



# AP Art 1 and 2 Summer Assignment

“Art is not what you see, but what you make  
others see.”

~Edgar Degas

# What to complete for the 2026-2027 Summer Assignment

1. Choose 2 of the 3 project assignments to complete.

2. Complete AT LEAST 50 Pages in your sketchbook over the summer.

**Due Date: 9/8/2026**

# PROJECT ASSIGNMENT - #1

## A Self-Portrait WITHOUT Showing Your Face

The important thing here is to reveal something about yourself without using your face. In fact, you may but do not need to use any part of your body at all in this assignment. Instead, you are challenged to portray who you are in some alternative way. What image can you create or invent that would tell us something about you - your personality, your interests, your character, your inclinations, your talents, your passions, your obsessions, your desires, your needs, your likes and dislikes, your essence? Try to work from life as much as possible.

**Medium:** Open. Color optional. suggestions include but are not limited to: acrylic paint, ink, watercolor, gouache, 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

Minimum size: 11 X 14 (this is approximate. Work does not have to be rectangular)

Minimum time on final piece: 10 hours

# PROJECT ASSIGNMENT - #2

## Juxtaposition

Artists like MC Escher, Rene Magritte, and Meret Oppenheim are known for Juxtapositions in their artwork. Juxtaposition is an act or instance of placing two or more dissimilar objects close together or side by side. This creates automatic comparisons between the objects by asking how they are different, how they are similar, and what the artist is trying to convey, simply by putting the two together.

## Procedure:

Create a work of art related to an unusual juxtaposition. Consider concepts and items that normally wouldn't be seen together. Look at the surrealists and modern day illusionists for ideas. According to André Breton, who published "The Surrealist Manifesto" in 1924, Surrealism was a means of reuniting conscious and unconscious realms of experience so completely, that the world of dream and fantasy would be joined to the everyday rational world in "an absolute reality, a surreality." Surrealism and juxtaposition art also plays with scale and emphasis, making the relationship between objects unusual and out of normal scale.

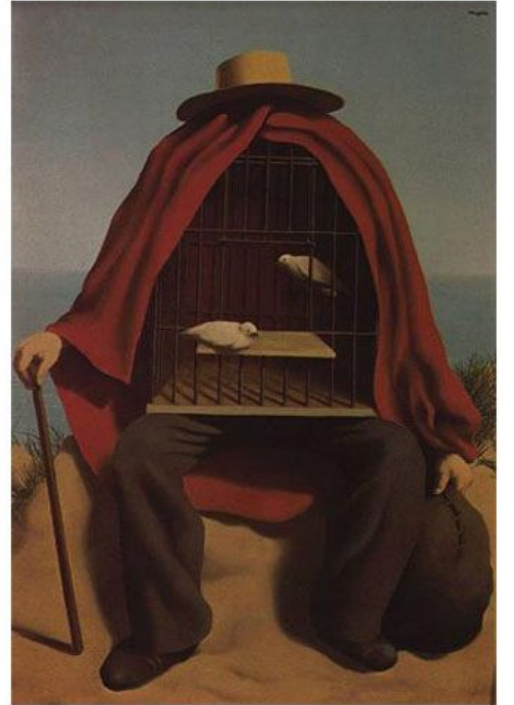
Try to work from life as much as possible.

**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

**Minimum Size:** 11 X 14 (this is approximate. Work does not have to be rectangular)

Minimum time on final piece: 10 hours



# PROJECT ASSIGNMENT - #3

## A Portrait in Extreme Foreshortening

In this assignment students are expected to render a portrait of themselves, a friend, or a family member from an unusual and extreme perspective. They may choose any media or style to complete the work. In addition to drawing the figure in an extreme foreshortened viewpoint this artwork must show the **EXPRESSION** of mood and/or emotion. Please take into consideration the overall design of the space, the craftsmanship and control of the media, the expression of mood or emotion, and the overall creativity of the image as a whole.

A short video to help you with the concept of the foreshortened figure:

<https://thevirtualinstructor.com/foreshortening.html>

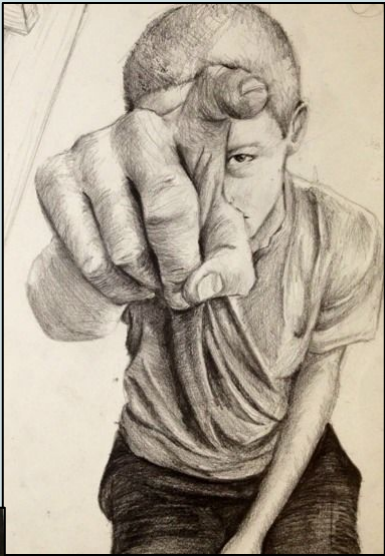
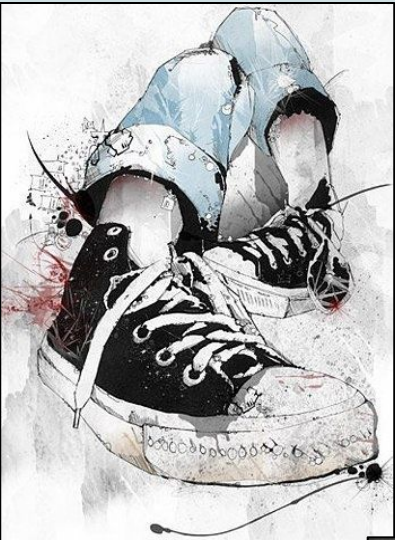
Try to work from life as much as possible.

**Medium:** Open. Color optional. suggestions include but are not limited to: acrylic paint, ink, watercolor, gouache, 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

Minimum size: 11 X 14 (this is approximate. Work does not have to be rectangular)

Minimum time on final piece: 10 hours



# SKETCHBOOK

## WORK

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

### **Before you start:**

- Your sketchbook should be about 9in. x 12in. Hardcover preferable but spiral bound will do, make sure the spiral is along the side, not a top spiral. (Small books won't work, neither will easy tear out pages.)
- **Fold over your first clean page and write "summer sketchbook".**
- **Number each page 1-50.**

# SKETCHBOOK WORK

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

- 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)
- 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.

**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!

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:

- 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.

# **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.



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!**

