

# Visiting Artist Programs in the School of Design

South Dakota State University School of Design



**SOUTH DAKOTA  
STATE UNIVERSITY**  
School of Design

## VAN ZANTE VISITING ARTIST PROGRAM

The Van Zante Visiting Artist Program brings professionals from outside of the region to campus to work with students and our community. They teach new techniques, critique students' artwork, and discuss their own practice through lecture and conversation.





**Advanced students in printmaking interviewed visiting artist Mike Marks about making work and his life as an artist.**

**SDSU:** Why did you pursue art?

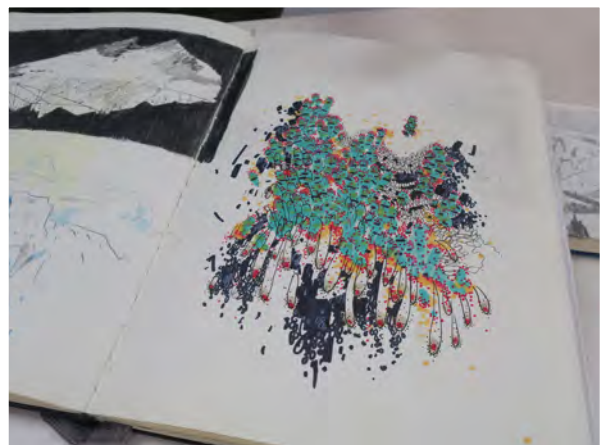
**MM:** Pursuing art came somewhat as a result of wanting to make sense of the world around me, and understanding where my interests lie within that.

**SDSU:** What are major concepts explored in your art?

**MM:** Alterations in environment, the mark of humans on landscape, the ways nature is experienced and as a result represented. I connect the surface of a printing plate/block, and its ability to hold the marks I've created as parallel to the histories and marks embedded in landscape. Themes of loss, beauty, and fragmentation occur throughout my pieces.

**SDSU:** What words of advice can you offer undergraduate students pursuing art and design?

**MM:** Making art and putting it out there often positions yourself in a vulnerable place, and it's good to be open and honest about that. Embracing and owning your vulnerabilities builds stronger character. Be confident even when you don't feel like you are, and value what you make.





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# STUART ARTIST-IN- RESIDENCE

The Stuart Artist-in-Residence program is funded through a donation from Joe and Signe Stuart, who worked and taught in Brookings for several decades. Signe Stuart was a professor of art at State from 1972-1994 and Joe Stuart served as director and curator at the South Dakota Art Museum. Together they initiated the development of an artist-in-residence program on campus to enrich our community and create opportunities for artists.





**Each fall, a national or international artist is invited to make art on campus for one month, interacting with us through lecture, critique, open studio hours, and an exhibit. Students learn from the artist and observe how their artwork develops.**

“Last spring I was a student representative on the Artist-in-Residence committee. I learned about the committee’s process of selecting an artist. The artist was eloquent and well versed, and brought a new level of thinking and perspective on painting.”

—Danielle Brulé, Studio Art major

“I benefited from the Stuart AiR program because the artists have helped me understand what it means to be a developing artist and make work in today’s world.” —Maria Little, Studio Art major

“The Stuart Residency is a unique opportunity to make work in dialogue with SDSU faculty and students.”

—Neal Rock, 2018 Stuart Artist-in-Resident

