

THE SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS.

Closing of the Regular Session—Prof. Halsey C. Ives Makes an Address to the Pupils.

The night session of the St. Louis School of Fine Arts closed last evening after a very successful year of work. At the close of the regular exercises of the school the different classes assembled in the large hall of Washington University, where they listened to a short address by Prof. Ives. After congratulating the students upon the successful termination of the present session, Prof. Ives gave a short summary of the present condition of the school and its history. Five years ago the night school began with 13 students, and has had a steady and healthy growth since that time. During the year just closed instruction has been given in the night school alone to 137 students, while the whole number of students who have received instruction in the art school, including the day classes and classes coming from other departments of the university, was over 500. During these years also the facilities for instruction have been greatly enlarged.

Although called the art school ever since its beginning, the school was not strictly organized as "The Art Department of Washington University" until May 22, 1879. At that time an ordinance was passed by the University Board of Directors establishing the Art Department, and providing for its support by gifts of money and in other ways. The first person to take advantage of the provisions of the ordinance was Mr. Wayman Crow, to whose munificence the school owes the erection of the museum of fine arts which is to be dedicated on Tuesday next to the uses of the school. Prof. Ives called the attention of the students to the fact that the museum was to be a place of instruction and not only an ornament to the city. Though it was to be open to the public, and was intended to afford pleasure to any who were ready to avail themselves of the opportunities which it afforded, it was to be of especial interest to the students of the school, and they should use it as students, and take every opportunity to grow by its aid and thus prove its efficiency.

Prof. Ives closed his remarks with the hope that he might see all the old students, with new enthusiasm and vigor, when the night school reopened in November next.

"The School of Fine Arts." St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 8 May 1881, p. 6. Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers, link.gale.com/apps/doc/GT3004073524/NCNP?u=sain79627&sid=bookmark-NCNP. Accessed 20 Oct. 2023.