

Art of Contemplation



Contemplation On Much Study During One's Youth

by David Hancock '03
oil on canvas

A finalist in the still-life category of *The Artist's Magazine* national juried competition, "Contemplation On Much Study During One's Youth" is both a commentary and a caution against excessive study. As **David Hancock '03** explains, every element contains meaning that contributes to the story: the purity of the vase, for instance, represents a soul conditioned by academic inquiry, while the lifeless flowers allude to the prime of youth, which is often sacrificed in the pursuit of the ideal.

"Contemplation reminds us to be ourselves in our academic pursuits," he emphasizes. "After all, life is meant to be lived—not studied."

A classicist and aesthete, David views art as an opportunity for giving, and seeks to inspire virtue through his compositions while exploring themes of philosophy, religion, and the psychology of consciousness. He specializes in still life, portrait, and figure painting, and draws his inspiration from the history of western classical art, primarily Italian Renaissance and Baroque.

Although born and raised in Chicago, David currently lives, paints, and teaches in Florence, Italy, with his wife Cynthia Chizmar Hancock '03. To view more of his works, visit www.DavidCHancock.com.



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