creative industries becoming increasingly important to our economy, Daniel Pink's\* prediction that "the MFA will be the new MBA" is increasingly resonant. Montserrat prepares students for meaningful creative work after graduation. Educated as makers, creative thinkers and problem solvers, Montserrat alums have the confidence and practical skills to transform their studio practice into successful, gratifying work. They are positioned to succeed in this growing sector of the marketplace.

### ***Prepared by working artists and experienced educators***

**The Curriculum:** Professional practice skill-building is integrated throughout Montserrat's four-year curriculum. Specific courses include: *Client Projects, Electronic Portfolio, Photographic Applications, Web Authoring, Professional Practice, Digital Illustration*. Other highlights include:

- First year **Studio Forum:** Art professionals on the leading edge of their disciplines come into Montserrat classrooms and students go out into artist's studios, museums and galleries from the North Shore to Boston to New York city.
- **Student Panels:** The end of every semester brings the perspective of a number of select faculty to the review of each individual student's body of work, lending an outside perspective to the progress towards the attainment of their creative goals.
- Required junior year **Professional Internship:** Montserrat is among the few art colleges that require a monitored three-credit internship in a professional environment of every BFA student.
- **Senior Seminar:** Intensive studio activity grounded with art history, critical theory, and direct contact with contemporary artists, illustrators and designers, supported by training in business practices, including portfolio/presentation preparation, tools for branding and self-promotion, and writing a business plan.

**Art Education Initial Licensure (K-12):** Montserrat-educated art teachers are highly sought after because of the distinctive artist-based teaching model.

**Community Service:** Students may elect a new credit-bearing course that places them and their art in to the community while serving the public good.

**Gallery Exhibitions and Interaction with Visiting Artists and Scholars:** Students interact with a vast outside world of national and international working artists, illustrators, designers and curators through lectures, residencies or intensive workshops. Visiting artists share their visions, goals and challenges as well as practical tips on how to market work, approach a gallerist, editor or art director, how to write a grant, negotiate a contract and *keep up the spirit*.

**Co-curricular clubs and volunteer opportunities:** Involvement inspires public service and good citizenship for life-long engagement in the community.

### ***Results speak***

- **All Montserrat students graduate with a complete professional presentation package.**
- **Over 70% of Montserrat alumni polled report they are working in the arts.**
- **Over 50% of Montserrat students have received offers of employment from their internship sites since the program launch in 2006.**

\*Daniel Pink, Harvard Business Review, February 2004. Pink is the author of *A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers will rule the Future* (2006.)