

November 28, 1987

Professor David Antin
Chairman, Department of Visual Arts
University of California, San Diego

Dear David Antin:

As students of media in the Visual Arts Department, we are writing to share with you the positive learning experience we received in Pier Marton's experimental video class.

Pier Marton is an excellent instructor. He employs a unique method of teaching that challenges a student's sensibilities, which enables learning by actually experiencing self-confrontation in the art-making process. We welcomed his challenging assignments - they were both thought provoking and difficult, requiring serious commitment - which unfortunately we have found to be a rare quality within this department.

If we are to become artists that work with intelligence and sensitivity, we need instructors who foster within us the need to experience and learn about ourselves and our motives as artists. Pier sets up this type of learning situation, and he has never made it easy for us. He simply will not give out "answers." Instead he gives us ways to achieve our own answers. By searching out, by experiencing for ourselves, we truly learn and are able to grow.

Pier has the unique ability to get students to open up and feel comfortable about speaking in class. He has somehow inspired students to think and talk and share their feelings about art on an intellectual basis - students who have never opened their mouths before in this program. We feel that this says a lot about Pier's teaching style, which is never intimidating.

We need instructors in our department who are accomplished artists, but it is essential that they truly enjoy teaching. We

feel that Pier would be an asset to the Visual Arts Department because he possesses these qualities. Although we will be graduating this spring, we believe it would be very beneficial if other students could benefit from Pier's guidance as we have. We would like the department to hire Pier Marton on a permanent basis. This spring, when the department will be making the decisions to hire next year's faculty, we want you to choose Pier. If the department fails to acknowledge his teaching abilities, we as students will lose a fine teacher and the department will lose an accomplished colleague.

Thank you,

Leslie Vandernoot
Leslie Vandernoot

Vincente Foque
Vincente Foque

Margot Gerber
Margot Gerber

Kyberli Ghee
Kyberli Ghee

Chandra Walker
Chandra Walker

Ann Pachon
Ann Pachon

Victor Chayot
Victor Chayot

Don Hewitt
Don Hewitt

Michelle Mills
Michelle Mills

Juan Lelan
Juan Lelan

Carol Hoffmacker
Carol Hoffmacker

Julie Adrianson
Julie Adrianson

Tower Krauss
Tower Krauss

Duncan Todd Lynch
Duncan Todd Lynch

Olivier Arnold
Olivier Arnold

Al Soohoo
Al Soohoo

Andy Clark
Andy Clark

Jean Baptiste Robert
Jean Baptiste Robert

Kathy Cantor
Kathy Cantor

William Smith
William Smith

Richard Fletcher
Richard Fletcher

David Gates
David Gates

Triva Von Klark
Triva Von Klark

Camille Cunningham
Camille Cunningham

Larry Falk
Larry Falk

Cynthia Foley
Cynthia Foley

Michael Albert
Michael Albert

Chris Hawkins
Chris Hawkins

Lauri Aloi
Lauri Aloi

Joyce Brouwers
Joyce Brouwers

Paul Haddard
Paul Haddard

Eric Spiker
Eric Spiker

Kip Fulbeck
Kip Fulbeck

December 2, 1987

Professor David Antin
Chairman, Department of Visual Arts
University of California, San Diego

Dear David Antin:

Earlier this week we wrote to you concerning Pier Marton. We expressed to you our feelings about his outstanding teaching abilities and the fact that we want the department to hire Pier. As seniors, we are feeling instability within this major. Every quarter, there will be new instructors teaching here, and this is unfair to us. We need instructors who will be here the entire year. We are serious about our work and it is obvious that we need consistent guidance and motivation. We need teachers who will know our work and are able to meter our progress. Pier has gained our confidence and trust; we want him to teach here for the rest of this year. Please find the resources that will enable Pier Marton to remain here permanently.

We hope that the department will give our request serious consideration. We will be contacting you again very soon to receive your response to our letters. We look forward to meeting with you concerning hiring Pier Marton and hearing any ideas that you may have that will enable the department to retain him.