



History Painting Moving Forward

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If you are not following [Colin Quashie's art blog](#), I thought I'd give you a quick update on his progress with our North Carolina history painting. It is interesting to me because it will be an important work of art for the School, but it also is fascinating to follow the artistic process if you know nothing about it—which certainly is the case for me.

One reason Colin was in North Carolina a few weeks ago was to visit the Division of Archives in Raleigh. He was looking for higher quality photographs of historical figures who will be included in the painting. It sounds like he had a productive visit, and he also came away with some other people and scenes for possible inclusion in the painting. After making a number of changes, it sounds like Colin has more-or-less finalized the people, scenes, and the overall composition.



You may remember that Colin found a great studio space with a wall large enough to accommodate this large format painting. Once the space was ready to go, he had to hang the



canvas on the wall—20 yards of canvas. Hanging the canvas was, well, challenging. His blog post describing that process was titled “Stretching My Patience.”







Once the canvas was on the wall, the next step involved applying gesso, or “gessoing” the canvas. I think that gesso essentially is a kind of primer that gives you a consistent, white surface for applying paint.



Now Colin is beginning to sketch the figures from his smaller-scale drawing onto the canvas. It looks like he is using a projector to help him place and draw his images on the canvas, and then he will move to painting them.



I know that I'm repeating myself, but I think this project is just great. I love the concept and I love it more every time I see Colin's latest set of images. This is something that we and our clients will enjoy, and it is something that will make us proud. If you want to follow along on the rest of Colin's journey with this painting, check back at his blog or just enter it into your RSS feeder for regular updates. Go, Colin!