



AP Art Summer Assignment

“I am seeking. I am striving. I am in it with all my heart.”
~**Vincent van Gogh**

“The aim of art is to represent not the outward
appearance of things, but their inward significance.”
~**Aristotle**

PROJECT ASSIGNMENT - #1

Text Collaboration

Assignment: Create a work of art that is based on a specific form of the written word. This can include a song lyric, poem, letter, story, or even text. This message can range from one word to multiple sentences, but make sure that it carries a strong emotional/personal association. The text you use should relate to a specific memory.

Directions: Choose a written passage and memory that generate the strongest imagery. The imagery you choose to develop must relate back to the text on some level, maybe depicting the physical space or psychological interpretation of the event, or an actual event. You must include the text in the work, but it is to be secondary to the image.

Medium: Open. Some suggestions include but are not limited to: acrylic paint, ink, watercolor, marker, pastels, colored pencils, oil sticks, collage, mixed media, etc. Use a flat 2-dimensional surface of your choice. Suggestions include but are not limited to: canvas board, illustration board, paper, homosote, masonite, etc. **but NO cardboard.**

Style: Open

PROJECT ASSIGNMENT - #2

Portrait of Friend or Family Member

A portrait should express qualities that set one person apart from other people. This is what makes a portrait challenging. It is just as, if not more important to express who the person is, their character, and attitude, than it is to render their likeness.

Assignment: Create one portrait of a person in your life. Tell us something about this person besides just their looks. This portrait might tell us about the person's job, how they live their life, what their dreams are, their fears, successes, failures, likes, dislikes, beliefs, or a combination of multiple characteristics.

Procedure: Once you choose your subject take the time to study them. Observe them, take notes of what they do, how they might perform an activity from watching television, to playing the guitar, playing a game, working, reading, or anything else. Sketch out your ideas. Create multiple sketches. Think about your view looking at the person. Do you want it to be from eye level, above eye level, or below eye level? Think about the lighting. Should it be from fluorescent lights like in an office, lamplight, natural sunlight, or maybe from candlelight?

Medium: Open, but must be done in color. Some suggestions include but are not limited to: acrylic paint, ink, watercolor, marker, pastels, colored pencils, oil sticks, collage, mixed media, etc. Use a flat 2-dimensional surface of your choice. Suggestions include but are not limited to: canvas board, illustration board, paper, homosote, masonite, etc. **but NO cardboard.**

Style: Open

SKETCHBOOK WORK

A sketchbook is a very important tool for an artist. It's a way to explore with technique, media, style and ideas.

Assignment: In your 9x12 black, hardcover sketchbook, fold over your first clean page and write "summer sketchbook". Please number each page 1-50.
The sketchbook may be hardbound or spiral bound- if using a spiral notebook make sure the spiral is along the side (not a top spiral) and has hardbound covers.

Complete AT LEAST 50 Pages in this sketchbook over the summer...

Some of the pages should be used to plan ideas for your 2 summer assignments. This could include thumbnail sketches, written plans, references, practice drawings, etc.

If you go to a museum or gallery you can use one page to put the information down about where you went and what you saw, if you have a ticket stub- tape it in and that's a page done.

On your trip you should sit and sketch some artwork that you like- more pages done.

If you go on any trips (the zoo, the park, vacation, a train ride, etc.) you should bring your sketchbook to draw some of what you see.

Spend 5 Pages On: an artist, art movement, or art technique that you admire or inspires you. These should contain sketches, collage, and writing about your choices.

At least 4 Pages: should be an open sketchbook layout, where you use both pages of the open book to create one artwork (this would create 2 pieces in total)

Mediums: Paint (acrylic, tempera, watercolor), marker, pencil, colored pencil, crayons, oil pastels, chalk pastels, stamps, and ink. Use anything that will make a mark – Be Inventive!

There are many sketchbook prompt lists on the internet. Look some up if you are struggling with ideas. Choose wisely.

You should try to draw in your sketchbook every day. Draw from observation/imagination. Work with a variety of drawing, painting, and design techniques. DO NOT COPY PHOTOGRAPHS!

Some Ideas for your sketchbook work:

BUILD UP LAYERS USING DIFFERENT MATERIALS!

Use the following suggestions to get rid of the white of the page...

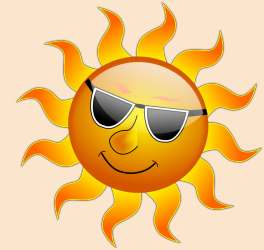
- Experiment with techniques such as collage, weaving (paper and/or fabric), and a variety of color relationships (ex. Analogous, Complementary, Triadic) on these pages.
- Do a watercolor wash over the page before drawing/painting.
- Paint a page with a dark color and when dry cover it with a coat of gesso.
- Design a page with a small rubber stamp from a gum eraser and stamp it to create a repeating design.
- Do an inkblot with thinned acrylic paint then paint or draw over it. Let the blot be your inspiration. Splatter or drip paint.
- Begin a page with a crayon design and add a watercolor wash. Build up at least 3 more layers of materials – crayon resist, torn paper, acrylic paint.
- Sponge paint with acrylics.
- Start your page by gluing a map or other textured paper.
- Use colored tape to create masked off stripes or borders.
- Do a rubbing with crayon, tear it out, and attach it to your page.
- Make a cutout niche by gluing several (at least 10) pages together. Put something in the cutout.
- Use a quote and incorporate it into your artwork.
- Use type/text foreign language.
- Add strings or threads

Some Ideas for your sketchbook work:

- Draw or paint with an unconventional tool like a stick.
- Sew through your page or pages. Attach a pocket by sewing it on the page.
- Add a weaving or unusual fabric.
- Make your page a puzzle.
- Use puzzle pieces, game pieces, playing cards, a spinner from a board game or mechanical parts from clocks, etc.
- Do a page in the style of a certain artist – Van Gogh, Picasso, Kusama, Kahlo, Basquait, Matisse, etc.
- Add sand to acrylic paint and cover the page before you start painting or drawing your image.
- Stain watercolor paper with coffee or tea and create an antique image –glue this to the page.
- Add your own photographs to the page – build around the image with paint or colored pencils.- Find an image in a magazine, make copies, cut it out and arrange on the page. ---- Paint over the pictures and emphasize the brush strokes.
- Use only one kind of paper and make a relief design, attach it to your page – white or black paper, newspaper, mat board.
- Do an entire page in just words.
- Before you begin painting, highlight or circle words that form a thought and layout your design around these words.
- Add objects (natural or manmade) to the page.
- Scratch into wet paint or do a finger painting across the page. Paint a thin layer of color first.
- Add paper tabs on the edge of the page.

Subjects:

- Try contour line, gesture line, completed value drawings with strong lights and darks. Try a variety of different subjects that include: People- family, friends, as well as strangers (try them still), or capture movement (at the mall, or playing sports).
- Still Lifes- arrangement of dishes, eggs or lemons wrapped in different textured cloth. Pay attention to the smoothness of the eggs against the rough quality of the cloth. Do several views of the same still life. Use different media. Finish at least one well rendered piece after completing several views. Draw a pinecone, all or part of it, or any cone, to show the repetition in the pine cone patterns and details. Look at material such as: a shirt over a chair, a sheet around a pillar, clothes on a line etc. Draw this with color (watercolor, pastel) and overlay it with another medium like pencil or ink. Draw your bicycle, the family car, or children's toys, all are good subjects.
- Landscapes- observe and record your surroundings. Draw a composition looking out of a window in your room using the window as a format. Draw something from your backyard and simplify it into a contour drawing. Show as many details as you can with just lines. Create a drawing that shows diminution. Create a drawing that shows loss of clarity due to distance (sfumato). Draw landscapes using Linear and atmospheric perspective.
- Draw from your memory or imagination- Create a drawing from life in any material that has a mysterious mood. Create a fantasy environment. Transform everyday objects like food into fantasy creatures. The possibilities are endless.



Have fun with it.
Not every page will be a work of art- but every
page will be you working as an artist.

**Have a Great
Summer!**

Royce Blais

