

Summer Assignment 2009 -2010

Art 3 & Art 4

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ASSIGNMENT:

You will complete a minimum of 3 watercolor paintings over the summer as your Studio Art class preparation. ***These assignments will be due the first day of art class.*** You will receive a major grade for your summer work. It is your choice as to which projects you complete from the list to follow. Pieces should be between 4 x 6", 5 x 7" or 6 x 8" in size and on watercolor paper. Work with the size paper that is more comfortable to you. You are encouraged to explore different techniques in watercolor and must print 10 digital photographs.

The summer assignment is divided into **three categories: Photography** of 10 digital prints, **Sketching** and Completed **Watercolor Paintings**. The works share a basic, three-section structure, which requires the student to show a fundamental competence and range of understanding in visual concerns. Each of the projects asks the student to demonstrate a depth of investigation and process of discovery through concentration and experimentation. In the finished painting, the student is asked to demonstrate a serious grounding in visual principles and material techniques.

PROJECTS: Choose 3 projects to complete for the summer. All paintings should include a photo reference and quick pencil sketch.

- 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 objects. Your goal is to convey a convincing representation.
- A watercolor contour painting of an unusual interior – for example, looking inside of a closet, cabinet, refrigerator, inside your car, etc.
- A still-life arrangement of your shoes. You should include at least three shoes - go for interesting shape, design, texture, color. Look at Matisse & Van Gogh's still life work
- A close-up painting 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) Use primary or complementary colors for inspiration.

- Buildings in a landscape: Do a drawing and painting 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. Consider going to a fountain - you can sit on the bench around the fountain and paint!!! Remember to take a picture for future reference.
- 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. See Monet and Van Gogh
- 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 normal mirror. This could be a metal appliance (toaster, blender), a computer monitor, a mirror, etc.
- Public sculpture: design plans for a public artwork. Go to the National Mall. There are two sculpture gardens - the National Gallery of Art and the Hirshhorn. Look at the work of Joan Miro, Claes Oldenburg, Louis Bourgeois (it's the giant spider!), Barry Flangan (the “thinker” rabbit), Auguste Rodin, David Smith and more, for ideas of sculpture and installation art in the environment. Your project should look similar to the sketches that Christo prepares for his large-scale environmental installations – his most recent project was “The Gates” last winter in Central Park, NYC. See: <http://www.christojeanneclaude.net/tg.shtml>
- 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.
- 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 to see an example of an action painting. Also see the work of Futurist artists Giacomo Balla or F.T. Marinetti for examples.

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 in a paint medium.

CONCENTRATION: You should be thinking about and developing your concentration idea during the summer. Your concentration will be 10 pieces of related works of art, and will be the focus of the Art class in the fall semester. Ex. Still-life's, portraits, figurative work, flowers, landscapes etc.

Enjoy your summer!!!