Summer Assignment for Advanced Visual Portfolio Class

Summer assignments help alleviate the pressure during the school year of producing the many quality pieces needed for a successful portfolio. There are 3 assignment categories: Sketchbook Assignments (8), Life Drawings (2), and Projects (3). Completing more of these pieces than required will only put you that much further ahead when school starts. All the below are guides to help you not be stuck and think in terms of making work that has depth and meaning. I mean it as a jumping off place and a rough guide of how much work you should be doing. If you have your own ideas that are better, please use those. And if questions come up along the way email me. Warmly, Mr. Chambers

Helpful hints:

1. Draw directly from life instead of using reference photos, whenever possible. If you must use a photo, take your own or use a photo from the public domain. Attach the photo to the back of the work. 2. Use quality materials for your art. Good materials make it easier to create good work. Use at least 80 lb white drawing paper and stretched canvases for painting. 3. Use standard sizes. Stay within the 9”X12” size, so that these pieces could be used for the quality section of your portfolio. 4. 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 Barnes and Nobles, as well as art vendors. 5. Use a variety of media, even combining them for mixed media. 6. Look at good art! Visit the local art centers, galleries, art museums, and art festivals. 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 sketchbook as well as draw in it. 7. Read about art! Read art magazines, such as The Artist’s Magazine and International Artist. 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. 8. Search the Internet for artists dealing with the same subject as you. Study their work, life history, and influences.

Part One: Life Drawings Complete at least TWO of the following observational drawings. Schools love to see a drawing made from life. Use charcoal or pencil (2hb and 4b). Spend the time needed to complete the work. Don’t just draw a contour. Use a full range of values, with deep shadows and bright highlights to create form and depth. Use the entire page, placing your focal points in the sweet spots, and running of the edges with your composition. Fill the paper up, using more positive that empty space.

1. A self-portrait that expresses a specific mood. Think about the effects of color and how it conveys the individual mood. You may use any style (realism, cubism, expressionism, etc.). Research online to study various artists’ self-portraits and their styles and techniques. Check out Van Gogh, Kahlo, and Wiley.

2. Still life that consists of 3 or more reflective objects. Set up the objects on a table, cover
it with cloth, and place a lamp near it to create dramatic lighting. Your goal is to convey a convincing representation. Render as accurately as you can.

3. A drawing of an unusual interior – for example, looking inside of a closet, cabinet, refrigerator, inside your car, under the car’s hood etc. Include as many details as your can. shapes, design, texture, color. Place them in different positions.

4. A close-up drawing of a bicycle/tricycle from an unusual angle. Don’t just draw the bicycle from the side!

5. Expressive landscape: locate a landscape near your home or use a photograph that you have taken of a landscape. Or, 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 draw outdoors while looking at the actual landscape. Use expressive color to draw. Check out the Fauvists or the Der Blaue Reiter to see expressive use of color at work.

6. 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.

7. Public sculpture: design plans for a public artwork. Go to the National Mall in DC to see the Sculpture Gardens at National Gallery of Art and the Hirshhorn. Look at the work of Joan Miro, Claes Oldenburg, Louis Bourgeois, Barry Flanagan, Auguste Rodin, David Smith and more, for ideas of sculpture and installation art in the environment. Or, go to Port Warwick, City Center, the Airport, and Mariners’ Museum in Newport News to see large scale public art. Make your project sketches similar to those that Christo prepares for his large-scale environmental installations. See his most recent project: “The Gates” in Central Park, NYC. http://www.christojeanneclaude.net/tg.shtml

8. Café drawing (or any other local hangout): go to a place where you can sit and sketch for a long period of time. Capture the essence of this place (local eatery/café, bookstore, mall, etc.) by drawing the people and places you see.

9. 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, as well as the work of Futurist artists Giacomo Balla or F.T. Marinetti. Check out the photographic motion studies by Muybridge.

**Part Two: Projects**

You will do 3 larger art pieces, projects over the summer. We have been asked to demo some new lessons for Davis Publishing. They want images of student work for their new textbook. I
would like you to choose one of the four projects attached. It is likely that some of your artwork will appear in the next textbook. At least one is a group project, which you would need to do with a classmate from the future AVP class and probably virtually.

The second and third project option is your choice and could be a larger art piece in any media that you are comfortable working in. A painting that takes a week or more of a subject of your choosing would be fine. Make sure this is portfolio quality.

**Part Three: Sketchbook Assignments** In addition to using your sketch to plan your projects, you must complete 8 sketches and spend approximately 30 minutes per idea. Sketchbooks should display forethought, good composition, exceptional craftsmanship, have mature subject matter (avoid trite, overused symbols). These sketchbook assignments should be finished drawings. Sometimes breadth pieces come from sketchbooks. Choose from this list or create your own ideas for your 8 sketches (you can do more!)

- Pile of pillows
- Fabric with pattern
- Look up words you do not know and illustrate them
- Insects
- Draw on top of an old drawing
- Man vs. Nature
- Close up of an object making it abstract
- 5 drawings on top of each other
- Transformation
- Jim Dine: tools
- Negative space only
- Only objects I found at this

Café Park View from a car mirror What was for dinner Laundry day Glass bottles Shoes Create a texture surface and draw on it Sink with dishes in it and soapy water Youself in 15 years Abstract drawing of a building Opposites Conflict of interest location_________

- Non objective
- Oops, wrong color
- Contradiction
• Outside vs. inside
• Plugged in
• Extreme light source
• Refuge
• Extreme perspective
• Chinese proverb
• Social statement
• A tiny image repeated several times
• Layer it on
• Anatomy
• Morphs
• The senses
• Fill a plastic bag with objects and draw
• Metallic objects
• Autumn forest floor
• Threads

Note: This is a modified version of summer homework developed by an unnamed teacher for York County Schools.