Summer Assignments!

Art is about making meaning, representing experience, issues, ideas, feelings and appearances. AP Studio Art is a creative laboratory in which we can explore with our senses, our hearts, and our minds. Through art I hope you can come to better understand the world, yourself, and your place in the world.

One goal of AP Studio Art is to create a portfolio of approximately 20 art, which is due by the end of April. Many of you have already have strong portfolios, but summer is a time to make your portfolio even stronger. The AP course has changed this year, and there is now a great focus on inquiry, reflection and articulation of process. The breadth section is gone, now you will be submitting 5 selected pieces with written descriptions. Your sustained investigation part of your AP portfolio will include 15 images. Over the summer you will be required to create 3 finished projects and as well as multiple sketches, drawings, notes etc in a sketchbook. These assignments are required and count as summative and formative grades for the first checkpoint.

Additional AP art goals:
1. To strengthen 2D technical skills in drawing
2. To develop critical thinking and analysis of visual work through group and individual critiques
3. To delve into an investigative focus with inquiry and intention
4. To prepare students for college studio arts courses
5. To allow students to experiment with a range of techniques and styles within each medium.
6. To develop literacy in the visual arts, so that the student will always be able communicate, appreciate and understand the visual language
7. To understand and demonstrate ways to engage in the creative process.

A student engaged in the creative process:
• Imagines a mental image or concept.
• Investigates and studies through exploration or examination.
* Constructs a product by combining or arranging a series of elements.
* Reflects and thinks deeply about his or her work

Creative Practices:
• Evoke deep, meaningful engagement in the arts.
• Can be fluid, though there is purpose and meaning to the order in which they occur.
• Vary from person to person, project to project, and moment to moment.
• Require intense cognition that can be developed through arts engagement.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW:
1. Visit the college board website and read through the course description carefully
2. Get some basic art supplies
3. Use your sketchbook
4. Look at some Art
5. Make some art (2 developed drawings)

6. Practice writing about art (required for "selected works" and "sustained investigation"

7. Make you first sustained investigation piece

1. Visit the college board website:


Please visit the AP drawing website. There is A LOT of information on this site. Spend some time exploring the site. In particular go to the portfolio samples. Get a feel for how students approach both Breadth and the Sustained investigation. Also, do a bit of investigating into how works are scored… Try to do a little reflection on your own practice based on what you see.

In your sketchbook take some notes—you might respond to some of these questions…
- What are some interesting techniques you noticed?
- What are some intriguing topics explored for sustained investigations?
- What are some methods, techniques or approaches you think you could work on to make your work stronger based on your observations?
- Perhaps, do a drawing based on a favorite piece

2. Get some basic art supplies:

Hopefully the supplies I ordered for you will come in before last day of school! Please check with me. Otherwise, save your receipts and I will have the art department reimburse your purchases.
You may also “check out” supplies from the art room

* An Art bin or other container to organize and transport art supplies
* A small sketchbook (it’s best if the pages lie flat)
* A set of prima color colored pencils (12 minimum recommended)
* Drawing pencils (of varying hardness)
* Charcoal pencils of varying hardness, as well as vine charcoal, and compressed charcoal sticks
* Erasers—kneaded and hard
* Oil pastels (not necessary, but fun!)
* X-acto knife and blade (not borrowed from school, purchase one and keep it at home)
* Masking tape, drafting tape
* Paint set (acrylic, sorry I don’t have any small tubes, gouache, watercolor tubes)
* Brushes (a variety)
* Drawing pens (permanent is best)
* 1 or 2 viewfinders (make them, maybe 1 square, 1 rectangle)
* Other supplies based on your choice and preferences (india ink, markers, watercolor pencils, conte…)
* You will need some large paper and/or canvas board for your projects
3. **Use your sketchbook:** Your sketchbook is a place to improve concepts, skills, and techniques. It can also be a “safe place” to try out new ideas, experiment, and problem-solve. Sketchbooks are a great opportunity to slow down and observe, visualize, write, thumbnail, question, explore or think through your ideas and goals. Your sketchbook will be a visual resource for ideas as we'll as a tool for continuing to improve your artistic skills.

This summer use your sketchbook to: Plan your 2 finished pieces, respond to what you see on the college board site, create a visual journal of your experiences, write down notes or sketch ideas for your sustained investigation, practice drawing from observation, practice drawing from imagination, practice copying intriguing images etc etc… You should fill at least 10 pages… At least 4 of your pages should be focused on ideas for your sustained investigation

4. **Look at some art:** At least once this summer try to see an exhibition of art (in person). If you cannot, you may look at an online exhibit.

Answer the questions below in your sketchbook. (Please write in complete sentences) Include a brochure or ticket along with your written response.

Places to view art locally: Hall Art foundation, Reading, Collective of Art of craft, Woodstock, Artistree, Pomfret, The Hood Museum, Hanover, AVA gallery, Lebanon, Chaffee Gallery, Rutland, Hanover League of NH Craftsmen, Big Town gallery, Rochester, Burlington City Arts, Burlington)

Name and location of the Museum/Gallery: ____________________
Name of the Exhibit: ______________________

1. Describe the overall artwork.
2. Describe the layout of the exhibit. How does this affect you as the viewer?
3. What are the most significant artworks in the show and why?

4. Pick your favorite artwork.
   a. Make a thumbnail sketch of the piece and list the artist name, title, date, size and medium.
   b. Describe the artwork (color, light, texture, movement, content, balance, rhythm, value, mood….)
   c. Why did you choose this artwork? Is there anything you would have done differently of you were the artist?
   d. Are there aspects of this artwork you might consider using in your concentration/your own work? (Please describe what aspects you would use and why)
   e. Make some art: Choose any **two assignments** from the list below. Pieces should be between 9”X12” and 18”X24” in size—the assignment are about quality, not quantity. You may use any media or mixed media of your choice. I encourage you to explore media, techniques and approaches you have not used before. I also encourage you to choose projects that “round” out your portfolio. These pieces are work for the “Breadth” section of your AP portfolio. You will need 12 strong Breadth pieces in your portfolio. The emphasis in this section of the portfolio is a variety of media, style, approach and subject matter. The Breadth section of the Drawing portfolio MUST include observational drawing. Keep in mind, observational drawings are created by looking at 3-dimensional objects, not 2-dimensional images of 3-dimensional objects.

*Each artworks need to show at least of **3-7 hours** of work to receive a passing grade.
•Utilize and fill up the space within all drawings but be sure to leave a ½” border on all four sides
•Drawings should be well developed, show good composition and reflect thoughtful planning.

**Project Choices:**

1. A still-life arrangement of objects representing members of your family—a favorite pair of shoes, a toy etc. You must have at least 3 objects and use an unusual viewpoint or angle. You might put the objects on the floor and stand up looking down at them.

2. A still-life arrangement of 3 or more reflective objects. Your goal is to convey convincing representation. Sketch and shade for contrast and drama. Consider doing this as a self-portrait—draw yourself distorted in a shiny object.

3. A drawing of an unusual interior—for example, look inside a closet or cabinet, in the refrigerator, under the car’s hood, inside the medicine cabinet.

4. Coffee shop/ice cream stand/cafe drawing—go to a coffee shop to sit and sketch. In your drawing, capture the essence of the place by capturing the people and things that you see.

4. A close-up of a bicycle/tricycle from an unusual angle with strong light/shadow. Do NOT draw the bicycle from the side view.

5. Expressive landscape—this can be near your home, a place you visit on vacation. Make every effort to work “plein air,” meaning drawing or painting outdoors. You will have better light and will be able to focus on the color you actually see.

6. A self-portrait expressing mood. How can you use color to convey that mood? What style will work best for you in this work? Do some research online or at an area museum to see how different artists create self-portraits and what techniques and media they use. Use an odd/extreme angle and consider strong light/dark contrasts.

6. Create a self-portrait of yourself that is done by looking at your reflection in an unusual reflective surface—in other words something other than a mirror. This could be an appliance (toaster, blender), a computer monitor, a broken warped mirror, a spoon etc.

7. Create a portrait of a friend in motion

8. Create a still life of a part of your kitchen, or art room shelves, etc.

Process:
1. Hang a sheet by two thumbtacks or drape a shirt or jacket over an edge.
2. Block out the major shapes you see. Double check proportions and angles of contours/edges.
3. Block in dark, middle, and light tones. Be aware of shadow edges and reflected light. Compare values to each other. The trick is to use the paper as your mid-tone, use BLACK only in the shadows and use WHITE for all the tones lighter than 50%. Be very careful to only put the white charcoal on clean areas of your paper where there isn’t any black charcoal. If the black and white charcoal mixes they turn a very ugly grey- not pretty!
4. Refine drawing. Keep your shading smooth no hatching or cross-hatching and no smudging!

10. Hand! 1 GIANT hand- at least 5 to 6 times larger than life
Instructions:
1. The position of the hand must be “difficult”- fingers bent, slanted, foreshortened, etc. No fists, open palms, etc.
2. The hand may be holding something- but make it a significant object and it can’t be so large that it hides too much of the hand.
3. Don’t forget about the negative space- the space around and behind the hand. Put something in the background- a tone, a pattern, something!
4. As always, contrast is important.

11. Abstract art: Create an abstract piece of art by cropping in on a small area. Work in COLOR- prismacolor pencils, oil pastel, paint etc. on a full sheet of watercolor or drawing paper- 18” x 24” minimum.

Process:
1. Select a piece of your own artwork from which to create an abstract composition.
2. Use a small viewfinder to select an area of your piece to enlarge. The area you select should create an interesting abstract composition. When you look through the viewfinder, concentrate on how you want the final picture to appear. Be sure to use the rule of thirds when selecting the area to enlarge:

12. Glass studies: Create a still life arrangement with glass vessels, bottles, and other glass containers. Colored glass is great to draw as well.

13. Draw an object submerged in water. You can submerge it in a clear container and view from the side, view it from above, or have the object half in and half out of the water to observe the distortion.


15. A landscape that includes a building or a group of buildings. Be sure to consider composition and perspective when choosing your subject.

16. A memory from your childhood.

17. Draw the inside of something: a drawer, your car, refrigerator, etc…

Note: If you attend an art class or workshop over the summer at a college, museum, or arts center, you may submit work from those programs as your summer assignments.
6. **Practice writing**: For one of your “selected works” pieces practice writing about your process and product:
Ideas visually evident (100 characters)
Materials used (100 characters)
Process used (100 characters)

7. **Start working on your sustained investigation.** Read carefully through the exam course description pdf. Hopefully you will gain an understanding for the kind of inquiry to dig into for your sustained investigation. You are asked to approach this as an inquiry process. “Artists generate questions related to their experiences. The selected materials, processes, and ideas to investigate, guided by their questions. They make work through practice, experimentation, and revision using selected components, developing skills in connecting materials, processes and ideas within their work”

I have asked that you dedicate 4 pages of your sketchbook to beginning your sustained investigation

You can begin this process without committing to a focus. Just write down some of your experiences, or some big questions you have, or art processes you are intrigued with…
Choose a question to pull apart, begin to investigate, brainstorm, explore an idea… maybe stick with this idea for all 4 pages…. Or maybe explore multiple questions…
There are no wrong ways to begin this process

8. **Create your first sustained investigation piece.** This is a beginning… perhaps you’ll end up submitting this piece. Perhaps you won’t. Maybe you’ll change your idea/focus/investigation to something completely different once the year begins. That’s ok, just sit down, and create a piece based on your questions/ideas for inquiry.

Pace yourself this summer, This may seem like a lot, but you have time. Please reach out to me with any concerns or questions… my home phone is: 802-234-5816 or you can email: kjimerson@wcsu.net