

Time to move on, time to get going ...

Tom Petty. Track 3 of *Wildflowers*.

How can we corral creativity? We can't, but a course like this can bring together a group of people who want to be artists, ask that they work hard for three years, hope that they have some fun along the way, and then as a grand finale, arrange an exhibition. This is a promising system for making sure that art thrives.

It encourages thinking through making, which is a good way to experience the world. It expects that new ideas might shake out the tired ones, or at least question them. It puts together idealism with being practical, knowing when to stop with being ambitious, finding out about the past whilst becoming who you are, and endless other apparent contradictions.

Artists, academics and technicians teach and tutor in art schools across Britain, - they are generous and demanding because they care about their students and about art. But the vital spark, the dynamic, comes from what students want their Department to be, what they need from it, instinctively, in order to develop.

I felt exhilarated after my visit to Camberwell this year. Painting and what it invites as a discipline is being taken on with seriousness and passion. Spending time with people who are very involved really does cheer one up.

Congratulations to all of you who have stayed the course, graduated, and will now do whatever you must do. You will have changed during these three years of making art, and in doing so you will have changed the world.

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