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Summer Assignments

The objective of this summer preparation for Senior Studio Art Honors is to give you a strong start to developing your portfolio and being prepared for your College/Art School application process.

Materials : 8 ½ x 11 hardbound sketchbook- not spiral –multi-media paper 80-100 pages

I will provide you with a shoebox with some supplies, you may supplement according to your choice of materials you decide to use for your artwork.

Your portfolio will address three components:

- 1. Quality- Your development of a sense of excellence in art.**
- 2. Concentration- An in depth commitment to a particular visual interest or problem.**
- 3. Breath- Your demonstration of a variety experiences in the formal, technical and expressive means that is available to you, the artist.**

Senior year is an exciting time but it can be stressful with application due dates and other responsibilities. Being prepared and having an idea of where you see yourself will give you more confidence to do the best you can in this course.

Please be kind to yourself, budget your time over the summer, DO NOT WAIT until the last minute, it will not reflect your best!!!!

Assignments:

- 1. Prepare your “Artist Statement”- a short summary that is an essential part of your portfolio. This statement will help others learn more about you and your art work. It should inform others about you as an artist and it helps others appreciate your art.**
- 2. Complete the 3 Written College/Art School surveys that are attached**
- 3. You will complete a minimum of 3 projects- June/July/August (please feel free to do more if you choose) over the summer as your Senior Studio Art Honors class preparation. These assignments will be due the first day of class. I am looking for **QUALITY**- these will be considered for your portfolio review. You must show **all preliminary sketches** and development of the final piece in your Visual Arts Journal (Sketchbook). These pieces will also be considered for your “Senior Exhibit”**

You will receive a project grade for each of your summer works. It is your choice as to which assignments you complete from the list to follow. Pieces should be at least 9x12, the assignments are about **quality**, not quantity. Work with the size paper that is more comfortable to you. Do NOT use lined paper. 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 you to include in your portfolio selection possibilities. Most schools require between 10 and 15 (sometimes more) works to be included in your portfolio that you will present for consideration for admission Remember- you must not copy from photographs,

Pinterest or other art unless they are photographs that you have taken yourself. Copying from photographs or other art is considered plagiarism! 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 drawing skills will improve and develop as you practice. Your use of design elements and principles will become stronger as you explore how other artists use it in their works.

Some thoughts about what NOT to put in your Visual Arts Journal.

Mediocre, cliché, trite and overused symbols. Images of hearts, names, butterflies, skulls, roses, stars, rainbows, happy faces, are not evidence of originality. When you carefully explore the world around you and include the influences that you discover you will notice that you are able to create sophisticated works of art.

Again, you are encouraged to explore media that you have not used before.

I cannot emphasize enough to you about the seriousness of the work assigned for the summer. If you do not meet this requirement, you will be starting off the school year on the wrong foot. If you do not do these assignments, you will receive a grade of 0 for each of the projects and the 0 will not be changed. They will become part of your average for the marking period/course.

If you have ANY questions or concerns please email me DO NOT WAIT until September and say you did not understand what was due.

I also encourage you to visit a museum and a few local galleries. Seeing famous works of art and current work from professionals is a wonderful source of inspiration.

PROJECTS TO CONSIDER : Most of these are projects that colleges look for in a portfolio.

- 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 artists' self-portraits and the styles and techniques they used to create them.
- Still life arrangement that consists of 3 or more **reflective** objects. Your goal is to convey a convincing representation. Compositional elements should be evident.
- A drawing of an unusual interior – for example, looking inside of a closet, cabinet, refrigerator, inside your car, under the car's hood etc. Perhaps work from a photo that you take from a zoomed in perspective.

- A still-life arrangement of your family members' shoes. You should include at least three shoes - go for interesting composition, shape, design, texture, color.
- A close-up drawing of a bicycle/tricycle from an unusual angle. Do not draw the bicycle from the side! (note: a few art schools still require a drawing of a bicycle in your portfolio)
- 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. Think about which colors conjure which feelings for you and use those to “create” your place.
- Create a self-portrait of you 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, beach, etc.) by drawing the people and places you see.
- 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 artists Marcel Duchamp.
- ARTISTS choice- Original concept or artwork that expresses you and demonstrates your skills and development of craft.