

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
Visual Arts

January 20, 1996
Amenoff
343 West 29th St.
NY NY 10001

Dodge
116 Street & Broadway

Letter of Recommendation for Miguel Martinez

Dear Admissions Committee,

I first worked with Mr. Martinez while I was resident faculty at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in the summer of 1991. Mr. Martinez was then in his last year of an undergraduate major at SUNY Purchase. In the ensuing years, Mr. Martinez has continued to develop his work outside of any academic context and additionally has stayed in close contact with me. To my mind, Mr. Martinez is now entering an optimal period to begin a graduate program in painting. He has developed his work well beyond the undergraduate level and is ready for both serious challenges to his work and participation in a critical community. I strongly support his application to your MFA program.

Mr. Martinez's paintings and drawings have an immediacy and ambition which is refreshing. Over the past 5 years he has explored many of the traditional languages of modern painting and is just now beginning to find his own voice. I have watched him thoughtfully add and discard elements in his work during the time I have known him and I can say that he has the makings of a serious painter. In view of his commitment to his work and his enthusiasm for the broader process of art making, I am sure that Mr. Martinez is in a position to take full advantage of a graduate program at this time.

As a person, Mr. Martinez is bright, generous, energetic and intellectually curious. These traits, along with his gregarious nature, made him an important element in the Skowhegan community. He possesses a good background knowledge of art history--both classical and contemporary. He accepts criticism well and finds a way to turn those criticisms into positive movement in his painting. In many ways I would characterize Mr. Martinez as an ideal student. I have always been surprised by the quantity and quality of each new body of work. His openness combined with his production make studio visits a pleasure rather than an all too often "painful" process.

On the basis of my comments above I would highly recommend that Miguel Martinez be given serious consideration for admission to your MFA program. I am certain that he will gain clarity in his work and also be an active participant in the graduate community. Please feel free to contact me further on this matter.

Sincerely,

Gregory Amenoff
Painter

Professor of Art, Columbia University, NYC

