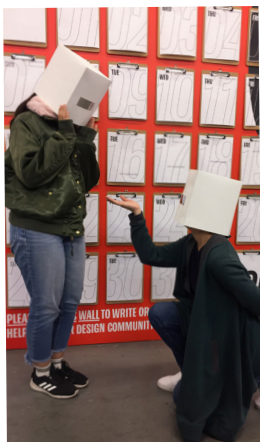




P.S. WE LOVE YOU

LETTERS FOR THE
CLASS OF 2020



Allison Smith

Dean of Fine Arts

As Dean of Fine Arts at CCA, one of the absolute best times of the year for me is the late spring season when I get to see the culmination of your work in person and to congratulate you on stage during Commencement. While those experiences were abruptly taken from us this year by COVID-19, we at CCA are still “with you” every step of the way in this, one of life’s great milestones, and moving forward. This experience has only strengthened our commitment to our mission and our teaching, and through this adversity, we are bonded.

One of the most important aspects of the pandemic is how it forces us to become more informed and compassionate about conditions of inequity, namely racism and xenophobia, and unequal access to health and financial resources that cause some to suffer from the virus more than others. Art offers an opportunity to record, reflect upon, and critique these global conditions, and invites us to live even more deeply into our motto: Make Art That Matters.

I am so impressed by the creativity of our students and faculty, many of whom have already begun to shift their studio work to respond to these immediate shifts in our ways of life. It will take time to process your art school experiences over the past few years, as well as time to make sense of what we have just been through. As artists we have a unique role to play, and I can’t wait to see what you will do with all of this. We will work hard at CCA to live up to your expectations, and we really hope that you will keep in touch.

Painting + Drawing Faculty

Fine Arts

Dear Painters,

Congratulations on your incredible hard work. It's been wonderful working with all of you and seeing your work evolve over the past few years.

We all remember when you were just starting CCA, and now you're graduating. It's been a pleasure to watch you grow into the dynamic artists you are now. We will continue to follow your careers as you continue to develop your artistic voice.

The road ahead will have its share of obstacles, but we have no doubt you'll persevere and overcome any challenges you face. You are a resilient bunch! Seeing the work you've done in your shelter-in-place studios inspires all of us in our commitment as artists—**to make art no matter what**. Never stop challenging yourself to experiment and take risks. Always keep an open heart and mind.

This class of 2020 is a special part of our CCA Painting family. We will always remember you. Stay in touch.

Warmest wishes,

Kim Anno
Linda Geary
James Gobel
David Huffman
Keith Thomas
Ryan Peter
Frances Richard
Christine Wang
Karla Wozniak



Peter Stahl

Adjunct II Professor,
Interaction Design

Dear Class of 2020:

It may seem like a crazy world you're graduating into.

But guess what: The world is *always* crazy! In your lifetimes, you can expect to see recessions, natural disasters, wars, pandemics, social upheaval, and bad hairstyles. The periods *without* them are the exceptions.

The good news (and really, it is good news) is that you are now equipped to deal with it. You're smart and resilient and creative and great to work with. You can handle whatever life throws at you. CCA has prepared you well for it.

So go out there and make the world a better place.
I know you can do it!

Elin Christopherson

Senior Adjunct Professor,
Glass
(BFA Glass 1989)

Dear Tanner and Trista:

Congratulations on earning your degree from CCA in Glass and for successfully executing a powerful and professional senior show. It is my opinion that Glass sculpture is a most difficult medium to present: so much is at stake and there is so much training and preparatory work to do to get to the point of the show. Setting up and lighting are also so key, and you displayed a great understanding and a willingness to invest the efforts. It showed. Once again, congratulations, and also best of luck in the future.

Terri Friedman

Associate Professor,
Sculpture

Dear Students,

I am sorry for your loss. Your sadness. Your disappointment. Your anger. Your grief. I am heartbroken for every student here at CCA and globally. You were taken away and were enlisted in this pandemic. You did not sign up for this. What a strange and extraordinary time to be an art student and to be a teacher. To not be alone, but part of an exceptional community. Everything you have been learning these last years in college can be applied to the depth of what you are experiencing.

In 25 years of teaching, this has been the most rewarding and challenging two months for me as a teacher. At first it was triage. I had to examine the damage and be nimble. My curriculum as I knew it was no longer relevant. I was asked to reinvent myself just as you have been asked to do with little resources from your tiny apartment with three roommates or from your childhood bedroom in a house you promised you would never return to but your parent's guilty pleasure is having you back.

I can imagine sometimes it feels like prison. Maybe it is. And, if you are able to make work right now in adversity, in home prison, you will have developed the muscle and tools to make art during the darkest and hardest times of your life. What an amazing call to action! You will be able to make art and thrive when you have a full-time job, a baby, a partner or parent with cancer. You will be unstoppable.

Though some of you have already experienced your life falling apart and have had personal adversity, this is a collective and global experience of uncertainty and collapse. Everyone is impacted. The last stages of grief are acceptance and meaning. Maybe your only job right now is to keep making work, to continue to be a student whether you are graduated or remotely learning. To just show up, and find meaning in making without the pressure to be good or great. Right now, that is no small feat. And, your making will be your medicine.

Janette Kim

Assistant Professor,
Architecture

I've been thinking a lot about what is "essential" these days. This pandemic has brought to light how much we depend on caregivers, first responders, and food workers. With this revelation, what has come into focus is not just the need for more support for workers, but the fact that our societies are structured around care and interdependency. We exchange insight, skill, time, physical and emotional labor with one another. We form engagements that are crafted continuously over time, shaped by media, interactions, narratives, and spaces that you shape as artists, designers, writers, and architects.

As you leave CCA, I hope you bring what's essential to life. We need an entirely new attitude toward infrastructure—not just as a bundle of tubes but a series of common spaces that serve as a network of care. We live in a moment starving for new infrastructure. We need a language for trust, sites for equitable exchange, interfaces for a warming atmosphere, and a wit and tone that makes us question it all again. Thanks to the sparkling joy and the thoughtful nuance I have seen in your work over the years, I think you're just the ones to do so.

Erin Malone

Chair,
BFA Interaction Design

CCA graduates have the creative problem-solving skills and the talent to envision new worlds and new ways of looking at things. Whether it be through the applied arts like graphic design, interaction design, industrial design or through the fine arts to change how people view and experience issues, your talents and skills have the power to change the world in small and large ways.

The current global pandemic has shown us where there are gaps and frailties in many of our systems—across government, health care, education, food distribution supply chains, social safety nets, and other intertwined systems that are still revealing themselves. Our newly graduated interaction designers will see opportunities to join nonprofits, government agencies, NGOs, startups, and other organizations to create change through understanding people's needs, understanding the big picture systems and areas of opportunity for change, and they have the responsibility to use their problem-solving skills to design new ways of interacting with people, accessing information, and processes and services in order to mitigate and repair the issues we see today.

Raffi Minasian

Associate Professor,
Industrial Design



A Compassionate Tomorrow

Designers are blessed with a unique combination of creative fortitude and determined purpose. When we observe the conditions of humanity, nature, and interaction, we cannot be restrained from our internal drive to reshape the world.

Our joy comes from fusing creative passion with cultural purpose.

Times shape our expressions. Your graduation year will forever be remarkable for the conditions that all of humanity, regardless of borders or politics, have felt over the past several months. Our world will significantly change for everyone, and you, the Class of 2020, will forever hold the banner of those who boldly marched first into the torrential uncertainties of these challenging times.

You will be the innovators of future work, future health, and future consumer experiences, offering artful engagements as mankind reshapes our notions of a safe and healthy society amidst our post-pandemic world. And while our tomorrow may be filled with unknowns and further challenges, those adversities uniquely prepare your partnership with creativity. Your motivations, kindness, and conceptual urgency will continue to improve the lives and societies of our fruitful tomorrow.

Draw your horizon firmly on our compassionate future. Establish an honest and fair perspective. Anchor your unrelenting points of confidence to the infinite vanishing point. Construct the foundation of a dynamic world and render it with the powerful and compelling light, shade, and values of our compassionate tomorrow.

Nancy Selvin

Senior Adjunct Professor,
Ceramics

Dangerous events and global catastrophes are multi-dimensional. They affect our souls and our culture whether we are visual artists, other creatives, or ordinary citizens. Society has changed, no one will ever be the same, no one is untouched, but I don't think anyone knows immediately the historic impact. Some writers, playwrights, poets, and visual artists might respond instantaneously, addressing how they feel in the moment, bringing highlights to our attention. But most of us work for the long term, for the big over-arching picture. We let the emotions, the anxieties, the images, sink in; response can take many forms...slowly evolving, reshaping what we do, how we do it, or the way we think. The impact is there in our subconscious; we have to trust our intuition that what we have experienced will emerge and reshape our work.

Minami Oya

Adjunct Professor,
Glass

"Uncertainty is the essential, inevitable, and a pervasive companion to your desire to make art. Tolerance for uncertainty is the prerequisite to succeeding." This is a passage from my favorite book, *Art and Fear*, by David Bayles and Ted Orland. No other group of people in recent years have encountered and deeply experienced uncertainty like you, Class of 2020. The world is changing fast and we need artists more than ever. And you are the chosen ones! Tune in to yourself, follow your heart and passion. Keep making, and show the world what YOU see in this inexplicable time of uncertainty. Much love to you and big hugs! Congratulations!

Erik Adigard

Adjunct II Professor,
Graphic Design

Bravissimo, gongxi, congratulations!

Graduating is always a life changing achievement, but this year makes it a most unforgettable accomplishment.

In just half a semester, we saw the world economy brought to its knees, suddenly increasing all that separates us, while providing us new insights into that we hold in common.

Technology and design are seen as the solutions to quickly regain our momentum, but it will take a new kind of imagination to envision better destinies for humans, the non-human, and for life itself.

After years of study and determination, traversing moments of doubt, disappointment, tears, excitement, and joy, you are among those who will inherit the great redesign challenge ahead.

In times of crisis, inspiration and creativity are the energies of choice.

They give us unique strength and spirit.

We have the skills to either free ourselves if we choose to, or to engage and rethink the future. This choice is what gives true substance to our vocation and it provides us a sense of purpose.

Tomorrow is more important than ever. We are within reach of previously unimagined opportunities. Together we can create a better world.

So dive into that wave and continue to learn, experiment, and discover. Never lose faith in what the unknown holds.

Let us know; what do you want to conceive?

Michelle Murillo

Chair,
Printmedia

Dear Class of 2020,

You have spent the past four years working tirelessly, creating in the studios, and engaged in critical discussions in the pursuit of nurturing and realizing your vision. As your teachers and mentors, we have had the privilege to witness your growth and the transformation of your practice, and we have no doubt that you will make your mark in this uncharted time.

We are living in extraordinary times, and despite the challenges that we are facing, limitations can also foster creativity in unexpected ways. With some perspective and an abundance of positivity and perseverance, I believe we will come to understand that these unusual circumstances will also present advantages, solutions, and breakthroughs that would not have been realized otherwise.

You are the changemakers who will create culture and define new pathways forward, and your community needs you now more than ever. I encourage you to see this new beginning as an opportunity to continue to expand your learning and above all to innovate your creative practice. While graduating at this moment comes with so much uncertainty, remember that you are the heart of CCA and we will find ways to support each other.

Let your creativity be a compass for navigating the world. We are so proud of you!

Doris Anna Guerrero

Senior Adjunct Professor,
Architecture

Dear Class of 2020.

Wow. Here you are! As a young designer/artist completing your learning at CCA, you are living a reality today that we have never experienced as a community, locally or globally or in between.

Sounds ominous, right? But, no...

As CCA grads, you are uniquely prepared to engage the very extraordinary opportunities the world has to offer at this very singular moment. In just a few weeks, while we have been hunkering down in Zoom meetings and repositioning to complete our collective educational goals, our world has changed forever and there's no going back! The assumptions, institutions, histories, and paradigms which had very much determined our everyday experiences in the near and distant past have been shattered. The great news is that we'll be re-entering a revolutionary world, a clean slate, in which we will all have a profound impact to **re-create**. My personal statement to you is to seize this moment with your optimistic curiosity, intellect, resilience, talent, and sense of ethical contribution. The world needs you now more than ever.

Sure, recessions happen and there may be a pause and/or a slowness that **seems** really odd, considering the contrast of the few years just past. But it's a rare chance to listen to the quiet voice inside and to let that guide you. Remember that voice...and don't forget to always answer it with authentic action, creativity, and perseverance.

And, on a non-COVID 19 note...don't let this event define who you are and what you do. Before this reality, you surprised me, humbled me, inspired me, and you made me laugh. I look forward to our next steps as colleagues, and I am so very excited to see what you all do to change **Your Brave New World!**

Go for it! Congrats.

Gretchen Anderson

Adjunct II Professor,
Interaction Design

How do monumental moments like this impact artists, designers, writers, and architects?

I was a senior in college when disaster struck. I had my heart broken. I felt alone, betrayed, and angry. Eventually though, I picked my heart up off of the floor and went to rehearsal for a performance I was in. In the dark theatre, we did our warmups, ran our lines, and practiced our coordinated movements. Hours later, I emerged onto the street at twilight with the hole in my chest closed, and the heartbreak just a memory. I've forgotten the person who hurt me, but I've never forgotten how creativity and community healed me.

Art, design, and creativity are gifts we give ourselves that build our resilience and connect us to the world even in dark moments. In this global crisis, I hope that the skills and talents you've honed over your years at CCA help you stay grounded and keep you motivated. Design won't kill a virus, but it can help ease the burdens of those affected by it. No matter what state your heart is in right now, or what your next steps are, I hope that you can stay true to your passions, and share your gifts with the world to heal yourself, and those around you.

Devorah Major

Senior Adjunct Professor,
Diversity Studies

What a time to graduate—walking from college to the stage of life without the grand ceremony. No caps to throw in the air, no gowns to flow across the stage. Family hugs and smiles missing. Embracing friends who made this journey with you absent.

But also, you graduate in a time when values become tested and dreams need to be remade: How humane have we become? Do you honor difference more because of our collective vulnerabilities? Do you appreciate the small things—wind on your face, the vastness of the skies, the pleasure of a meal shared? In the midst of turmoil, you made it through. Wobbling from planet upheavals, you made it through. You surmounted, you achieved. As my (deceased) poet friend Wayne Corbitt wrote, “I’ve been tried in the fire and I came out gold.” You have been tried and you have risen to the challenge. How wonderful. Think of what you can achieve now.

Kari Marboe

Interim Chair,
Ceramics and Glass
(BFA Ceramics 2008)

We’re thrilled by your accomplishments at CCA and are very excited to see what you do next. Please keep making—exploring—experimenting—crafting—learning—rule breaking, and most importantly, stay in touch! We’re proud to be community members and artists with you.

**All of the Ceramics and
Glass program faculty**

Peter Simensky

Chair,
Community Arts,
Individualized Studies, Sculpture

*Students wait expectantly. Professor opens door,
walks into classroom, sits down at head of table.*

Pause.

Scans room, meets each student's eyes.

Pause.

Stands up, leaves classroom, closes door.

Pause.

Opens door, re-enters room, sits back down.

Reaches into bag. Opens book.

Short pause.

Professor says: page. #? Saussure

The text above reads as a performance script of sorts. It was enacted by Robert Morris for students in the MFA program at Hunter College, CUNY on Monday, September 17, 2001. Our first day back. I was a second-year graduate student in his Theory and Criticism course.

Morris was well known for rigorous and deliberate art and texts. He was also an early participant in the Judson scene, a locus of task-based experimentation. Had this been Simone Forti's or Yvonne Rainer's class, might events be recounted differently?

We returned to the assignment. *sign and signifier.*

This semester, students and I have studied, enacted, and devised performances based on instructional scores from the *Fluxus Workbook* to Clifford Owens' *Anthology*. We now rehearse alone behind a camera or computer screen. At times we may still find interesting ways to collaborate.

As faculty we are asked to hold space for our students—providing room for them to participate or lead. In light of the current moment I think of Morris' inaudible pronouncement as an intentional failure. Failure to find or allow words, but perhaps in a way we held space together for that short pause.

Likely your generation will be the ones best able to define through words and works this inscrutable time. Hopefully shared together in person before long.

Christopher Johnson

Chair,
Photography

I have never experienced an event like the COVID-19 pandemic that can truly be considered global in its impact and implications.

The fact that human beings everywhere are being touched by this crisis has forced each of us to consider our place and purpose within what has been called the Family of Man.

As artists our responsibility is to deeply experience the world around us and share those experiences through our work. At this moment fear for the safety of ourselves and loved ones, and compassion for those who are suffering, must be at the forefronts of our hearts.

These are meanings that will carry our places within this moment into the future.

You have worked hard to refine your sensibilities and skills. Remain mindful of the grace and opportunities that flow from this moment in your life.

Jo-Ann M. Donovan

Adjunct II Professor,
Jewelry + Metal Arts



You are a different person than when you started four years ago here. You are now able to see what it takes to adapt and create to whatever you will encounter along the way.

You learned how to handle unpredictable and unprecedented events. You will persevere and thrive, just be strong!

Leslie Becker

Professor,
Graphic Design

Dear Graduates of 2020,

At this tentative time during which we do not recognize the world at large or even our own neighborhoods, take a moment as you graduate to think about what it means to “be educated.” I never liked those words because of their inert and passive finality. Continue to think about how you will become comfortable saying “I don’t know,” because it is almost certain that if you can’t both believe and utter those words, you *have become educated* and, sadly, it is likely that your education is over.

I hope it is not. I hope for the sake of the world that you are on the precipice of *being* educated as an ongoing act of responsible citizenry. I hope for the sake of the world that you identify what needs fixing. Define your lack of understanding in tandem with your determination to learn how and what to know. Begin to assess how the problem needs to be addressed by asking questions like a fool.

But this is a complex of questioning that never ends as long as we are breathing. Problems will proliferate. Problems will overlap. Problems will confound. If we have taught you nothing else, we hope that you are able to declare your ignorance and determination simultaneously, as you *become* educated.



Janece Hayes

Associate Director,
Student Life

Hello Chimera Class of 2020!

First, congratulations on your accomplishment—you graduated! Maybe you are the first in your family to go to college, maybe you are the 31st. Maybe you are brown, black, or white. Maybe you are the child of a long line of immigrants or a dreamer. Maybe you are a citizen of the United States or another country. No matter what, you are a part of the history of California College of the Arts. And you are AMAZING.

Look, you did it—and you did not quit. It was hard work that weathered tears and laughter, success and failure, shuttle rides and a shape-shifting campus, Waffle Wednesdays and DIY Tea bags, California fires and global pandemics. So much happened while you persisted in earning your degree. You grew as a person, as a friend, as a family member, as an artist. You learned so much about yourself, the kind of person you are and are becoming.

If I had known then it would be the last time I'd see you on campus, I would want you to know that I am proud of you and I love you. I hope you had a little fun along the way. I will miss you and the unique quality that you brought to the community day to day. Come visit from time to time, and say hello if you have the chance. You are strong, resilient, and innovative. You are the future hopes and dreams realized of your ancestors. Walk with pride and integrity—You Are Chimera.

Forged In Tradition—Crafting the Future

Leah Oliver

Staff Psychologist,
Student Affairs

Hello graduating class! We're here from counseling with a brief message for you.

With all of the recent transitions and challenges, it's definitely a time to acknowledge you all—your amazing resilience in continuing to put one foot in front of the other.

Times of abrupt change can make it difficult to access creative thinking and yet, here you are. Perhaps now more than ever, the world needs your work as artists, makers, and thought leaders.

Graduating class, you have and continue to inspire us in more ways than you may know. You are all:

- Courageous
- Unique
- Thoughtful
- Expressive
- Determined

We are so excited to see your creativity continue to unfold in the world beyond CCA. Make sure to take some time to celebrate yourselves and your accomplishments with your community—***you have earned it!***

Congratulations!

Zoe McCloskey

Studio Manager,
Hybrid Labs
(MFA Social Practice 2013)

Imagine a world that rewards greed, old people die alone, and desire for connection is manipulated into systems of control. If this is your doomsday scenario, it already was. Now imagine a world in which oil drilling has become worthless, the sky over cities is clear, and a global ceasefire is considered pragmatic. A world where acts of generosity, attentiveness to the elderly, and sincere expressions of connection are abounding. That is what is happening now. If you still feel we are in a doomsday scenario, take care what you give your attention to.

What you give attention to affects your creativity. Creativity becomes thought forms. Thought forms become beliefs. Beliefs become realities; such as policies, social norms, and other structures that focus attention, limit creativity, reinforce beliefs, and sustain themselves as the only imaginable realities.

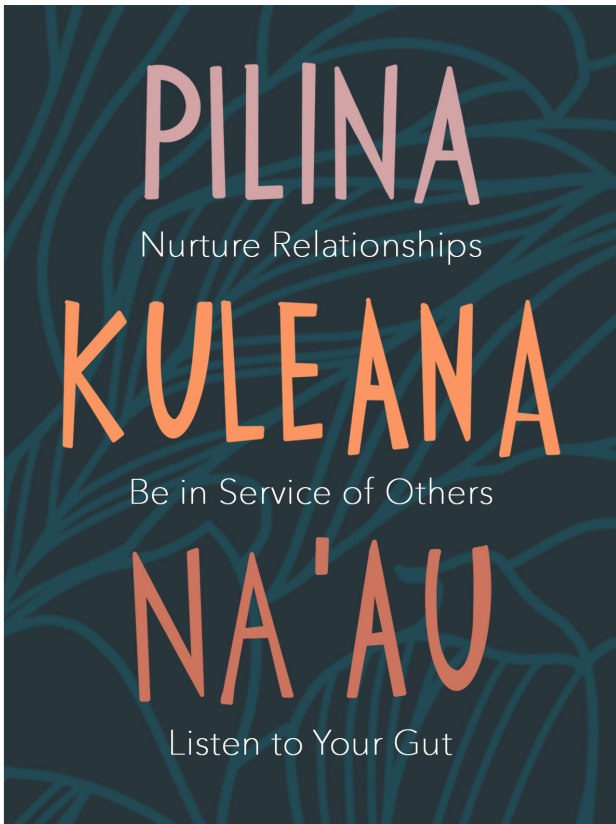
I got to know many of the graduating seniors of this class, from all over the world, from diverse majors. You have good hearts, a strong work ethic, and sensitive natures. Many of you knew your designs and artworks would be too idealistic to survive beyond academia. But the crisis of COVID-19 has upended the global structures of yesterday, and idealism is on the table now. Don't let your mind be beguiled by false entrapment. Don't cling to the past. A great clearing has taken place. The structures of reality are in flux. Use this opportunity to express your practice in its most virtuous, bounteous, magnanimous, and unbounded form.

Courtney Chung-Torralba

Associate Director of Academic Advising,
Staff Advisor of Students of Color Coalition

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Here are some words to guide you on your journey
beyond CCA:



Jared Elizares

Program Manager,
Architecture and Interior Design

I have great admiration for all that you accomplish. I've been awed by your furniture, your photographs, your drawings, and your models. I've sat in on your reviews and marveled at your presentations. Every day's walk through the Nave is refreshing and inspiring. I'm sure that you have also appreciated some of the work adjacent to your own, that you have learned from faculty and students outside of your area of focus. However, CCA is more than the work on the walls.

When students begin their studies here, they each bring unique perspectives: varying ages, identities, cultures, experiences, artistic interests, and so on. These aspects intersect and intertwine, making CCA something truly special. Over the duration of your studies, you have shaped conversations and changed the environment. As you move on to the next phases of your lives, I hope that you take with you as much as you brought.

It is always bittersweet to see students graduate, especially because I remember your first days on campus, too. I'm thrilled for you to be moving into the next chapter, but I'm also sad that I won't see your faces at the café or your work on the walls. I speak for myself as well as my peers in the CCA staff when I say that we will remember you and that we are incredibly proud. It has been an honor to share these years with you, and I wish you the best of luck in the years to come.

Donald Smith

Library Technician,
CCA Libraries

Congratulations, Graduating Class of 2020!

In a way, I too am “graduating” ... into retirement
May 15.

On April 21, 1999, I began what has been the best job of my life, public services manager at Meyer Library on the Oakland campus. I was happy to transfer to Simpson Library in 2013 to round out my experience.

We in Library Public Services have the great privilege to serve the entire CCA community: students, faculty, and staff. I have gotten to know many of you and your work through lively chats at the circulation desk, visiting your studios, and listening in on critiques.

You are a vibrant, diverse, and inspiring group. I know you will use your energy, talent, and passion to meet the challenges of the future.

Keep in touch!

donald51smith@gmail.com

Tanya Poovaiah

Studio Manager,
Animation
(BFA Animation 2015)

Dear Class of 2020,

You are incredible and powerful; you are moving into the next chapter of your life already armed to the teeth with skills and resilience that no other graduating class has seen. You are warriors and champions of times unknown, and you hold the tools that will help shape how history is documented and remembered. Use these tools, my friends. Tell the story of our time, of YOUR time, of YOU, with what you create.

You inspire me every day, and you make every day bright. Go forth, and take your light to the world. I look forward to a future with all of you in it, and from where I'm standing now, it looks beautiful and full of hope.

Much love to you always.

Alexandria Marquez

International Student Advisor,
Student Affairs

Congratulations Class of 2020! It was a pleasure getting to know you all during your time here at CCA. It's been so exciting to see your growth, and I truly admire the work you've all put in to get to this point. Being around such talented and determined individuals has inspired me in my day to day, and I can't wait to see the amazing things that come from this graduating class.

I know that taking a chance and moving to another country to pursue your goals is not a simple thing to do, but you've all managed to do just that and so much more. Navigating through college, no matter where you come from or how old you are is not an easy feat, especially during these uncertain times, but you've all proven yourselves and you should be extremely proud.

As you transition to this next chapter of life, I encourage you to venture out of your comfort zone, meet new people, remain passionate about the work you do, and ask for help when you need it. Always trust your gut and know that it's never too late to try something new. Congratulations again, and I wish you all nothing but success and happiness for the future.

Ben Austin-Docampo

Program Manager,
Humanities + Sciences
(MFA Writing 2016)

To the Class of 2020,

Your spirit and commitment to your craft will be missed, in the way that each and every one of you will be missed: bittersweetly. We'll miss your individual contributions, but take comfort in knowing that this is the way of things. There is so much more in store for each of you. I say this as a fellow graduate alum of CCA. You've been shown a way. It is both universal and singular. There is one way forward, but you have to figure out how to walk it. Stay committed to your craft. Work at it and don't be afraid to try new things, abandon old ways, invent new ones. Don't be afraid to come back to old ways, either. Use whatever it takes to keep going. Forget the rest. It won't be easy and it will definitely surprise you. That is the nature of creativity. Keep going, it will be enough. Keep going.

Craig Petey

Studio Operations Manager,
Noni Eccles Treadwell Ceramic Arts Center

Zephyr, Lindsey, Maya, Judy, Tay, Samaiyah, Maria,
Hoi, Luis, and Alexandra,

Well good day to you *departing* members of the Noni Eccles Treadwell Ceramic Arts Center. I wish to take a moment and reflect on your time spent in the studio. Although this is indeed my 18th “Rodeo of Graduating Students,” it is with a fond sadness of which I will genuinely miss you. And know—even though it is “part of the gig” when working at a college—it still continues to pluck my heart strings when this time arrives.

There are many qualities about you: your diligent approach, always friendly smile, strong empathy, upbeat take on life, professionalism, smirk, gentle kindness, ambition, banter, and strong will to succeed, that the studio will sure miss. Your eagerness at the craft fairs, your playfulness at the Blind Throwing Contests, your enthusiasm for the pop-up shops in front of the studio, your visits to the office, your exuberant cheer at Arthur’s holiday parties, and, most importantly, your dedicated hard work in your studios will be remembered. Thank you for sharing these experiences with me.

As you march on into the wild *bleu* yonder in the next chapter of your life, please do remember—at any time, in any place, and of anywhere—do not hesitate to reach out. My light will ALWAYS be on. Congratulations, Class of 2020—you did real good.

As one anonymous student wrote a long, long time ago on the steps leading to the metal shop: Farewell, Fairwell—Until we meet again.

