

**Impressionist Reflections on Kent Island Coastline and its Organisms**  
**Adam Silberberg, Class of 2020**

I spent June and July on Kent Island, painting and practising film photography. I explored watercolor as well as water-miscible oil paints, though my primary effort was towards painting with oils, and attempting to respond to the natural landscape surrounding me at Kent, focusing on the Impressionist ideas of light changing, impermanence, spontaneity, and color.

My oil paintings range greatly, from naturalistic, expressionist, impressionist, to neo-impressionist, which reflect an interest in learning and trying to put to practise a wide variety of ideas on aesthetic theory. Near the end of my time at Kent, my understanding of color theory in particular became more in line with neo-impressionism than impressionism, which is based more on a theoretical use of lighter colors to produce certain interactions, as well as the idea of optical blending, where colors placed next to each other on the surface are blended by the viewer's eye.

I also gained an understanding of how to paint en plein air, which is a skill I have never explored. Painting outside is extremely different from in a studio environment, as many of the insects stuck on my paintings will attest to.

I learned some of the basics of painting landscapes, such as the need to paint from the background to the foreground, as well as experimenting with different ways of handling paint and the images that result from those different handlings.

My understanding and skill in producing meaningful images has improved for my time spent on Kent Island, as it is a place which I was able to find a solitude which allowed me to experiment on my own with my process and theories behind image-making.



**Faculty Mentor: Mark Wethli**

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