

# 2019-20 RAMAPO HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIO ART SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

For the Advanced Placement Studio Art assignments this year, there will be some big changes, mainly in the Breadth and Concentration components of the portfolio.

This year, as in years past, we spent a good deal of time in the first semester developing Breadth – pieces that showcase different technical skills and concept driven art making. Breadth pieces came from summer assignments, or projects developed previously in Honors Studio Art, Drawing II, etcetera, and specific projects in the first semester of A.P. These pieces would all be used to develop your specific portfolio; and some could be used for Quality, or the 5 physical pieces that would be sent to the College Board.

Next year the AP Studio Art requirements will shift from 12 Breadth, 12 Concentration, and 5 Quality pieces, to 15 Concentration pieces and 5 quality pieces.

Concentration means *Sustained Investigation*. You will be required to develop a theme and explore your **Ideation, Materials Used, and Process** throughout next year.

I want you to *really think* about those terms as your keys next year, you will need to think and write about them for EVERY PIECE YOU MAKE.

## 1) What is your **Idea**?

## 2) What are the **Materials** being used?

## 3) What is the **Process** that you experienced in creating this work of Art?

Essentially, this is what we call *Inquiry Based Learning*. As artists it is important for us to be able to think **critically** and be able to *articulate* our work to others. What is important to us as artists creating art? How do we approach different concepts, materials; how do we respond to the world around us? How do we use our own unique life experiences and connection to the world in the art we create?

Next year there will be a lot of:

**Analysis and Interpretation:** looking at artists both contemporary, peer, and throughout art history and working on relating them to your own work.

**Peer to Peer Dialogue:** Students will engage in critiques and share/respond to ideas with your classmates during works in concept stages , in progress, and final composition.

**Reflective Writing:** Students articulate ideas in writing throughout the creative process – think about it like keeping a Journal, or a Diary of what you conceive, develop and execute in making your art.

Writing is meant as a tool for *thinking* rather than an additional exercise.

## What is a Question?

“A Beautiful question is an ambitious yet actionable question that can begin to shift the way we perceive or think about something – and that might serve as a catalyst to bring about change. “

### ASSIGNMENT 1: HOW TO THINK CRITICALLY ABOUT ART & ART HISTORY

[https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-helen-frankenthaler-artist?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=16985833-newsletter-editorial-daily-05-23-19&utm\\_campaign=editorial-rail&utm\\_content=st-V](https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-helen-frankenthaler-artist?utm_medium=email&utm_source=16985833-newsletter-editorial-daily-05-23-19&utm_campaign=editorial-rail&utm_content=st-V)

Review the works of Helen Frankenthaler, her statements on how to be an artist, and answer the following questions.

- 1) What is **Abstract Expressionism**? Why is it important to Art History?
- 2) Helen Frankenthaler’s work was often eclipsed by the work of her late husband, Jackson Pollock – because she was one of the first female American artists to be prominently received by the art world. Should we view her work separately from Jackson Pollock, concurrently since they are both Abstract Expressionists, or both?
- 3) Is it fair for Frankenthaler to be linked to Jackson Pollock at all as an artist?
- 4) What did you take away from Helen’s statements on how to be an artist?
- 5) What do you think was important to Frankenthaler – what do you think she was trying to explore in her work?
- 6) Do you like her work? Why or why not? Be critical, talk about elements and principles of design in your answer.

Frankenthaler said of making her work: “I tend to give myself challenges that I see in my mind’s eye: What would happen if? And then I ‘write it down’ on the canvas.” “I thought, supposing I were to paint this picture only in black and leave half the painting empty? Would it work? And I went about doing just that,” Frankenthaler explained. “Experiment and discovery.”

ASSIGNMENT ONE: DUE BEFORE JULY 15<sup>th</sup>

The first piece I would like you to create - and only 9x 12" big is this: take a work of art that you admire and do your own interpretation or version of it. I would like you to email me a picture of the completed work with your notes/responses.

For Example: Jacque-Louis David's famous Death of Marat







Death of Gillman (Creature of the Black Lagoon, a Horror Movie Icon)

- 1) Do you currently have any idea what you might like to do for your AP concentration? Your concentration, or theme will be something you will explore in 12 pieces. Any thoughts? If so, please describe.
- 2.) What was your favorite art assignment from this year? Why? What did you like about it?
- 3.) Do you have a favorite visual artist? If so, who? If not, what “style” do you like best?
- 4.) What is your favorite art medium to work with?
- 5.) Besides making a good grade and a good AP score (which I hope is everyone’s goal), do you have any other goals related to art next year? Examples could be improvement in certain medium, going to art school, getting an art scholarship, etc.
- 6.) Are you planning to go to college? If so, what do you think you will major in?
- 7.) If you are thinking about art as a major, is there anything you would like the teacher to know so he can assist with you college planning?
- 8.) What is your favorite form of music/band/musician?
- 9.) List anything else you’d like the teacher know to help you with the AP program?

**YOU NEED TO CREATE 6 PIECES by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th:**

**Observational Drawings = 2**

**Conceptual Drawings = 2**

**Sustained Investigation Pieces = 2**

Completing more of these pieces than required will only put you that much further ahead when school starts. TAKE THESE ASSIGNMENTS SERIOUSLY – THEY WILL HELP YOU IF YOU DO.

AP Students should have about 8-12 strong pieces of art before entering this class, and it's encouraged for AP students to have a running WIX.com portfolio site of your work (any student who took my Honors Studio Art Class will already have this, so just update it). It is CRUCIAL that you work over the summer to create some new pieces and develop ideas. During the school year you will be producing 4 high quality works of art each marking period. The more you create over the summer, the better it will be for you starting in September.

Helpful Hints:

1. Use standard sizes. Stay within the 9"x 12" to 18" x 24" sizes (don't work bigger than that size), so that these pieces could be used for the quality section of your portfolio.

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 Dick Blick on Route 4 or any Michaels store, as well as art vendors online.

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. This is a smart thing to do to see what other students have done

previously! <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/studiodrawing> <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/studio2d> <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/studio3d>

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**5. Look at good art!** Visit the local art centers, galleries, art museums, and art festivals. Especially the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York! Take your sketchbook 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, Communication Arts*, or *HOW magazine*. 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.

I also like looking at [www.colossal.com](http://www.colossal.com) and [www.weandthecolor.com](http://www.weandthecolor.com) for ideas and new things in art. Instagram is also a great place to find contemporary artists by looking up keywords like sculpture, illustration, etc.

**7. Search the Internet for artists** Look for similar artists dealing with the same subject as you. Study their work, life history, and influences. Not sure? Google Famous Artists, or take a snapshot of your work and email me to help you. I'm kind of a *huge art history nerd*. You can email me at [seanquirk@gmail.com](mailto:seanquirk@gmail.com), over the summer.

## **8. DEADLINES ARE SACRED!**

The AP program is a demanding one: **you will submit up to 20 pieces of art the first week of May**. Be mindful that when we start in September, we will have deadlines and we are going to hit the ground running – deadlines are important to keeping you on target to complete the portfolio. I will do everything in my power to help you create a strong body of work, but you have to commit to that as well.

**This means you will be working on art in and outside of the classroom the entire year. SERIOUSLY. NO JOKE!!!**

The size of the artworks is not as important as the QUALITY of the artworks. However, with that being said, one can be small in size (9" x 12", 12" x 16"), and the second artwork could be medium to large in size (16" x 20", 18" x 24"). Please adhere to these sizes. Therefore, take it seriously! Please do not wait until the last few days before school starts to work on these, it will show in the final work, and that will reflect in your grade. These artworks should be executed with skill and demonstrate excellent craftsmanship. Each artwork should contain the 3 "C"s": COMPOSITION, CONTRAST, & CONTENT.

## Observation Drawing Prompts – pick & create two

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.). You can photograph a sequence and work from those reference shots for your composition. Capture the entire sequence of their action in one piece of artwork. Don't be afraid to overlap and abstract the images. How will you portray movement in your work? Look at "Nude Descending a Staircase" by Dada artist Marcel Duchamp, as well as the work of Futurist artists Giacomo Balla or F.T. Marinetti. Check out the photographic motion studies by Edward Muybridge.
- 3) Café drawing (or any other local hangout): go to a place where you can capture the essence or feel of the place. Try to capture as much of the environment as you can.



- 4) Draw an interior space from an unusual angle. Example: drawing your laundry basket in your bedroom from a worm's eye view looking up, or drawing your room while sitting inside your closet. Try to draw a space from an unconventional angle to make a unique composition.
- 5) Draw an exterior/interior of something from direct observation: kitchen cabinet, refrigerator, inside of a car – again, think about the angle and how to make it interesting. Don't be afraid to even combine the exterior/interior sketch on the same page. Think about drawing the fridge with the door open, or a lunch box with the contents exposed so you can see inside/outside.
- 6) Draw a metallic/reflective object with direct lighting. Examples: Bathroom fixtures/faucets, lamps, pipes, bronze outdoor sculptures. Think about drawing the object from your vantage point, make it a unique one.
- 7) Observation drawing of a series of similar objects: focus on repetition, scale.
- 8) Draw 3 objects from direct observation with a strong light source. Make the shadows cast from the objects the focus of your piece – Use contrast and shadows to create an interesting composition.
- 9) Observation drawing that starts as a tight value drawing of objects/still life that changes to basic geometric shapes as it goes from left to right – deconstructed still life.
- 10) Create a still life using hanging fabrics – this can be towels hanging on a chair, dress shirts overlapped over a couch, use good lighting for contrast/shadows.

## SUSTAINED INVESTIGATION PIECES CHOOSE & CREATE TWO

<http://www.theartassignment.com/assignments-landing/>

The Art Assignment is a really interesting website that gives you art assignments; but there is a lot of individual interpretation and thinking involved.

Your mission is to go to the site above, watch the video, and think about the questions/ideas/concepts that the artist discusses and then create an art work going by the artist's assignment.

For these two pieces – I want you to write down as you are working:

- 1) Your Idea for the assignment
- 2) The process of making the art work
- 3) Materials Used. Why this medium? What did you hope to achieve?
- 4) Outcome? Was it positive/negative? Why?

## Conceptual (Formerly Breadth) Drawing Prompts – pick and create TWO

1) **“Ordinary to Extraordinary”** depict objects that you really like. Create a strong composition utilizing interesting imagery. Using those objects that your really love, create an artwork that tells me who you are and what you love. Create a drawing that utilizes repetition to achieve rhythm. Think outside the box. Use the medium of your choice. Ideas: color, food, clothes, music, pattern, childhood memories, friends, artists, shoes, personal items, books.

- 2) **“Organic versus Inorganic”** create a composition in which you take objects that are organic, like trees, human beings, water, landscape, and fuse it with inorganic objects. Examples are focusing on a body part and merging it with bicycle parts, merging bark with power cords or electronic components, light bulbs and grapes.
- 3) **“THREE”** 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, Sue Coe, Frank Stella, Piet Mondrian, Henri Matisse, and Pablo Picasso.
- 4) **“EDIBLE IDEAS”** Create a composition using food. Cut up fruit, vegetables, bread, crackers, and snack foods to assemble a design, object or portrait. You can look at the 15<sup>th</sup> century artist Guiseppe Arcimboldo for inspiration. [www.giuseppe-arcimboldo.org](http://www.giuseppe-arcimboldo.org)
- 5) **“DISPLACEMENT”** fill a container (vase, glass, plastic bottle, fish tank) and suspend objects or place objects behind it so they distort or are exaggerated. Render a composition focusing on displacement or distortion. A good example could be your feet in a bathtub full of water, or taking a photograph of a person’s face under water.
- 6) **“EXPRESSIVE PORTRAIT”** create an offbeat portrait of a family member/friend using thick bold outlines and arbitrary colors, using pastels, paint, or markers. Research Max Beckman, Emil Nolde, Georges Roualt, Alice Neel or Ernst Ludwig Kirchner.
- 7) **“PERSONAL NARRATIVE”** create an artwork that illustrates a story or event in your life. You can look up James Tissot’s prophet series for inspiration. <https://www.pinterest.com/jeepite/james-tissot/>
- 8) **“BROKEN”** create a composition focusing on an object (or objects) that is broken, worn, or noticeably craptastic. Old children’s toys, old shoes, furniture, broken fragments of glass, wood, ceramics work too.

9) **“HEROIC FOR NO REASON”** create a composition focusing on an animal or person staged in a way to look super heroic doing a completely ordinary thing, or placed in a totally normal environment.

10) **“REACTION”** draw your reaction to a current event or issue in the world.

11) **“OVER MY HEAD”** draw a self-portrait from direct observation, but create a composition above – what are the things you are thinking about/worrying about/dreaming of/listening to/obsessing over? You can incorporate text in this assignment. It’s up to you how much of your face/body you want the viewer to see.

12) **“OLD VERSUS NEW”** create a composition with two different objects, one being old and weathered, one being new and clean, shiny.

**3-D PROMPTS/PHOTO PROMPTS** – for any student interested in pursuing the PHOTO or 3-D portfolio, you can push yourself by trying to take the observation/breadth prompts and apply them sculpturally/photographically or try the ideas listed below.

- . 1) Recycled Object Self-Portrait
- . 2) Installation Art: Create A Site Specific Installation (TAKE GOOD PHOTOS)
- . 3) An environmental work of art (look up Andy Goldsworthy).
- . 4) A sculpture out of only paper, wood, wire, aluminum cans.
- . 5) An assemblage of only 1 type of item (Examples: plastic water bottles, toothpicks, bottle caps).