

Jennifer Hebben  
Candidate Docent Final Project Aug 2019

**Objective: Create a five minute Communal,  
sustained, thoughtful looking**

Participants: Kalamazoo Institute of Art's  
Candidate Docent Class of 2019

Format: Visual Thinking Strategies

“Can everyone see the work of art?”

“Let's take a minute to look.”

“What's going on in the work of art?”

-Take Comments:

Gesture to area / section of W.O.A. being discussed

Summarize comment / noticing / observation

Make connections and where appropriate introduce vocabulary

“What more can we find?”

- Repeat: Gesture and summary

“Thank you for your considered attention and time;  
Wonderful discussion etc.”

*See No Evil,  
Speak No Evil,  
Hear No Evil*

Artist: Perin Mahler,  
American 1963 -  
Oil on Canvas 2005

## “Addressing the needs of the Painting” The Process of Perin Mahler

The Artist refers to their work as Allegorical Figurative Painting, often using themselves and their loved ones as subjects. Current work deals with the burdens and responsibilities of Parenthood.

“In these works, almost as much still life as figure compositions, I use objects to represent the burdens of domestic life.”

“Using complicated structures and often large casts of characters, I’m attempting to conjure a dramatic presence from a scene that might be experienced on a daily basis.”

“I’ve found that it’s really enabled me to make a synthetic composition. And in some cases it allows me to do things that are actually impossible in real life.”

For about 5 years the Artist has ambitiously explored composition with digital photography as a source. Using a computer the artist compiles a digital composition created by collaging several images into one, sometimes using many dozens of photo references in a single image. The digital collage is then laid out on the canvas.

“Working from photography can be problematic, it’s a great resource, but it can also be oppressive...you can’t be too slavish to the photograph or else your work can become mechanical. So I use photography as a source, I tend to do a lot of freehand drawing and assembling not only in Photoshop but also on the canvas. I’m adding things, and subtracting things directly...addressing the needs of the painting rather than trying to be faithful to a photograph.”

Laguna College of Art and Design, Master of Fine Art.  
Perin Mahler interview. Vimeo, uploaded by LCAD, 2010  
<https://vimeo.com/16323205>

Perin Mahler’s Gallery, Bio. <http://www.perinmahler.art/bio.php>

Perin Mahler’s Gallery, Artist’s Statement. <http://www.perinmahler.art/artiststatement.php>

sp [a] ce: ROBOT REMIX, Perin Mahler. <https://space.ayzenberg.com/artists/perin-mahler/>

