

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 (Most of you have 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.

For these summer assignments, you will plan, execute, and produce a body of work that will demonstrate your ability to develop and maintain a dedicated and consistent studio practice. Depending on your personal interests and where you are as a practicing artist, the work can follow several different directions or can focus on one overarching idea. The emphasis will be on the making, and on developing your personal mark or application processes. How you make the work and how you resolve the work is directly tied to your artistic intent, but you will need to demonstrate the appropriate time and effort expected of advanced art students. Experimentation and working beyond your current studio processes is encouraged, as the goal of this course is to get you to expand your range of possibilities as you gather knowledge and experience and receive more critical feedback. You will not be penalized for straying from your original intent, and some work may be a complete failure in relation to what you were attempting to do. Keep everything and document everything. While developing these projects, you will begin to refine your personal focus and critical vocabulary. You will document your projects digitally at every stage of development.

You will create a statement that outlines and clearly and coherently explains the influences, rationale, processes, and conceptual issues that drive this body of work and any adjustments or augmentation to the original proposal will also accompany the summer assignments upon return to school.

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, techniques, and the materials/processes 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.

For each completed assignment you will also include corresponding sketchbook work that will visually document:

- A series of ideas and visuals that are aligned with each project.
 - the general size range (e.g., large-scale paintings vs. small, intimate paintings)
 - the medium and techniques you plan on using
 - the materials you will require to complete this body of work
 - estimated (and realistic) schedule.
 - Be sure to point out the items that relate to your preliminary ideas or inspiration (i.e., text, a visual, etc.). Those items will be what you will use as a reference for your intended body of work.
 - The preliminary visuals you submit (i.e., images or sketches) should convey the formal elements, material surface, and scale that will be present in the final work for the project.

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 translation (taking a photo someone else took and drawing it, taking a illustration created by someone and making another drawing of it) . 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 copy an image (even in another medium) that was made by someone else. College Board takes a very serious stance on this, I would be putting my integrity on the line if I allowed this and I simply will not do that.**
- Your final portfolio will be evaluated by a minimum of three and a maximum of seven artist-educators hired by CollegeBoard. Each of the three sections is reviewed independently based on criteria for that section, and each carries equal weight.