

AP Studio Art Summer Ideas 2010

WHO	Although it is not mandatory, all Pre-AP and AP Studio students are highly encouraged to continue working in the arts this summer. Here are some ideas for you to consider...
WHAT	(1) a completed sketchbook or altered book (2) a college-level art course or pre-college summer program (see me ASAP for ideas) (3) an idea for your theme/ concentration work for your portfolio
WHEN	Summer...
WHY	Spending time making quality images this summer will cut down on how many portfolio-quality images students have to complete during the school year. Those who are planning on submitting a 3D portfolio, see me A.S.A.P. to receive the modified 3D assignment. These assignments are portable and everyone can take them on trips this summer. So, get started early in the summer to enjoy, enjoy, enjoy a lot of studio time!!! Those who need supplies, please see me before school ends.
ASK PONCE	If you need to get advice this summer, e-mail me at home (bexleyart@earthlink.net). I should be in and out of town throughout the summer.

SKETCHBOOK OR ALTERED BOOK

Choose one of the following two and do this project all summer long. Use small portable sketchbooks. Stuff them in your bags or suitcases to take with you everywhere you go.

1) SKETCHBOOK: Purchase a sketchbook and fill a full page a day. Your best bet is to select a topic or subject... for instance, a book to document a summer trip or a book of daily self portraits. The end result should be to fill every page. It might end up looking like a diary or day book. You can draw, paint, collage, photograph and journal, etc. to create your images.

2) ALTERED BOOK PROJECT:

Step 1: Get an old book to use as the base for this project. (If you cannot do this, please see me BEFORE school lets out.) Your book should be short—200 or fewer pages and should contain many images (diagrams, maps, illustrations) and some text. Some of the best book subjects for this project include anatomy, biology, botany, geography, dance and art (“how-to” books), history, travel, and foreign language. But, you might also find a special book in another category—for instance, a cookbook—if you want to deal with a specific topic (eg. obesity, anorexia, etc.). The older and more worn out your “found” book, the better for this project.

Step 2: Now, “alter” this book and make it your own. You can cut parts out, collage items and sketches in, rip pages out, glue pages together, add pages in, draw, paint, handwrite, and alter each page in any way that suits you. Do not forget to also alter the cover to suit your purposes. Some people start out with a theme and others develop their themes as they continue to work on their altered books.

Inspirations... Dadaists who used collage & found objects (Hannah Hoch, Kurt Schwitters, Marcel Duchamp, etc.), Joseph Cornell and his box constructions, Harlem Renaissance American Romare Bearden, Leonardo da Vinci’s sketchbook pages, Picasso and Braque during their Synthetic Cubism period, etc. You

might also get your ideas for this project from less obvious sources... painters, printmakers, and others who do not necessarily use collage and found objects. Look for unique mark-making examples, non-traditional use of materials, and anything else that might inspire you.

Art Materials: Use 'Elmer's Glue' or acrylic gel medium, acrylic paint, pastels, charcoal, graphite pencils, and any other drawing materials. Avoid glossy magazine images. Instead, use a more limited palette.

Found Materials... junk drawer stuff, stamps, thread/ fibers, wax paper, foils, tissues, feathers, bubble wrap, little bottles/ objects (you can cut a section of the book out to nest the object in), pressed flowers, coins, letters, paint chips, collage papers (from paper stores), magazine/ newspaper cut outs, fabric, wallpaper, postcards, old beads/ jewelry, calendars, old thrift store trinkets, old photos, charms, hardware (nails, screws, etc.), sewing stuff (buttons, eyelets, lace, etc.), puzzle or game pieces, dental floss, play money, real money, photos, wire, etc., etc.

Caution: You might need to use wax paper between glossy pages... so they don't stick. Incorporate them into your book. Make them part of the project.

End Result: This project is a mixed media art book. The images on the pages should be 70% or more **your** drawings, paintings, designs. The 'found' parts should become interwoven with your ideas/ images so that you cannot see where one begins and the other ends. It should have a running theme of some kind.

CONCENTRATION IDEAS

During the following year, you will develop a collection of images that share a related personal "concentration" or theme. This summer, explore some possible concentration ideas. Develop some quicker brainstorming sketches and some written ideas to help you figure out your concentration. Below, see concentration examples that College Board has used as examples:

- Design & execution of a children's book. (2D)
- A personal or family history communicated through symbols/ imagery. (All)
- Series of fabric/ apparel/ weaving designs used to express a particular theme. (2D)
- Series that reflects specific narrative or psychological event/s. (all)
- Interpretive portraiture/ figures that emphasize dramatic composition, abstraction. (Drawing, 2D)
- Series of political cartoons using current events and images. (2D)
- Series of portraits exploring one's relationship to the past, present, and future. (Drawing, 2D)
- Abstract drawings/paintings developed from cells and other microscopic images. (Drawing, 2D)
- Abstract constructions developed from natural or mechanical objects. (3D)
- A project that explores interior or exterior architectural space, emphasizing principles of perspective, structure, ambiance created by light, etc. (2D)
- A series of images/ forms—representational interpretations/evolve into abstraction. (2D/ 3D)
- A figurative sculpture project combining animal-human subjects—studies/completed works. (3D)
- An exploration of pattern and design found in nature and/ or culture. (2D)
- Use of various spatial systems (aerial views, perspective) to organize space. (Drawing)
- Use of landscape, figure, still life, etc. (2D, drawing)

**Boy, are you in for some studio fun this summer!!!
Best of luck to you all... enjoy what you do! ☺Ponce**