

# AP Art Summer Assignments

**Complete 4 of the 6 choices during the summer. These will be due by the end of the month of August. Failure to complete these will get you dropped out of the AP art class. These assignments will count towards your portfolio.**

**1. Self-portrait:** Work from observation to create at least five different sketches of yourself. Go beyond just showing your head/face. Look in a mirror and other reflective surfaces that capture your image. Pose yourself in different and unusual positions to avoid the “deer in the headlights” view. Look up, down, to the side; disguise or costume yourself. Arrange interesting side lighting, and be sure to add a background or setting that says something about who you are—your personality, your dreams, your experiences (no floating heads). Make use of dramatic lighting, maybe even a flashlight held from below. Combine different features from your sketches to create a complex, composite autobiographical image of yourself that takes time for the viewer to “read.”

**2. Still life:** Set up a still life with a strong light source, near a window or with a flashlight. Try unusual objects or unusual combinations of objects: kids’ toys, dog/cat toys, linens (a loud beach towel or wild pillow), jewelry, furniture (outdoor, antique, a lava lamp), holiday decorations, wilted flowers, broken seashells, musical instruments, kitchen tools, candy, pasta, clocks, game boards and pieces, light bulbs, seedpods, hardware, origami. Try to choose objects that are interesting to look at individually, and more so in combination. Be sure to compose the entire page. Focus on negative as well as positive space. Play with perspective—show some forms larger than life or depict a close-up of the surface. Your background can be text based, patterned, surreal, fantastic, textured, collaged ...

**3. Landscape:** Do a drawing on location—the beach, the park, looking down your street, your backyard. Include perspectives, details, and a style that demonstrates your personal and unique view of the place. What does this place mean to you? What memories do you associate with it? How can you create a composition that communicates your specific experiences with it? Try to go beyond direct, realistic representation to create a story about the place and how it relates to you.

**4. Draped Figure:** Create a scenario where you have a person (friend or family member) draped in clothing with lots of folds or draped lines. If you can’t find clothing like this drape them in a bed sheet, thin blanket or towel. The point of this is to show correct proportions of the figure and to carefully render the intricate folds of the fabric. Drawing students should focus on the lines and shading while 2-D students should focus on the patterns and shapes created by the drapery. All students should show correct proportions for the figure along with a background or setting for the figure. Remember composition is important and you can NOT ignore the background in this study!!!

**5. Dissection:** Do a study of an object that you have taken apart. Arrange the parts on a surface with other objects related or not related and study the TEXTURAL qualities. Some ideas would be a mechanical object, a child's toy, a girl's makeup bag, your bin of art supplies, ingredients for a cooking recipe, a few apples or other fruit cut apart...anything where you are creating a still composition out of something that has been dissected or disassembled. This does not have to be boring! PUT YOUR OWN SPIN ON IT!!!

**6. Shoes:** Create a still life arrangement consisting of your family member's shoes. Try to convey the different personalities of your family members through the rendering of the shoes. Be creative and have fun! This assignment can be done in monochrome (black, white, gray) and/or in color using any medium, technique and style you desire.

#### Suggested Media

Do not do all the works in pencil; if you use pencil, it must be used darkly to make an effective image. Try black ballpoint pen, crosshatching, colored pencils, charcoal pencil, pastels, markers, or any assorted materials you may have at home. BUT REMEMBER TO USE THE ENTIRE PAGE! You may work in your sketchbook if it is at least 8" x 10", or you may take home paper from our classroom.