
A Year 'Til Life Starts: A stressful day for Alex Sewell

Posted by Alex Pearlman

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By Courtney Sacco

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.



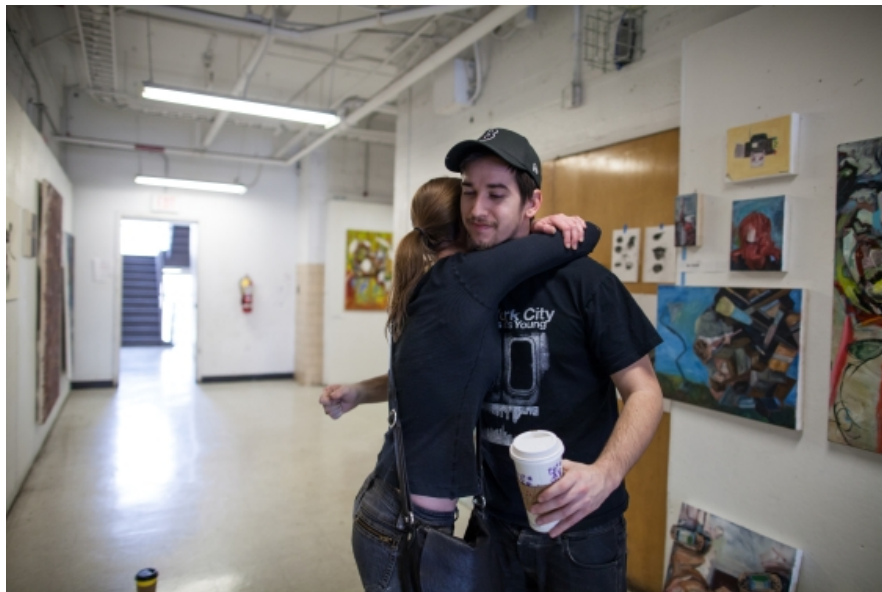
A week ago, Sewell received an email informing him that he was one of 10 finalists being considered for his department's nomination for the MassArt's Yale/Norfolk award. Today, Sewell hangs selected pieces of his work in the hallway outside his studio in preparation for judging. (Courtney Sacco, Feb. 22)



Sewell hangs everything from large paintings to small sketches. MassArt professors will look at all the finalists' work and choose a nominee today. (Courtney Sacco, Feb. 22)



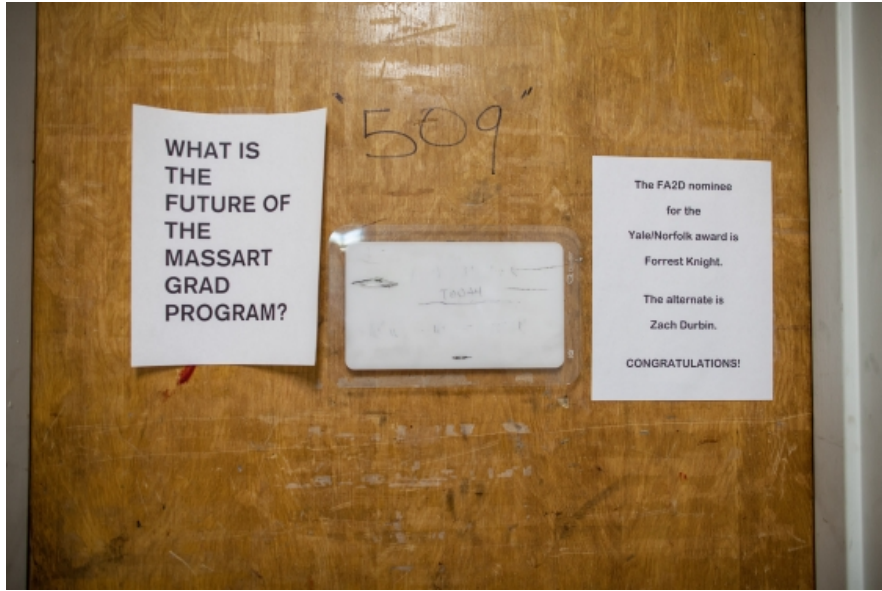
With no idea what time the winning artist will be announced, Sewell tries to paint to calm down. But his heart is racing in anticipation, and he can't get his mind off the announcement. (Courtney Sacco, Feb. 22)



A classmate offers Sewell some support. (Courtney Sacco, Feb. 22)



The anticipation has gotten to Sewell; he can't focus on anything. There's nothing to do but wait for the announcement. (Courtney Sacco, Feb. 22)



After what seems like forever, the winning artist is finally announced. (Courtney Sacco, Feb. 22)



Sewell checks the announcement. He did not receive the nomination. (Courtney Sacco, Feb. 22)



After a stressful day, Sewell relaxes and smokes a cigarette outside MassArt. (Courtney Sacco, Feb. 22)



Sewell texts his friends to let them know that he did not receive the nomination. (Courtney Sacco, Feb. 22)

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

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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