Post 1:

It is my belief that being an artist and an engineer are distinct skills. An artist needs to possess the talent to be able to produce images in a piece of work. This can either be drawings, paintings, models etc. An engineer needs to have the capability to think critically and think ahead in order to solve problems. If one is an artist it doesn’t mean they’re an engineer and vice versa. However this doesn’t mean a person can’t possess both skills. In the time of the Renaissance there were great artists as engineers. An example is Leonardo Da Vinci, in his journal he had drawings of machinery, a variety of drawings depicting nature, as well as military works and hydraulic plans (Friedel, 109). Leonardo not only drew, but according to Robert Friedel the drawings of flying machinery show the extent of Leonardo’s imagination and how he was able to think critically by “attaching his speculations to what he could truly see and understand about the world, both natural and artificial” (109). Critical thinking and imagination are very crucial to being an engineer, and Leonardo’s drawings show this type of thinking. Leonardo’s drawings show his ability to depict in detail and physical form what’s on his mind. Not many people have this capability and it shows how good of an artist he is. Another example that shows an artist and an engineer aren’t the same type of skills is personal experience. I am able to think critically, have a lot of imagination and come up with solutions. This shows skills of an engineer. However, I am unable to draw, paint or model any of these ideas lacking the skills of an artist. Today’s technology, for example computer modeling doesn’t require an artist, but it does require knowledge to use the software that an engineer has.

Source: A Culture of Improvement by Robert Friedel

Post 2:

Today, many individuals sometimes tend to look at artists and engineers as separate career paths with different sets of skills. With this, our society has separate collegial programs for each, both looking at different trajectories whether it be professional design in sculpting, painting, drawing, etc., or building and designing structures and buildings, creating products, engineering medication, etc. However, I disagree with this philosophy. I truly believe these skills are so extremely similar that, since the famous Renaissance men in history, which were both great artists and great engineers, if anyone wanted to learn about art or engineering, you’d learn both. If someone wanted to learn about how to build buildings, create military weapons, or create an invention, you’d go into a program that would teach you about creativity, art, engineering, and everything in between. This is how I wish it were in the real world, today.

There were famous Renaissance men like Filippo Brunelleschi, an artist-engineer, and Leonardo da Vinci, another artist-engineer, that really tried to pave the way in our history for this to happen. It could have so easily led our teaching system, forever, to allow these two skills to stay combined, and not so distinctly separated. Brunelleschi used his knowledge in art to create perspective drawings which aided him to create such astonishing, remarkable, and detailed depictions of his engineering work. He was able to use all his artistic knowledge, and no prior engineering knowledge, to create an, “impossible” at the time, dome of the Santa Maria del Fiore. Da Vinci was a sculptor, famous painter, and inquisitive sketch artist who documented everything in his notebooks. With this he became invested in his drawings and in nature, which led him into the pursuit of engineering. He used his artistic knowledge to further invest into his engineering when he became fascinated by war and weapons.

The creativity that comes with being an engineer, with designing, creating, and forming your ideas is backed by an artistic mind. It is so incredibly difficult to not know what art is, or be artistic, but also still be an engineer at the same time.