

A large, thick orange ring is centered on the page. It has a white circular hole in the middle. The text is overlaid on the white hole.

Sun Valley Center for the Arts

What is a portfolio?

- A portfolio is a collection of your best and most recent artwork that highlights your art experience.
- No matter how long you have been creating work, if you have a collection of your own art, you have enough for a portfolio.

What is required?

- Every visual arts college and pre-college program has its own specific portfolio requirements. You should research the portfolio requirements for each school to which you are planning to apply.
- The Center requires five images.

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- Challenge yourself. Take advantage of resources available at your school, in your community, and on your own time. Supplement your high school art experience with outside opportunities. Challenge yourself to take advanced/AP art as well as art history classes. If your school doesn't offer art classes, consider your local resources like The Center.

Observational Drawing

- Most art colleges prefer that the majority of drawings submitted in the portfolio be derived from direct observation, which means drawing or painting from still life, figure models, or landscape. This does not mean drawing from existing artwork, photographs or your imagination.





STEPHENS
11.3.07

Personal Art

- Personal art is the work done outside of a classroom situation and reflects the artists' unique interests in use of materials, subject matter and concept. Work can be completed in any media..

- Explore ideas in your work. Strong portfolios typically include work that demonstrates solid technical skills and reflects thoughts and concepts. Consider including work that speaks to your personal experiences and interests.





Calypso (Video Still)
Abram Pineda-Fischer

Home Exam

- The home exam consists of specific work that has been required by a particular college or department.

The best advice.

- All schools have different requirements.
Research and follow them.

What do most schools want?

- 12-20 images
- Each image presented separately, without your name
- Digital images or in-person presentations
- An image list
 - Title, medium, size, date completed
- Observational work, personal work, home test
- Your best and most recent work

Sometimes schools will require a page from a sketchbook.

- We suggest that the work reflect your interests, experience and abilities in the arts to date. It may be in any media, may be finished or in sketch form, and may be the result of an assigned class project or a self-directed exploration. Although it is not required, we suggest that as part of this visual presentation you also reproduce and submit 2-3 pages from your journal or sketchbook to indicate your process of research, thinking or investigation.

Drawings

“Three drawing samples are required of all candidates. The first drawing must represent a bicycle. The second drawing must utilize both sides of the sheet of drawing paper. For the third sample, your visualization must combine image and text.”







What don't schools want to see?

- Copies of magazine images, photographs or other people's artwork
- Blurry, bad, confusing slides
- Pictures of you with your artwork







What makes a good portfolio?

- Your personality and interests.
- “It will be evaluated on artistic and conceptual content, design and composition, technical skill, and creative potential.”

Good rules to follow

- Follow the rules.
- Ask questions. Ask for help.
- Be honest.
- Never turn an application in late.
- Be polite.

What program should I use to create my portfolio?

- PowerPoint, Keynote (Apple's equivalent) or Google Slides are great tools.
- The key is that each of these can incorporate both still photography and video and they can export the portfolio as a PDF.
- The current trend in most visual arts colleges is [SlideRoom](#), an online service to which the college subscribes. It is free to applicants.

A Great Resource to Look Up!

[NATIONAL PORTFOLIO DAY ASSOCIATION](#)

- They organize live portfolio review events at art & design colleges across the country and Canada.
- Each event includes reviewers (usually admissions reps) from 30ish different colleges.
- Even though these events are live portfolio reviews, digital presentations are common and perfectly acceptable.



- If you have questions, please contact Sarah Kolash at skolash@sunvalleycenter.org