

Photography as Concentration

Due Date: Second Day of Class

2016 Summer Assignment for Advanced Placement Studio Art:

Summer assignments help alleviate the pressure during the school year of producing the many quality pieces needed for a successful portfolio.

There are 3 assignment categories: observational studies, projects, and “sketchbook assignments”. Completing more these pieces than required will only put you that much further ahead when school starts

Helpful Hints

1. Use standard sizes. Stay within the 8”x10” size, so that these pieces could be used for the quality section of your portfolio. Use the highest resolution possible on your camera.
2. Use a sketchbook to plan your artwork. Make several thumbnails, jot down notes, glue in reference images, and do color studies when needed. The best sketchbook is the black hardbound 8.5” x 11” Basic Canson book with acid free paper, which can be purchased from Barnes and Nobles, as well as art vendors.
3. 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.
4. Visit the AP Central website for the portfolio you are submitting often to see sample portfolios and to become familiar with requirements. <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/studiodrawing>
<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/studio2d> <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/studio3d>
5. Look at good art! Visit the local art centers, galleries, art museums, and art festivals. Take your sketch book with you, and render the work as well as your response to it. It is a good thing to jot down your thinking process in your sketch book as well as draw in it.
6. Read about art! Read art magazines, such as The Artist’s Magazine and International Artist. You will find these in local libraries. Check out books about famous artists in the library while you are there. Study the images in them.
7. Search the Internet for artists dealing with the same subject as you. Study their work, life history, and influences.
8. Always take more pictures than you think you need. It can be easy to see a good shot and feel you are done, but it does not take long to take extra photos and you will be thankful you did.
9. Take a camera with you as much as possible. You never know when a great opportunity for interesting subject matter or lighting will appear.

10. Spend time experimenting in Photoshop. There is always something new and interesting to learn.

Complete at least TWO of the following observational studies.

For each study, you should be taking at least 25 photos to choose from, if not more. Remember that moving slightly can totally change a photograph. Think about composition, your background, elements and principle, your lighting, as well as all the other basics to general photography.

1. A self-portrait that expresses a specific mood. Think about the effects of color and how it conveys the individual mood. You may use any style- reflective, abstract, and narrative, etc. Research online to study various artists' self-portraits and their styles and techniques. Check out Cindy Sherman, and Vivian Maier, etc.
2. Still life that consists of 3 or more reflective objects. Set up the objects on a table, cover it with cloth, and place a lamp near it to create dramatic lighting. Your goal is to create interesting shots of reflective objects
3. A photographic series of an unusual interior – for example, looking inside of a closet, cabinet, refrigerator, inside your car, under the car's hood, etc. Think about how to take interesting photos of something so ordinary.
4. A photo of your family members' shoes. You should include at least three shoes - go for interesting shapes, design, texture, color. Place them in different positions,
5. A close-up a bicycle/tricycle from an unusual angle. Don't just shoot the bicycle from the side.
6. Buildings in a landscape: Do a photo shoot 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 would miss seeing if it were torn down. Consider going to River walk at Yorktown or Duke of Gloucester Street in Colonial Williamsburg where you can get some interesting angles. Busch Gardens is a great place to observe as well.
7. Create a self-portrait, using your reflection in an unusual surface, something other than a normal mirror. This could be a metal appliance (toaster, blender), a computer monitor, a broken or warped mirror, a car's rear view mirror, or tinted windows.
8. 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? Think about slowing your shutter speed. Look at "Nude Descending a Staircase" by Dada artists Marcel Duchamp, as well as the work of Futurist artists Giacomo Balla or F.T. Marinetti. Check out the photographic motion studies by Muybridge.
9. Café photos (or any other local hangout): go to a place where you can capture the essence. (Local eatery/café, bookstore, mall, etc.) by photographing the people and places you see. Choose at least

TWO of the projects to create. You may choose any media or combination of media, including collage, photography, or digital art. Photographs and digital art must be printed out.

Start your project by developing each idea in your sketchbook. Plan your composition with big shapes, value/color contrasts, scale relationships, point of view, and lighting. Make use of the elements of art and principles of design with intentions

1. Create a series of 3 new artworks around a theme of your choosing. Consider this a mini concentration. Look at artists who worked in series, such as James Ensor, Andy Warhol, Stella, Mondrian, Matisse, and Picasso.
2. Create a photomontage, using Photoshop if necessary. Research Barbara Kruger.
3. Design a CD cover for an imaginary musician or group, or for any local band that you personally know. It must be totally original and be packaged in a plastic CD case.
4. Research and create a Pop-inspired work incorporating personal symbols or words. Research the art of Andy Warhol, Robert Indiana and Ed Ruscha, as well as their photography.
5. Create an off-beat portrait of a family member/friend using thick bold outlines and arbitrary colors, using paint and/or oil pastels. If you use a photo, draw on top of it with oil pastels. Research Van Gogh, Gauguin, and Georges Rouault.
6. Create an artwork that illustrates a story or a person from a story. Research contemporary artist Kehinde Wiley's work, Rembrandt's many biblical scenes, and James Tissot's prophet series.
7. Photograph details: close-ups of faces, architectural details, textural surfaces, interesting lighting and compositions. Check out the photographer Simon Lewis, Diane Arbus, and Annie Leibovitz. Because you won't necessarily need sketches for your photographs, you must complete 20 "sketchbook assignments" and spend approximately 30 minutes per idea. Take photos of the following subject matter and take about 30 minutes per assignment. This should allow you to get more than 20 photos of each resulting in 400 photos or more. Sometimes breadth pieces come from sketchbooks.