

Greetings 2011-12 AP Studio Art Students!

Introduction to AP Studio Art Portfolio:

AP Studio Art is a college level course promoting a sustained investigation of all three aspects of a AP Studio Art portfolio: quality, concentration and breadth - as outlined in the Course Description or Studio Art poster and online at http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/sub_studioart.html. This course will teach you a variety of concepts and approaches to drawing, two-dimensional design and use of art media.

It will allow you to develop mastery in concept, in composition, drawing, and the execution of design in a two-dimensional format (think flat here). You will be able to select a personal theme that allows you to investigate a topic in depth, to demonstrate a range of abilities, and to further explore art media. In selecting a personal theme you will also be able to explore art-making as an ongoing process that involves problem-solving and critical decision-making as well as artistic growth. In addition, you will be able to explore the use of one medium in depth, or the use of several media.

At the beginning of May, 2012 you will submit a portfolio of five original artworks to the College Board, 12 works in your concentration (thematic work of choice) and 12 works demonstrating a range of projects done in various media.

During the school year you will have 28 weeks (2 semesters @ 14 weeks each) to complete 24 or more quality artworks. You may use quality work from past classes, but assuming that all work will be done during the school year, you will need to complete approximately one quality, college-level artwork each week.

As you might imagine, this can be a challenging and strenuous journey when combined with other commitments during the school year (and now you know why AP assignments are given during the summer!) So summer break is the perfect time to sharpen your drawing and design skills and to work on some quality pieces for your portfolio! Plus you have the additional bonus of having some spectacular scenery and resources of your home area – a nice change of scene from campus. Take advantage of it!

Summer Assignments:

These works will count as your first grade of the semester. Assignments are 60% of your final grade so this is a great chance to start the year off strong! Each numbered item listed will count as one fully graded assignment.

There are a number of things that you can do over the summer to make your time in AP Studio more meaningful. Here is a list of requirements for work to do during the summer. This work will be due during the first full week of school when we return in the fall. The grade you receive will be based on your level of completion and participation in each item. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE END OF SUMMER TO DO THIS!!!** The attached handouts should help with some of these requirements.

1. **Keep a sketchbook/journal throughout the summer.** Each page in it should be dated and numbered. Try to draw everyday for at least 30 minutes a day. Choose from the following list for subjects and journal activities. (For grading purposes evidence weekly drawing will be required) This sketchbook can become your book for class in the fall.
 - * Visit a gallery or show and write about what you saw, include photos or sketches of the 3 pieces that affected you the most
 - * Sketch the people who mean the most to you
 - * Sketch yourself
 - * Sketch the flowers, plants, trees in your yard
 - * Zoom in on objects from nature and try to capture the realistic texture of each object
 - * Set up a still life of summer-themed objects and sketch

- * Paint with watercolors in your journal
- * Sketch the action of your life, fishing, swimming, waterskiing etc. whatever you do bring your book and sketch
- * Use the alphabet for inspiration and do a page per letter. For example: A is for apples and sketch all the different apples whole, cut in half, seeds only, branches from apple trees etc.
- * Draw the animals in your life
- * Draw your home and the buildings you see around you
- * Go to downtown (or uptown or into town) and draw what you see
- * Create a cartoon strip that illustrates your summer adventures
- * Illustrate the books you read and the songs you listen to this summer
- * Surf the web for art sites and write a review of what you saw, include pictures from the sites along with web addresses.
- * Try to illustrate your emotions
- * Illustrate words in a style that makes the word look like what it is
- * Develop a texture collection using lots of different media
- * Go to an art store and buy one new art tool that you can afford and use it for drawings, paintings etc.
- * Interview someone asking them about art that has influenced them or made an impression in their lives sketch the person while you interview them
- * Work on facial expressions and draw frowns, smiles etc. notice the changes that faces go through. Do this with flesh on and flesh off (bones only)

2. **Visit the following websites and become familiar with the information there.** In your sketchbook write a brief synopsis (3-5 sentences) of your visit to each. Tell 3 new things you learned from each website and how it will impact your artwork.

- <http://www.googleartproject.com/> Choose a museum. Surf around and check out the art as if (but not quite) you were really there!
- http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/sub_studioart.html?studioart Read through and familiarize yourself with the exam a bit. Don't stress too much, we will go over these things in class in more detail.
- http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/teachers_corner/index.html Look at examples of Student Portfolios.
- One art gallery or museum site of your choice. Check for local listings for opportunities to visit shows.

3. **Photographs To Serve As Inspiration For Your Work Throughout The Year**

Use a 35mm film camera or a digital camera. Shoot at least 100 images total with at least 5-10 in each of the categories listed below. These will help you throughout the year when you're looking for how to draw something or what color something is. **DO NOT USE SOMEONE ELSE'S IMAGE NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU LIKE IT!** These will become your reference images. Make sure your images are in focus!!

- * Landscapes: that feature sky, water, trees, rocks and fields
- * Close-ups of nature especially flowers, interesting wood/rocks, shells, people, bugs, animals, fish anything else you can find and zoom in on etc.
- * Texture close-ups where what it is doesn't matter, but the entire image is the texture (fish scales, sewer lid, tree bark, close-up of an orange peel, raindrops on a lake, dock or pier up close)
- * Portraits: Photograph people and animals that mean something to you, do complete figure portraits of people in action and still portraits of head and shoulders, try to shoot photos in different lighting for dramatic effects

- * Still life of objects you set up or naturally occurring still life (visit Sendik's and check out the fruit/vegetable stand or the farmer's market, both great places for still life photos)
- * Cityscapes featuring interesting architecture, textural surfaces, lighting and compositions
- * Miscellaneous stuff you're interested in (industrial stuff, old machine parts, musical instruments, art supplies, places you visit, food)

4. Think about your goals for AP. Write a typed "paper" with the answers to these questions.

- * What materials do you wish to work in (media)?
- * What skills do you already have (strengths and weaknesses)
- * What subjects do you hope to develop?
- * What are your top 5 projects that you feel you must do?
- * Do you plan to study art or a related field in college?
- * Why are you taking AP?
- * What do you hope to get out of it?

5. In addition you should plan to complete 2 works of art per summer month, returning to school in the fall with a minimum of 6 finished pieces. You may need to do more than two per month to get 6 pieces of quality. These assignments are meant to help you satisfy the 2-dimensional design or drawing portfolio requirement. Working from observation is considered an especially strong skill to develop. Complete the following in your chosen media (paint, charcoal, pencil, ink, photography etc.). If you use any photographs always use your own. Choose from the following:

1. Draw your family at breakfast.
2. Draw/paint/photograph an architectural structure in detail or whole.
3. Do a portrait of a friend or family member in full color. Try to capture their mood and personality.
4. Do a landscape drawing/painting/photograph outside from observation showing surrounding vegetation.
5. Do a color composition of an imaginary world (no action figures).
6. Set up an interesting still life in natural light using kitchen utensils and appliances and draw/paint or photograph. Or try other objects like shoes, bathroom supplies (toothbrushes, hair brushes etc)
7. Design an environmentally appropriate billboard with a public service message (specify size, location, materials, etc.)
8. Do a close up highly detailed drawing of a bicycle, motorcycle or engine of a car from an unusual angle.
9. Do a line drawing in ink of a very cluttered area or unusual area of your home or the city. (Inside of a closet, open a drawer, look down the basement steps or up into the attic, inside of the refrigerator)
10. Do a detailed color rendering of a house-plant or other plant in the garden, zoom in.
11. Draw or paint clear and shiny objects trying to capture the reflective surfaces and the details of what is reflected in them.
12. Research one artist or art movement that you are really interested in and create artwork that somehow pays homage to that artist or art movement. Do not copy the artist's work, but create your own that has been influenced by it.
13. Food..you are what you eat.

If you have any questions over the summer don't hesitate to drop me an email.
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