

ADVANCED STUDIES IN ART

Advanced Studies in Art is a challenging and rigorous course that has at its core the generation of a substantial body of very high quality works of art. The coursework is expected to be at the college level in terms of its quality in subject, content and form.

The core of the course is essentially a portfolio course. The Concentration Portfolio contains **ten** works that are related to each other in a variety of ways. The portfolio involves a written plan of study in an area of investigation that is pursued through several art works. The Elements and Principles of art should be evident in the development of conceptual approaches to composition and problem solving.

THE PORTFOLIO

The portfolio will consist of ten pieces and should represent a body of work of the students' interest in an idea that is expressed in visual terms. The works should show exploration and growth while investigating an in-depth problem or theme. The concentration of work should show development of thinking over time and considerable effort should be evident. A written piece describing the nature of the project, the development and sources of ideas and the media is also required. The ten pieces selected for the portfolio will be presented in a digital format.

The portfolio will be a *concentration* portfolio. A concentration is a body of works based on a student's interest in a particular idea expressed visually. When developing a concentration, students will be encouraged to explore a personal, central interest as extensively as possible. Each student will select a thematic concept. Students will be given freedom to choose from a vast range of ideas and media. The concentration should grow out of, and demonstrate, a plan of action or investigation in which the student has invested considerable time, effort, and thought. Requirements for this portfolio include ten works, a sketchbook/journal, and a written commentary. Students will need to bring in ideas, sketches, notes, and a rough draft of their written commentary. The written commentary has three parts: 1. Briefly describe the nature of your concentration project. 2. Briefly describe the development of your concentration and the sources of your ideas. 3. Provide a description of the media used.

The list of possible concentration topics is infinite. Below are examples of concentrations. They are intended only to provide a sense of range and should not necessarily be considered "better" ideas.

- An exploration of patterns and designs found in nature and/or culture.
- A series of works that begins with representational interpretations and evolves into abstraction.
- A series of landscapes based upon personal experience of a particular place in which composition and light are used to intensify artistic expression.
- Design and execution of a children's book.
- Development of a series of identity products (logo, letterhead, signage, and so on) for imaginary businesses.
- A series of political cartoons using current events and images.
- Abstractions developed from cells and other microscopic images.
- Interpretive portraiture or figure studies that emphasize dramatic composition or abstraction.
- A personal or family history communicated through symbols or imagery.
- A series of fabric designs, apparel designs, or weavings used to express particular themes.