
A Year 'Til Life Starts: Meet Alex Sewell

Posted by Alex Pearlman

February 3, 2012 09:23 AM

By Courtney Sacco

'A Year 'Til Life Starts' is an ongoing series of photo essays following Boston-area college seniors as they prepare to graduate this spring.

Alex Sewell, 22 and a Lynn native, is in his final semester as a painting major at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Sewell originally enrolled as a marketing major at UMass Lowell, but he transferred to MassArt after a year to pursue his passion for painting.



In his MassArt studio, Sewell takes down a self-portrait that will be part of a show (his second) at the Massachusetts State House. His paintings, along with work from three other artists, will be displayed in Room 34 until Feb. 20. (Courtney Sacco, Jan. 20)



Once again, Sewell finds himself carrying work out of his studio. His paintings have been displayed in many shows during his time as a painter; unlike his first State House exhibition, Sewell decided to include other artists this time. (Courtney Sacco, Jan. 20)



Sewell relaxes with friends after the opening day of his State House show. (Courtney Sacco, Jan. 20)



At 7 a.m., Sewell sits alone in his MassArt studio. Against school policy, he spent the night in his studio, working on one of his paintings. (Courtney Sacco, Jan. 25)



Fueled by coffee, Alex continues to work on his painting. It's 8 a.m., and he has class in an hour. (Courtney Sacco, Jan. 25)



After spending the night working on a painting, Sewell will spend the day, until 4 p.m., in his painting studio class. (Courtney Sacco, Jan. 25)



With less than \$1 to his name, Sewell trades an old bike to a classmate for a tube of green paint and a promise of a burger and a beer for lunch. (Courtney Sacco, Jan. 25)



After spending the entire night camped out in his studio without food or sleep, Sewell starts to crash around 12:30 p.m. He still has class until 4 p.m. (Courtney Sacco, Jan. 25)



Sewell had his hopes set on going out to claim his burger and beer, but due to a class scheduling conflict, it didn't happen. Tired and hungry, he struggles to find the energy to spend the next 30 minutes working on his painting before his class lecture. (Courtney Sacco, Jan. 25)

About Courtney -- As a photojournalist and documentary photographer, I'm always looking for a story to tell through photos. Originally from a small town called Ardsley in Westchester, N.Y., I moved to Boston in 2006 for school and never left.

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