

Summer Assignments for AP Studio Art

*First of all, let me say that I am extremely pleased and proud of you for accepting the challenge of such a rigorous course. In August we'll talk much more about national requirements, goals and expectations. For now...as you begin to approach the AP Art Studio experience, I encourage you to relax, enjoy the summer, take time to hang out with family and friends, volunteer your services somewhere, read, sleep, eat pizza, walk on the beach. But...whatever you do, do it with a heightened sense of awareness. **I strongly encourage you to take photos incessantly!** Get an inexpensive digital camera and take it everywhere and shoot everything. These photos will be a great resource later. **Artists have always been and will continue to be the great observers, interpreters, inventors and creators in the societies in which they live. Really look at everything and see what so many people never see - explore not only with your eyes, but your heart and your mind.***

Now, down to the nitty-gritty...

Summer assignments help alleviate the pressure during the school year of having to produce the required number of quality pieces needed for a successful and passing portfolio. At this point you may not be sure which portfolio you want to complete...Drawing or 2D Design. Don't fret if you're not sure, you'll actually find yourself gravitating to the portfolio that is most suitable for you.

OK...there are 2 assignment categories: Reading/Research and Projects. The assignments will be due the first week of school and will be your first AP grades. **Completing more than is required will put you that much further ahead when school starts.** Also, let me say something about sketchbooks/journals...I believe in and strongly recommend keeping a working sketchbook (You have all seen the way I work in mine). Take it with you whenever possible, record images, plan artwork, write ideas, rough sketches and thumbnails, glue in reference photos, etc. That said, I'm leaving it up to you. In previous years I have required students to periodically turn in sketchbooks for evaluation. But I feel that it's a personal choice; however, I will say that every artist I've ever met or researched kept a sketch journal-from Leonardo to the present.

ASSIGNMENT:

You will complete a minimum of 3 projects over the summer as your AP Studio Art class preparation. These assignments will be due the first day of class, August _____. You will receive a major grade for your summer work. **If you choose not to complete the summer assignments during summer it will become a homework assignment due at the end of marking period 1.** It is your choice as to which assignments you complete from the list to follow. Pieces should be between 9x12" and 18 x 24" in size – **the assignments are about quality, not quantity.** Work with the size paper that is more comfortable to you. You may use any media or mixed media of your choice. You are encouraged to explore media that you have not used before. These pieces are work for your "Range of Approaches" section of the portfolio and the emphasis on this section of work is **variety of media, styles, approaches and subject matter.**

PROJECTS:

- A self-portrait that expresses a specific **mood**. Think about the effects of color and how its' use can help to convey the individual mood. You may use any style (realism, cubism, expressionism, etc.). Do some research online or at area museums about different artist's self-portraits and the styles and techniques they used to create them.
- Still life arrangement that consists of 3 or more **reflective (glass or metals are good)** objects. Your goal is to convey a convincing representation.
- A drawing of an unusual interior – for example, looking inside of a closet, cabinet, refrigerator, inside of a draw, inside your car, under the car's hood etc.
- A still-life arrangement of your family members' shoes. You should include at least three shoes - go for interesting shape, design, texture, color. Set them in an interesting composition.
- A close-up drawing of a bicycle/tricycle from an unusual angle. Do not draw the bicycle from the side!
- Buildings in a landscape: Do a drawing on location. Look for a building or spot in your neighborhood that is part of your neighborhood's identity. It could be a fire house, restaurant park, church or any other

building or place that you frequent or pass by often and would miss seeing if it were torn down. Use correct perspective techniques.

- Expressive landscape: locate a landscape near your home or use a photograph **you** have taken of a landscape – you can also use multiple sketches or photos of different landscapes to create a unique one (it is best to work from an actual subject, so try to do this outdoors, looking at the actual landscape). Use expressive color to draw that landscape to express a mood or feeling.
- Create a self-portrait that is done by looking at your reflection in an unusual reflective surface – in other words, something other than a normal mirror. This could be a metal appliance (toaster, blender), a computer monitor, a broken or warped mirror, etc.
- Café drawing (or any other local hangout): go to a place where you can sit and sketch for a long period of time. In your drawing, capture the essence of this place (local eatery/café, bookstore, mall, etc.) by drawing the people and places you see.
- Draw an object that is submerged in water. Be sure to watch how the water twists and distorts the proportions of the object.
- Action portrait: have a friend or family member pose for you doing some sort of movement (jump roping, walking, riding a bike, walking down stairs, etc.). Capture the entire sequence of their action in one piece of artwork. How will you portray movement in your work? Look at “Nude Descending a Staircase” by Dada artist Marcel Duchamp to see an example of an action painting.

NOTE: If you attend an art class or workshop over the summer at a college, museum, or art center, you can submit 3 pieces from that class.

Range of Approaches Section (Formerly called the Concentration section)

You should be thinking about and developing your concentration idea during the summer. Your concentration will be 12 pieces of related works of art, and will be the focus of the AP Studio Art class in spring semester. You can access information about the Range of Approaches section of the AP Studio Art portfolio at the College Board website under the course description for AP Studio Art (2D design or drawing).

The AP Program offers three portfolios: Drawing, 2-D Design, and 3-D Design. I teach Drawing and 2D Design. The portfolios share a basic, three-section structure, which requires the student to show a fundamental competence and range of understanding in visual concerns (and methods). Each of the portfolios asks the student to demonstrate a depth of investigation and process of discovery through the **Sustained Investigation** section (Section II). In the **Range of Approaches** section (Section III), the student is asked to demonstrate a serious grounding in visual principles and material techniques. The **Selected Works** section (Section I) permits the student to select the works that best exhibit a synthesis of form, technique, and content.

The table below summarizes the section requirements for each of the three portfolios.

	Drawing	2-D Design
Section I: Selected Works	Five actual drawings; maximum size is 18" x 24" w/ mat	Five actual works; maximum size is 18" x 24" w/mat
Section II: Sustained Investigation	12 slides; some may be details	12 slides; some may be details
Section III: Range of Approaches	12 works; one slide of each is submitted	12 works; one slide of each is submitted

All three sections are required and carry equal weight, but students are not necessarily expected to perform at the same level in each section to receive a qualifying grade for advanced placement. The order in which the three sections are presented is in no way meant to suggest a curricular sequence. The works presented for evaluation may have been produced in art classes or on the student's own time and may cover a period of time longer than a single school year.

Keep in Mind

- Your portfolio may include work that you have done over a single year or longer, in class, on your own or in a class other than high school such as one at a museum.
- If you submit work that makes use of photographs, published images, and/or other artists' works, you must show substantial and significant development beyond duplication. This may be demonstrated through

manipulation of the formal qualities, design, and/or concept of the original work. **It is unethical, constitutes plagiarism, and often violates copyright law to simply copy an image (even in another medium) that was made by someone else.**

- Your portfolio will be evaluated by a minimum of three and a maximum of seven artist-educators. Each of the three sections is reviewed independently based on criteria for that section, and each carries equal weight.