

CALifornia Institute  
of the ARTS

24700 McBean Parkway Valencia California 91355-2397

R. JOHN BACHE

Associate Provost

805 255-1050 x2785

fax 805 254-8352

e-mail [jbache@muse.calarts.edu](mailto:jbache@muse.calarts.edu)

March 16, 1999

South Western College  
Attention: Human Resources  
900 Otay Lakes Road  
Chula Vista, California 91910-7299

To whom it may concern:

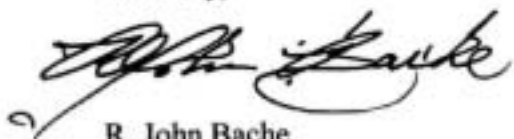
The purpose of this letter is to recommend to you Derrick Maddox who is applying for the position of Professorship with your University. Mr. Maddox is a sensitive individual who is aware of the world and the persons in it as well as himself. Derrick is an excellent candidate for this position. The faculty of the School of Art and myself were extremely impressed by his many talents, high energy, production and his exceptional exhibition record.

Mr. Maddox took an independent route at CalArts, something which the school encourages. His work is intelligent and difficult to categorize since it ranges over a wide area from personal and intuitive to the innovative.

Derrick also has developed exceptional organizational skills. In his last year of residency at CalArts, he organized and coordinated a grand event called "Whoop Dang Doodle", which included several schools within the Institute and involved close to 100 persons (faculty and students) who participated in performance pieces, art installations, jazz bands and made ethnic foods. Close to 500 people were in attendance. I would like to mention that this was a cultural arts event sponsored by the Diversity Committee.

Derrick Maddox would be an excellent addition to your fine faculty. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance in giving you additional information. Thank you.

Sincerely,



R. John Bache  
Associate Provost

Office of the Vice President  
Administration



Film / Video  
Music  
Theatre  
Critical Studies

24700 MCREAN PARKWAY VALENCIA CALIFORNIA 91355

tel 805 255 1050

fax 805 254 8352

April 28, 1997

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**


**Re: Derrick Maddox**

Derrick Maddox while a student at California Institute of the Arts organized and carried out a very large all-school event.

He met with many different groups and got them to participate as well as to help underwrite the cost of the event.

Derrick is a good organizer with high energy who works well with people.

Sincerely,

  
**John S. Fuller**  
Vice President  
Administration

JSF:jn



Loren Sandvik  
1030 NW Edgeware Rd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
(213) 481-0307

Southwestern College  
900 Otay Lakes Rd.  
Chula Vista, CA 91910-7299

To whom it may concern:

I would like to submit this letter in support of Derrick Maddox's application to teach in your program. I have known Derrick for five years, in which time he has consistently impressed me as a dedicated professional actively striving to construct an educational environment that is engaging, informed, and humane. Derrick is exceedingly generous with his personal resources and gives freely of his time, energy and extensive technical information. It is this attitude which most defines Derrick as a person who can contribute to the dynamics of an art department and helps him forge productive relationships with students.

Derrick has an amazingly broad base of technical skills. He moves fluidly in and out of mediums and often incorporates many different methods of production in his own artwork. He has the ability to construct sophisticated objects out of a variety of materials and has an extensive knowledge of modern building supplies and methods of fabrication. This broad base of technical skills includes woodworking, ceramics, metals, plaster, mold-making, and plastics. Derrick has a complete grasp of any studio process or situation which compounds his effectiveness in the classroom.

As an artist, Derrick is viewed as a young, exceptionally talented emerging artist who is respected by his peers. His work is always a complicated blend of humor, insight, and form which serves him well. One of the most memorable and deftly inspirational artistic gestures I've seen in years was performed by Derrick at the California Institute of the Arts during his first year review as a graduate student. The graduate candidates were nervously waiting in their studios for the faculty to visit, getting ready to defend their artwork, and trying to remember the things they wanted to say. When it came to Derrick's turn — he wasn't in his studio — he was in an adjacent field buried up to his neck in dirt, hair dyed orange, professing he was just a carrot. He proceeded to conduct his graduate review from there.

Obviously, I am a huge supporter of Derrick for a number of reasons, including those I've outlined above. He is a highly qualified artist and talented individual. As such, I recommend Derrick for the position of Art Instructor in your department.

Sincerely,

Loren Sandvik



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION  
(619) 534-4410  
(619) 534-7315 FAX

9500 GILMAN DRIVE  
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92093-0503

Art Instruction Screening Committee  
South West College Human Resources  
900 Otay Lakes Road  
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Dear Committee:

I am writing to recommend Derrick Maddox for a teaching position in art. I have known Derrick for over eight years. I believe my first encounter with him was at the UCSD Day Care Center. He was a teaching aide in the program there and my granddaughter was a student. He was a favorite of the children and well respected and appreciated by the staff and faculty for his enthusiasm, his energy, his caring attention to the children. Those qualities were apparent when I had him in several of my classes, but as his teacher, I also grew to understand that Derrick possessed talents far beyond anything I could have imagined. Derrick is a brilliant artist and poet. He had an ability to express extremely deep feelings and insight. In the several classes he took with me, he always pushed the group to more profound discussions, to more creative and exciting projects and to gain a deeper historical sense of themselves and the situation of the world.

Derrick went on to graduate school at Cal Arts, where he distinguished himself with not only unique and well reviewed individual exhibitions, but with the orchestration of a mammoth institution-wide event that brought artists and musicians from the urban areas of inner Los Angeles out to the rarefied atmosphere of Cal Arts in Valencia. The event included ethnic food from many nations and a collaboration between the Cal Arts students and grass roots community artists. Several of my friends teach at Cal Arts and they were unanimous in praising this event as an historic intercultural exchange. Derrick was the one who envisioned it, who inspired the many students, faculty and staff who made it happen and who had the initial contacts in the community to make it work.

For many students and faculty Derrick's "happening" was the most memorable of all events in the history of Cal Arts: a multicultural

festival that brought together the sometimes alienated and jaded art students with artists and community people from the inner city of Los Angeles. Only Derrick could have pulled off an event as gigantic and ambitious as this. For many years Cal Arts had attempted to make bridges into the "community" through various forums and exhibitions, usually in Los Angeles. This event brought the Angelenos to Cal Arts: a formidable feat, and one which only the brash optimism and faith of Derrick Maddox could have accomplished.

Derrick has unique abilities to inspire others to good work. He is a wonderful teacher and catalyst. Since Derrick graduated, I have had him be a guest teacher in my classes in the video studio. He is a delight in helping the students learn to use space and props in creative ways. He has also performed/read poetry to other classes. These are often emotional sessions, but usually remembered by the students as the most profound class of the quarter. Derrick has a unique ability to draw the students into discussion of very sensitive and problematic issues such as racism and sexism in an open and frank conversation. Derrick's own generosity and compassion help to make the bridges of dialogue happen.

At Cal Arts and at UCSD Derrick was always someone who helped make things happen. He was a vital member of the UCSD food co-op, which was going through many changes at the time, and Derrick's good nature and eagerness to find constructive solutions helped them out of a very hard time. He was very active in encouraging poetry readings and art "happenings" on the campus. We sorely miss his energy on the UCSD campus, now that he has moved on.

One of the best aspects of Derrick is the way that he draws people in to create community. He is brilliant at facilitating collaborations. It is this quality, more than anything that I believe is especially useful in teaching art. Derrick has a strong faith in the ability of all people to be creative and a unique ability to help them in the process of becoming so. He is a delightful colleague with a visionary commitment to the human potential.

Sincerely,



DeeDee Halleck

Professor, Dept of Communication

April 3, 1999

CALifornia Institute  
of the ARTS

24700 McBean Parkway Valencia California 91355-2397 (805) 255-1050

D. DEAN HOUCHIN  
Associate Vice President/Controller  
ACCOUNTING Office

805 253-7851  
fax 805 222-2736  
e-mail dhouchin@muse.calarts.edu

April 25, 1997

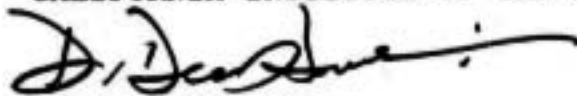
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to verify that Derek Maddox received funding from California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) for an inter-school project. CalArts places stringent reporting requirements on awards that have been issued. Derek was very diligent in obtaining and submitting receipts for his inter-school project. The manner and earnest application and effort in meeting his reporting obligations showed that he is quite capable of dealing with the responsibilities and control of monies provided to his safekeeping.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Cordially,

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS



D. Dean Houchin  
Associate Vice President/Controller  
(805) 253-7851  
fax (805) 222-2736  
e-mail dhouchin@muse.calarts.edu

# STUDIO ●

California Afro-American Museum  
600 State Drive, Exposition Park  
Los Angeles, California

To whom it may concern:

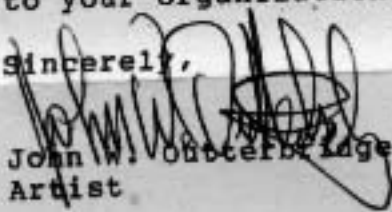
I am writing to recommend Derrick Maddox for the Resident Artist position at CAAM. I have known Derrick for about four years and have had much pleasure in watching his creative growth flourish. An extremely insightful young man who seems always considerate of those working with him in any way.

Derrick is an excellent candidate with multi skills, talent, and intellect. He is also hard working and productive and has logged an extensive exhibit record. Derrick's sculpture, painting, photography, video, and performance art spectrum are all part of a profound vision. We have communicated frequently in the last few months which has given me an opportunity to develop much appreciation for his astounding ability as a poet/writer of brilliant depth and capacity as well.

Derrick has had employment in various situations such as the Student Food Coop, while at the University of California, San Diego, where he attained meaningful respect from his peers. He has enjoyed and established admirable skills in working with children, parents, and teachers at a Day Care Center, they were all very fond of him. Derrick has such a natural way of making friends: one detects a sincere and deep integrity upon meeting him.

I stoutly recommend this talented young artist for the Resident Artist position, he is certain to introduce another positive asset to your organization.

Sincerely,

  
John W. Outerbridge  
Artist

# CALifornia Institute of the ARTS

24700 McBean Parkway Valencia California 91355-2397 (805) 255-1050

School of ART

805 253-7801

fax 805 259-5871


To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter to support Derrick Maddox's nomination for the artist grant offered by your institution. I have known Derrick's for three years. He was a graduate student here at the California Insitute of the Arts, Program in Fine Art. I am the director of that program. He has taken several classes from me as well as two independent studies.

Derrick is definitely one of the most talented artists I know. He is also very passionate. And for him this passion is a fecund source for his work. Most of Derrick's work is installational, at least during the time that he was here. There were several Installations from that period that I thought were outstanding. The best among them was his installation performance that had him buried in the ground up to his neck. His interest in this work was to construct an allegory of his identity, not racial or ethnic so much as his individual identity and how it has a polemical relationship with his environment. This work functioned as both a confrontation and an introspection: a confrontation of the social environment and an introspective look into his own identity. This was a remarkable work!

Derrick is a great person to work with. He gets along well with others, he is charismatic, hard working, dedicated and serious about his practice. As I mentioned, you will find him to be quite a passionate person who is exceptionally sensitive to his environment. I believe this passion is the fuel that energizes his production, and the reason why his own subjectivity remains as his central interest. I recommend him highly.

Sincerely,



Charles Gaines, Director  
Program in Art



12-14-98

Mitchell Syrop  
Instructor of Digital Media  
Chaffey College  
5885 Haven Avenue  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91737

Attn: Art Instructor Screening Committee  
Human Resources Dept.  
Southwestern College  
900 Otay Lakes Road  
Chula Vista, CA 91910-7299

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to convey my strong support for Derek Maddox as a candidate for a faculty position in your department. I consider him to be an outstanding candidate for that position. Derek is a committed and insightful artist. I would expect him to be a strong asset to any art department and a great benefit to students.

I have known Derek since 1995, first as my student at CalArts, and now as a friend and colleague. My respect and admiration for him began when he was my student. He was among a dozen of the most interesting students I have encountered in as many years of teaching.

In terms of his work, his intelligence, and his dealings with other people, Derek's perspective is always original and authentic. He is also extremely modest and compassionate – characteristics that I equate with wisdom. These qualities made him an interesting student then, a compelling artist now, and will make him an excellent and valuable teacher. I am confident his future students will feel as lucky as his former teacher does.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Syrop', written in a cursive style.

Mitchell Syrop

To Whom it May Concern:

This is an introduction and general recommendation for Derrick Maddox.

I worked with Mr. Maddox for two years in the Graduate Art department at California Institute of the Arts. He is a mature man of incisive intelligence, well-read and articulate, an artist and thinker of great vigor. I'll say without hesitation that his work is among the best I've seen in 25 years of teaching.

He is seriously engaged in social issues; the thrust of his conversation and his work is a compelling and discursive attempt to reconstruct a sense of community out of a crumbling ethos. He is a kind of impresario, and a kind of trickster, too; his organizational abilities are something to behold, and gives good evidence of his ability to work in collaboration.

Derrick is a singular man who works from a perspective that sees things others don't see; it is a treat to have worked with him. I recommend him energetically.

Sincerely,



John Mandel

School of Art

Calarts

Valencia, Ca.

91355

tel# 805-255-1050



DEPARTMENT OF ART - 012

RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92521-0320  
TELEPHONE: (909) 787-4634  
FAX: (909) 787-2385

South Western College  
Human Resources Office  
Att'n: Art Instructors Screening Committee  
900 Otay Lakes Rd.  
Chula Vista, CA.  
91910-7299

3/30/99

To Whomever It May Concern,

I would like to highly recommend Derrick Maddox for your teaching position. I have known Derrick for about three years. Derrick is an extremely intelligent young man and a very gifted artist. He is passionate, articulate and committed to social change. I recommended Derrick for a one-person emerging artist show at the Sweeney gallery UC Riverside. The work he did for that exhibition was highly engaging and provocative.

I think that Derrick would be a very important teacher; important in the sense of life-changing for young students. He comes to everything with a great sense of compassion and commitment. He has a view point to offer that says that all decisions are meaningful. It is a position of great responsibility and connectedness. If we had a position opening up at Riverside I'd work to get him hired in a minute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Giegerich".

Jill Giegerich  
Associate Professor  
Art Dept.  
UC, Riverside