

Summer Assignments for Studio Art Portfolio

1. A series of 3 artworks with a related theme.

- These artworks will be due the first week of school. They should be no larger than 18" x 24" but no smaller than 9"x12". You may use any media, color or black and white.
- You may study the work of other artists for ideas of placement, surface treatment, markmaking, 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.

Direct observation must be a part of the process!!!

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 artists, personal experiences, historical works of art, 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 compose 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 3 artworks that explore different subject matter and different media.

In other words, do not repeat the subject matter or media in any of the pieces. 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. Draw a figure in your environment from your observation. 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. Your reflection in any shiny surfaced object.
8. Study the forms, shapes, lines, patterns, textures and colors of trees.
9. Draw a plant with as much detail as possible using contour line and line variation.
10. Bottles and cans. Have the cans crushed up to contrast smooth and crushed areas,
11. Transform an object from a realistic representation to a cubist representation (using several different viewpoints within the same frame) in a progression of 4 steps.
12. Create a series of positive and negative space designs.
13. Design a CD cover for 2-D design.
15. Draw an imaginary place. Use rich detail
16. Drawings of architectural subjects. Emphasize perspective, detail, trim, interesting moulding, patterns, spaces, etc.

** Remember to use a viewfinder and focus on excellent composition.*

Suggested media:

1. Graphite
2. Colored pencil
3. Charcoal
4. Conte
5. Watercolor
4. Acrylic paint
5. Oil paint
6. Tempera resist
7. Chalk Pastel
8. Oil Pastel
9. Water soluble oil pastels
10. Pen and ink
12. Digital computer images for 2-D only(create your own, do not “lift” other’s images)
13. Printmaking

- 14. Collage
- 15. Mixed media

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. DO NOT make perfect drawings. Make imperfect drawings; make mistakes; make false starts. Let your hand follow your feelings not what your brain is telling you to do.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Always finish what you start no matter how much you don't like it!
5. Fill up at least half of your sketchbook before school starts.
6. Put the date on every page you finish.
7. DO NOT DRAW FROM PHOTOGRAPHS, magazines, etc. Draw from observation, things you see in the world. Learn to translate the dynamic three-dimensional world into a two-dimensional one.
8. 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.
9. Don't be boring with your work. Challenge yourself!
10. 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.

Ways to work in your sketchbook:

- DRAW, draw, draw, draw, draw, paint, paint, paint, paint, draw, paint, collage, etc.
- Use pencils, pens, crayons, sticks, charcoal, pastel, watercolor, acrylic, pine straw, fingers, basically anything that will make a mark. You have the power to make a mark.
- Draw what you SEE in the world. No drawings from published images or personal photographs. You need to learn to draw without the crutch of someone else's composition or flattening of space.
- Use gesture, line, value in your drawings. Try to create a sense of light and depth in your images.
- Use the principles of perspective to show depth in your drawing.
- Glue stuff into your sketchbook, ticket stubs, gum wrappers, tin foil, lace, lists, sand, twigs, pebbles, shells, shoe laces, whatever interests you. Make a collage with the stuff. Add these things to pages you started but don't like. Let your imagination go wild!
- Build the pages up by layering things, paint on top of collage, newspaper and drawing. Attach pieces of fabric and photographs and paint over parts of them. What did you do? What are you trying to say?
- Express Yourself!
- Go for the tough look not the easy solution. Avoid trite, say something about the world you live in.
- Take a news story and interpret it visually, use abstraction to express an idea.
- Play around with geometric and organic forms, interlocking and overlapping to create an interesting composition. Use color to finish the work.
- Create a self-portrait using distortion, or Cubism, or Impressionism, or Minimalism or Pop.
- Create a drawing of the interior of your room but add collage elements for the lamps, furniture. Glue sheer fabric over the collage. Draw an image of yourself moving around the room onto the sheer fabric.
- Make at least 100 gesture drawings from observation of the figure.
- Make at least 25 contour drawings from anything around you. Remember to use the whole page! Fill the spaces behind the objects you draw. Make it count for something!
- Make a simple contour drawing of an arrangement of objects. Repeat the drawing four times. Explore different color schemes in each of the four drawings. Write about how the color changes the feeling in each image.
- Write about your work. Write about what you like about a drawing, what you don't like about it. Write about your hopes for your artwork. Write about why you like to make art, what it means to you in the larger sense. Write about how

your art work could impact another's thinking or feeling. Write about what you want to say with your artwork.

- Lastly, this experience should be for your growth as an art student, as a person who values art as a means of expression. Keep it for yourself so that you will feel free to work without judgment. Bring the book to the first class in August. You will have an opportunity to select the pages you want to share. We will use your experience as an introduction to some of the thinking that you will be engaged in during the AP Studio art course.

4. Start gathering all good quality art projects 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 art 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 reference photos and a portfolio to carry their artwork.

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