

Summer Assignments for Photography Portfolio

1. A series of 6 photographs with a related theme.

- These photographs will be due the first week of school. They should be no larger than 18" x 24" but no smaller than 8"x 10".
- You may study the work of other photographers for ideas of placement and themes, etc., but do not copy from the actual works.
- These should be "finished" works. They will be evaluated and graded as part of your first semester's work.

This assignment relates to the Concentration section of the AP Portfolio and will give you a chance to define your idea. You must develop an interest that will carry through all three of the artworks. If you do not have an idea for a theme yet, start by "brainstorming" ideas in a sketchbook. Write down as many ideas as possible and eliminate and expand from there.

We will critique the artworks in August and discuss the following:

- Which piece shows the strongest attention use the elements and principles of art in an integrative way? Support your choice by referring to specific aspects of the work.
- Which piece shows the deepest space? How did you produce this effect? (atmospheric perspective, linear perspective, placement, size, etc.).
- Which piece shows the most successful composition? How did you arrive at this particular composition?
- Which is your most successful work? Why?
- Which is your least successful work? Why?
- Describe your theme.
- What influenced you in your work (for ex.: particular photographers, personal experiences, historical photographs, interest in a particular issue or another academic discipline)?
- What did you learn from working on your own this summer?
- What concentration theme would you pick now? Would you want to continue with the ideas you worked with over the summer, or move on to something new?

You will also do a written commentary in which you will:

- Describe the nature of your concentration.
- Describe the development of your theme and the sources of your ideas.

This may be included in your sketchbook described in the third part of your summer assignment.

2. A minimum of 6 photographs that explore different subject matter.

In other words, do not repeat the subject matter in any of the photographs. This will add to your breadth section of your portfolio.

Suggested subjects:

1. A portrait from an unusual angle using light and shadow as part of your composition or to create extreme drama (such as under the chin).
2. A study of your feet and shoes. Explore unusual angles.
3. Studies of your hands. Try a variety of positions or overlapping them.
4. A figure in your environment. Make it unique.
5. Focus on drapery and pattern: a shirt over a chair, a sheet around a bannister, etc.
6. The inside of a mechanical object.
7. Reflection in any shiny surfaced object.
8. Study the forms, shapes, lines, patterns, textures and colors of trees.
9. Images of nature.
10. Bottles and cans. Have the cans crushed up to contrast smooth and crushed areas,
11. Create a series of positive and negative space designs within your photos.
12. Architectural subjects. Emphasize perspective, detail, trim, interesting moulding, patterns, spaces, etc.

3. Sketchbook/Journal

You will need a sketchbook, such as Strathmore's 400 series, 9" x 12" size, 100 sheets and 60 lb. paper. This sketchbook should be your "new best friend" this summer. You need to carry it with you every day, everywhere! Open it first thing in the morning and last thing at night and many times in between. Draw in it, write in it, paint in it, glue things into it, cut the pages, tear the pages, change the way it looks to make it look like your own book. At the end of the summer it should reflect YOU and your experience throughout the summer.

RULES for working in your sketchbook:

1. ALWAYS FILL the page you are working on. Go off the edges whenever possible. Do not make dinky little drawings in the center of your page. Make every square inch count for something.
2. Do not start something and abandon it. Go back later, change it and make it into something else. Being able to rescue bad beginnings is the sign of a truly creative mind.
3. Always finish what you start no matter how much you don't like it!
4. Fill up at least half of your sketchbook before school starts.
5. Put the date on every page you finish.
6. NO CUTE, PRETTY, PRECIOUS, ADORABLE or TRITE images. This is a college

level art class, not a recreation program to make pretty pictures to hang in your house. Expect your ideas about what makes good art to be challenged.

7. Don't be boring with your work. Challenge yourself!

8. Avoid showing your work to others unless you know they are going to understand what you are trying to do in your sketchbook. You don't need negative feedback when you are trying out new ideas or experimenting. This is a place for risk taking. Don't invite criticism unless you are confident that it won't derail your free spirit.

9. Use your sketchbook to work out ideas. Look on the internet at other photographers/artists journals.

4. Start gathering all good quality photographs that have been completed both in and out of school. We may be able to use a number of these pieces for the breadth section.

In Summary...

Summer is a great time to take photography classes. The Spruill Center in Dunwoody and Ocee Art Center offer a wide range of excellent classes. For an away from home experience, most of the art schools offer summer programs for high school students. Check out what is offered by SCAD, Pratt, Art Institute of Chicago, or RISD. Students who take summer classes generally find themselves well ahead and under much less pressure!

It is also recommended that all students have for their use a good quality digital camera for taking photos (5 megapixels or higher).

Remember, these assignments are not optional. They are required to continue with AP Studio Art. They will be your first grades of the fall semester.

Should you have any questions or concerns over the summer about the assignments or AP Studio Art in general, please contact me at: lovellb@fulton.k12.ga.us

I will be checking my e-mail on a regular basis.

I am looking forward to an exciting year with creative minds and expressive hearts!

Mrs. Lovell