



January 15, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you in support of Lily Smith's application for graduate study in Design at the National College of Art and Design – Dublin. Lily stands out as one of the very best students I've worked with in my eighteen years of teaching at Evergreen – smart, balanced, hardworking, inquisitive, creative, and very focused. I am genuinely pleased to recommend her to you.

I've known Lily since 2012, when she was a student in *Student Originated Studies: Shaping*, a year-long, 48-credit, full-time program in which students made individual proposals for focused investigation in sculpture, crafts, environmental art, or sustainable design, including intensive studio work, research, and writing. Each student wrote a work plan each quarter spelling out their learning goals, projects, research, deliverables, and timeline. Collectively, they shared a studio, and took part in skills workshops, regular seminars on shared readings, research presentations, production of artist statements, résumés, and websites, and a year-end exhibition of their work.

Lily was deliberate in her approach to woodworking and furniture design throughout the program, committed to working with local and repurposed materials, particularly Douglas Fir. Her sense of style emerged early – a straightforward constructivist approach that harkened back to America Shaker and Craftsman precedents, and grew more sophisticated in its forms and detailing over the course of the year. She moved from stools and chairs to tables and light fixtures. She often incorporated steel for stretchers, chair backs, and table aprons, and was astute in her design of connectors and hardware. She enjoys cooking and entertaining friends, and her focus over the year on furnishings and tools for cooking, dining and socializing culminated in a croquet set – a worthy addition to a summer picnic – which allowed her to explore spindle turning and painted finishes. Her research ranged over Shaker and Craftsman work to contemporary mass market designs of Ikea, the studio art furniture of Roy McMakin, and writings on furniture by Donald Judd, Galen Cranz and others. In the final quarter she also produced a handsome website, artist résumé, and artist statement – elegantly simple graphically, and all evidencing her careful organization and strong design sense.

I worked with Lily again in the spring of 2015, when she undertook an Individual Learning Contract focused on more advanced furniture design and construction – specifically carcass construction. She made extensive studies of the cabinet design to refine its scale and proportions, and she again made use of repurposed wood – Douglas Fir and mahogany, and steel. The resulting cabinet again bore her sense of style – simple, direct forms and materials with meticulously studied and executed proportioning, joinery, and detailing. In addition to her excellent series of furniture works over the course of her studies, Lily was an able seamstress and designer of clothing and accessories which she produced apace with her furniture pieces. Her other strong focus at Evergreen was photography. She was astute at staging and skilled at photographing her own work, and she also produced a remarkable series of large photographic portraits, and organized and mounted a successful show of these works upon graduating.

Following Evergreen, Lily worked for a home construction contractor, gaining more range and skills, and then proceeded to design and build her own very handsome “tiny house,” a compact, well-organized, and inventively detailed home for herself that allowed her to bring her design and construction skills to bear at a new scale, and to work with light and space. Again, it bore her trademark design sense – simple and



meticulously detailed. Since that project, she has taken the initiative to travel extensively in Ireland, the U.K. and Scandinavia, to explore design and schooling opportunities there.

Lily has shown herself to be focused and persistent, with a strong design sense and solid technical, organizational and research skills. She is meticulous in the execution and presentation of all of her work, and is able to bring her skills to bear at a variety of scales, always with attention to design that is direct, functional, accessible, and responsible in its use of materials. She is readily able to work collaboratively with others and to share her knowledge. These traits, along with her maturity, readiness to learn, and work ethic, make her an ideal candidate for graduate studio in Design at the National College of Art and Design – Dublin, and she merits any support you can offer to her study there – it will be well invested. Again, I am very pleased to recommend Lily to you, unconditionally. I'd be happy to speak to you directly on her behalf. Please feel free to call me at (360) 867-6760 or to e-mail me at leverich@evergreen.edu.

Sincerely,

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