

# AP Summer Work

## AP Art Summer Assignments

### AP Drawing, AP 2D Design (Photography, Graphics)

*First of all, let me say that I am extremely pleased and proud of you for accepting the challenge of such a rigorous course. In September we'll talk much more about national requirements, goals and expectations. For now...as you begin to approach the AP Art Studio experience, I encourage you to relax, enjoy the summer, read, rest, walk on the beach, take advantage of the local nature trails. But...whatever you do, do it with a heightened sense of awareness. I strongly encourage you to take photos incessantly! These photos will be a great resource later. Artists have always been and will continue to be the great observers, interpreters, inventors and creators in the societies in which they live. Really look at everything and see what so many people never see - explore not only with your eyes, but your heart and your mind.*

If you have questions over the summer, email me. I try to check email at least once a week.  
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Summer assignments help alleviate the pressure during the school year of having to produce the required number of quality pieces needed for a successful and passing portfolio. At this point you may not be sure which portfolio you want to complete...Drawing, 2D Design, 2D Design Photography, 2D Design Graphics. Don't fret if you're not sure, you'll actually find yourself gravitating to the portfolio that is most suitable for you.

## **THREE PARTS TO SUMMER WORK:**

- 1. Reading/Research (150 points)**
- 2. 5 Finished Art Pieces (500 points)**
- 3. Sketchbook/ journal - preliminary work and reflection (50 points)**

The assignments will be due the first week of school and will be your first AP grades. Completing more than is required will put you that much further ahead when school starts.

## **Part 1 Reading/Research Projects (150 points):**

**Research at least 3 artists that interested you. Describe the issues they explore in their art. What do you like about their work? Describe the subject matter, style, etc., of their work.**

Try to visit art galleries, museums and art festivals. I know this may be hard due to our current situation, but there are several outdoor art exhibits that you can experience, such as sculpture gardens. Also, there are a number of museums around the world that have turned their exhibits into virtual experiences.

Read art magazines, artists' biographies, search the Internet for artists dealing with the same subjects as you. Study their work, philosophy, life and influences.

Follow museums, artists, techniques or art genres on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter to discover artists and collections.

Some that I follow are:

@watercolorblog

@artnet

@artnews

@lesstalkmoreillustration

## **Part 2: 5 Projects (500 points) Getting started on you Sustained Investigation**

The largest component of the AP Art Exam is the Sustained Investigation:

Here is the definition from AP College Board:

*This section of the AP Art and Design or Drawing Portfolio Exams offers students the opportunity to make and present works of art ... based on an in-depth investigation of materials, processes, and ideas done over time. Sustained investigation is guided by questions. It involves practice, experimentation, and revision using materials, processes, and ideas. The Sustained Investigation section is expected to demonstrate skillful synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas. Works from the Sustained Investigation section may also be submitted in the Selected Works section, but they don't have to be. Along with each work, students are required to submit written responses to prompts about the work. Responses to these prompts are evaluated along with the images that students submit. The most successful responses in terms of assessment are those that are clearly related to the images of work submitted; that directly and completely address the prompts; and that provide evidence of inquiry-based sustained investigation through practice, experimentation, and revision. Responses are not evaluated for correct spelling, grammar, or punctuation. There is no preferred (or unacceptable) basis of inquiry, type of investigation, or use of material, process, idea, style, or content for the Sustained Investigation. Students should be the principal artist or designer of the work they submit. If work involved*

*collaboration, the student submitting the work needs to have made all key decisions about materials, processes, and ideas used and needs to have performed the activities that produced the work.*

**For this part of AP Art summer work, you will complete at least 5 finished art pieces based on what you wish to explore for this Sustained Investigation.**

If you are stuck for ideas, I have compiled a list of assignments that you can work from that might help inspire you.

- **These 5 art pieces are worth 100 points each for a total of 500 points.**
- **Pieces should be no smaller than 9x12 inches and no larger than 18x24 inches.**
- **These works will not only serve to inspire work for your AP Portfolio, but they may also be used in the Fall for your college portfolio.**
- **The assignments are about quality, not quantity. You may use any media or mixed media of your choice.**
- **If you are absolutely certain that you plan on doing the 2D Portfolio in Photography, assignments will be a little different. For every project you must have at least 10 finished photos. These photos have been sized and edited in Photoshop (or Photopea) and are “portfolio ready”.**

**ASSIGNMENT OPTIONS:**

1. Create a portrait or self-portrait that expresses a specific mood/emotion: anger/rage, melancholy/loneliness, happiness/joy, etc. Work with lighting, values, color to enhance the psychological atmosphere. Consider the environment/setting. Research portrait artists for inspiration. AP Photography students will take 10 photos instead of drawing/painting a portrait.

2. A close up of a bicycle/tricycle from an unusual angle. Not just a side view. MUST include shadow. work from a photo that YOU take. Photo students turn in 10 photos.
3. Still life arrangement of at least 3 reflective objects. Something should be reflected in the objects. Render as accurately as you can. Photo students 10 photos.
4. Drawing of an unusual interior- a closet, cabinet, refrigerator, inside your car, under the car hood, etc. This is where a camera comes in handy - take a variety of photos to draw from. This should be a very detailed work. Photo students turn in 10 photos.
5. Expressive landscape. Use expressive color similar to the Fauvists or the Der Blaue Reiter. take a photo to work from or draw from observation. Research the Fauvists and expressive color for inspiration. Photo students capture 10 landscapes to be manipulated in Photoshop later.
6. Extreme close-up of food, almost to the point of abstraction. Very detailed. Cut up fruits and veggies and look closely at the insides for interesting abstract qualities. Use color. Photo students 10 images.
7. Combine text with art. Collage other elements. Do not collage photography or art that is not your own. Photo Students - since this requires a bit more crafting, will only be responsible for 5 finished images for this.
8. Buildings in a landscape. Draw on location or take a variety of photos to draw from later. Capture closeup details. Old churches are great for this. Make sure perspective is correct. Photo students turn in 10 photos.
9. Hands drawing. Create a drawing of your hands (or photograph someone's for reference) arranged in a variety of poses. Photo students turn in 10 different poses.
10. Draped Figure. Drape a person in clothing with lots of folds. A sheet works well. The point is to show the correct proportions of the figure and to carefully render the intricate folds. Including the subject will make this drawing even better. Consider adding a patterned background.
11. Contrast of textures. Place 3 eggs on a towel, cloth or crumbled paper (preferably patterned) to create an interesting composition. Pay attention to the smoothness of the eggs against the rough quality of the towel. Imply a light source and use a variety of values. Photo students turn in at least 10 photos.

12. Get outside! Take your camera or sketchbook and do a series of nature close up sketches. Select one and render in pencil. Concentrate on values and textures. Photo students take at least 10 close up photos, shoot in black and white if possible.

13. Surrealism. Research the surrealist artists (historical and contemporary). Read what the surrealist state about their work. Create a work in the surrealist style. You may want to do this as a mixed media piece. Have fun with it! Photo students take a variety of random images that you can work with in Photoshop to create one surreal image.

### **Part 3: Sketchbook / Journal (50 points)**

**Before you begin a work of art, you must plan what you want to create. Let me see your thinking:**

**For each project that you create:**

- **Research for the project: art history, inspiration**
- **Preliminary sketches: experimenting with composition, color, technique.**
- **Photo references.**

**For each project that you create, you need to reflect on your work:**

- **What was the idea that inspired you to create this?**
- **What are you most proud of?**
- **How could you take this idea further?**

Take your sketchbook and camera with you wherever you go. Record images, plan artwork, write ideas, rough sketches and thumbnails, glue in reference photos, etc. Every artist I've ever met or researched kept a sketch/journal-from Leonardo to the present.

**FINALLY: become familiar with the AP website. It is full of valuable information for you and your parents as well as examples of student portfolios:**

**<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses>**