

Summer Assignments for AP Studio Art – 2D Design Innovation

In order to complete your College Board Studio Portfolio, you will need to submit quite a few quality pieces. The total amount of pieces required will be 22-24. We try to accomplish all of this during the school year, but you will need “back up” pieces just in case some of the work you completed is not up to par so the more you work on this summer, the better off you will be. Summer assignments help alleviate the pressure during the school year of producing the many quality pieces needed for a successful portfolio.

First and foremost, you must purchase yourself a black, bound sketchbook. These can be found at Art Systems for \$7. This is to be your best friend. This is to be with you at all times as I will be checking it throughout the year. You will write in it, draw in it, dream in it, experiment in it. You MUST have this to do your summer sketchbook work. *This must be purchased BEFORE the end of the current school year and shown to me. I will write something in it for verification.***

In addition to your sketchbook assignments, your assignment is to produce quality pieces over the summer. Each artwork should take approximately 10 hours, be drawn or painted on a quality surface (no lined notebook paper or in your sketchbook!), display forethought, good composition, exceptional craftsmanship, have mature subject matter (avoid overused symbols), be no smaller than 11" x 14" and no larger than 18" x 24". Good composition means consider the background as well as the foreground. The negative space should be as attractive as the positive forms. Pace yourself - work consistently. Don't wait until August because you will regret it!

Because this portfolio will have elements of the Art 2D portfolio as well as new digital elements such as digital photography and Photoshop, it is expected that you use traditional forms of art as well as new ones.

Helpful hints:

1. Draw directly from life instead of using reference photos, whenever possible. If you must use a photo, take your own or use a photo from the public domain. Attach the photo to the back of the work. The AP Readers (Judges), as well as art schools love to see a drawing made from life.
2. Use quality materials for your art. Good materials make it easier to create good work. Use at least 80 lb white drawing paper and stretched canvases for painting.
3. Use standard sizes. Stay within the 18" x 24" size, so that these pieces could be used for the quality section of your portfolio. Your smallest size should be no smaller than 11" x 14".
4. Use a sketchbook to plan your artwork. Make several thumbnails, jot down notes, glue in reference images, and do color studies when needed.
5. Use a variety of media, even combining them for mixed media.
6. Use a complete range of values. All drawings must be complete with full values – no exceptions!
7. Apply the elements and principles of design to all of your artwork – if you don't know them, you better learn them for the FIRST DAY OF CLASS!
8. DO NOT SIGN YOUR NAME TO THE FRONT OF YOUR WORK or place any identifying marks on the front as per AP Guidelines. Be sure to write your name on the back.
9. Visit the AP Central website for the portfolio you are submitting often to see sample portfolios and to become familiar with requirements. Register for a free account!!!

<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/studiodrawing>

<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/studio2d>

There are 3 assignment categories: Projects, Sketchbook, and Mini Concentration. Completing more pieces than required will only put you that much further ahead when school starts.

PROJECTS

Instructions: You are to complete the section that corresponds to you over the summer. These pieces will be due at the end of the first week of school. Your outside work will constitute 50% of your grade throughout the year in AP. If you do not do this work, you will not pass the first nine-week period.

If you are using traditional, media then each of the pieces needs to be no smaller than 11" x 14" and no larger than 18" x 24" —nothing larger, nothing smaller. You may choose the type of surface to work on—paper, cardboard, canvas board, plywood, mat board, etc.

If you are using digital photography or digital work, then each of the pieces needs to be no smaller than 9" x 11" in file size with a DPI of 300 minimum. If the file is too big and you are resizing the image, please be sure to follow the guidelines please. All of your summer assignments will be used to fill out your portfolio so all AP Studio students MUST complete the assignments.

Please keep in mind that although all art does involve design, the emphasis in this studio is on design—the formal elements and principles (elements: line, color, texture, space, value, shape, and form; principles: unity, balance, contrast, repetition, variety, dominance, etc.). Concept/idea, craftsmanship, and the creation of a visually successful design will all be components of every grade.

You will develop mastery in concept, composition, as well as execution of 2D design elements and principles. As you approach the requirements for this course, you will be expected to use a variety of concepts and approaches to demonstrate your ideas and abilities. Versatility of techniques is also emphasized as you develop ideation and solutions to your problems.

If you are NOT DOING any photography for this portfolio, then please complete 5 of these in both traditional and digital media. If you are doing photography then please choose 2 of these and complete it using traditional media (ie drawing, painting, etc), Photoshop, or a similar digital painting program.

- *Do a portrait of a family member without using their face. It must show who they are as a person without showing who they are by using their facial features. What image can you create that would tell me something about them – their personality, their interest, their talents, their passion, etc?
- *Do a drawing/painting of an unusual interior—for instance, looking inside a closet, cabinet, refrigerator, inside your car... use your imagination!
- *Do a drawing/painting of several metallic object such as a spoons, forks, Christmas balls, etc. All reflections must be done.
- *Draw a collection of glass bottles. Create an interesting composition.
- *Set up a still life that consists of 3 or more reflective objects. Set it up with a cloth draped partially over the items and have a light nearby to create a dramatic light source. Your goal is to convey a convincing representation. Re-create it as accurately as possible.
- *Draw a bicycle from an unusual angle - no side views! Up close and personal views are allowed.
- *Extreme close-up of food, almost to the point of abstraction. Very detailed. Cut up fruits and veggies and look closely at the insides for interesting abstract qualities. Use color.
- *Fill a small jewelry gift box with nuts and bolts. Take a picture of it. Create a photorealistic drawing using pencil. Bring photo and artwork to class.

- *Cut 3 squares that are 4x4in. You will take a WRAPPED piece of candy such as Jolly Rancher, Tootsie Rolls, Butterscotch, etc. and you will draw it in each panel EXACTLY the same. The drawing must be large enough to touch 3 of the 4 sides of the square but still fit the entire piece of candy. Nothing should be cut off. You will then use three different types of medias to complete each square (i.e., colored pencil for one square, watercolor for the other, graphite for the third). I will be looking at the quality of your line and how realistic it is.
- *Do a piece (portrait, self-portrait, landscape, or still life) in which you use at least three different media — i.e., a wet medium, a dry medium and some collage element
- *Drape a person in clothing with lots of folds. A sheet works well. The point is to show the correct proportions of the figure and to carefully render the intricate folds. Including the subject will make this drawing even better. Consider adding a patterned background.
- *Get outside! Take your camera or sketchbook and do a series of nature close up sketches. Select one and render in pencil. Concentrate on values and textures.
- *Research the surrealist artists (historical and contemporary). Read what the surrealist state about their work. Create a work in the surrealist style. You may want to do this as a mixed media piece. Have fun with it! (If you are going to draw this, be sure to seamlessly blend images together.)

If you are doing photography, then please choose 12 of the following assignments to complete. You must have 24 images in each assignment. Your minimum size requirements are 9” x 11” with a DPI of 300.

- *Take photos of the same family member or friend focusing on a very different mood in each photo. Use appropriate lighting.
- *Take a series of photos that deal with repeating shapes in the composition.
- *Do a series of photos where you are panning the subject or subjects.
- *Create a composition where you freeze the action of your subject.
- *Take a series of photos of the same landscape or cityscape at different times of day, capturing it in the changing light.
- *Photograph night scenes.
- *Night Time lapse where there is a light trail – either naturally happening or man-made (with a light, glow stick, etc.)
- *Work with silhouettes. Choose your lighting carefully.
- *Study the work of a famous photographer that you admire. Emulate his/her style but give it a twist that is your own. Look up the work an Annie Liebowitz and David LaChapelle. Google “Famous Photographers”. If they have been in an art museum, then they are famous.
- *Tell a story about something you are passionate about.
- *Choose a social issue. Look up photojournalism. Take a series of photos based on your social issue.
- *Set up an interesting still life. Take a series of photos as though they were for a fashion magazine or home magazine. Concentrate on texture, shape, composition, negative/positive space, lighting, etc.
- *Isolate a pattern you see in nature and photograph a series.
- *Go for the biggest pop, the most color impact you can imagine in a fantastic color photo. Try a primary color scheme, warm, cool, analogous???
- *Find a strange location or a strange angle to a normal space. Maybe find a strange person and put them in a “normal” space? Vice Versa?
- *Photography your subject with muted colors.
- *Photograph something that deals with perspective. Think of the composition and what leas your eye around the work.
- *Experiment with different ways to frame your work – doorway, foliage, hands, hair, chairs, etc.
- *Unusual viewpoints – of the same object?
- *Reflections

- *Get a very big group of people together (more than 7) and try posed shots in different lighting, informal shots, street shots, people in positions where the background explains what they are doing.
- *Head to a junkyard and take photos of interesting set ups.
- *Take photos of a person as if they are in an editorial fashion shoot.
- *Experiment with horizontal and vertical lines and objects.
- *Make an image that will show scale; a large space surrounding a single small figure, a large figure in a small space...
- *Take a piece of white paper. Either crumble it up or make it into something using origami or another paper folding technique. Take black and white photos using interesting lighting.
- *Take a Lego figure on an adventure. Document it.
- *Macro photography but not of flowers or insects

CONCENTRATION

A concentration is a body of related works that:

- *Develop a coherent plan of actions or investigation
- *Are unified by an underlying idea that has visual and/ or conceptual coherence
- *Are based on your individual interest in a particular visual idea
- *Are focused on a process of investigation, growth, and discovery
- *Show the development appropriate for your subject

A concentration is NOT:

- *A collection of works with different intents
- *A body of work that simply investigates a medium, without a strong visual idea
- *A project that takes a long time to complete
- *A collection of works derived solely from other people's published photographs

Examples of a Concentration:

- *A mother's illness investigated in a variety of graphic forms including the use of actual x-rays combined into other imagery as well as prints and pages of a visual journal.
- *A series of interiors simplified to contour lines that served as the basis for a process of investigation of other elements, most predominately color and space (the assertion and negation of space).
- *A series of works done in graphite, colored pencil, and Adobe PhotoShop illustrating aspects of the subject "Roller Coaster." The investigation increasingly moved away from illustrative renderings to bold, graphic symbols.
- *An illustrated story such as "A Boy and A Frog."
- *A photographic and illustrative investigation into the subject "My Little Brother." The student produced a number of photographs that were strong in composition as well as technical (processing) ability. He furthered his investigation into the specific subject by producing a series of illustrations showing his brother engaged in various pursuits.
- *A series of works based on the subject "Skateboards." The student began painting random pictures of (cartoonish) characters on broken/discarded skateboards—two were brought in as summer assignment work. I encouraged the student to pursue the idea, but to paint images that were more relevant to the idea of "skateboard" or his experiences as a skateboarder.
- *A series of mixed media pieces based on childhood memories using collaged and layered imagery that incorporated text
- *A series of illustrations based on the "Seven Deadly Sins."
- *A series of work based on the life of the graffiti artist.

- *A digital self-portrait series that incorporate digital photos with text.
- *A digital series that juxtaposed incongruent imagery—based on Surrealism and the work of photographer Jerry Ulseman.
- *Imagine if several Forbes 500 companies asked you to redesign their logo. Create several versions of your new logos.
- *Product designs for several well known brands

The concentration section of the AP portfolio is often the most difficult section to develop. Students are required to produce 10 to 12 artworks for this section of the portfolio to fully develop their concept. It has been my experience that a personal interest in the chosen topic will help the student find the intrinsic motivation necessary to complete this section. Please print out the sheets on the website that will assist you in brainstorming a concept for your concentration. You are not allowed to copy any of the concepts on those sheets outright. You must combine ideas if you wish for me to consider it. Remember that those sheets are a starting off point to what you would like to do. I also want you to take time over the summer to think about ideas that you may want to pursue as a concentration.

In your sketchbook, you are to come up with 10 potential ideas for your concentration. Write out the FULL idea along the top of one page in your sketchbook. You will take up 5 pages – front and back – for this. When you are writing your idea out, imagine that you are describing your idea to a blind person as well as a child around the age of 9. It must be simple yet descriptive enough where BOTH people can understand. Under each idea, sketch out small examples of what you would do for that potential idea. Example: Your idea is to show concept drawings for your car design. Under the written explanation, you would draw several small sketches of your concept car. These pages must be in the BACK of your sketchbook and completed before arriving to class in August.

Review of Summer Work

By the end of the FIRST week back from summer break, you must have the following to turn in.

Project Section – FOUR of the assignments listed above. The smallest size can be 11x14 and no larger than 18x24. It can be done in any media unless specifically noted. Remember that these pieces will be a part of your Breath portion of your portfolio.

Concentration Section – Write out 10 full ideas for possible concentration ideas. Use 5 pages, front to back, in the BACK of your sketchbook. Write the idea down for a blind person and a 9 year old to understand. Sketch out possible project ideas as well.

If you have any questions over the summer, please feel free to email me at rc_artkid@yahoo.com!!!