

Visual Art Department Audition Requirements

The Visual Art Department curriculum is focused on traditional fine art skill-building in a progressive and classical manner. Students work from direct observation in order to establish enduring understanding of the elements and principles of design. Auditionees are required to prepare a portfolio featuring recent and original work based on direct observation from life. An essay describes why studying art is important to the auditionee and includes an example of a favorite or influential artist. The portfolio, essay, and an hour-long live draw of a still life (completed audition day) will be reviewed by art faculty during the audition.

Important Note: Original artwork *will not* be kept by the department- therefore, it is necessary to properly light and provide quality photographs of all portfolio examples for the audition folder. The contents of each auditionees' folder will be utilized for evaluation purposes and kept on file. Please carefully read the audition requirement descriptions and contact the Director of Visual Art by email LReinhard@charterarts with questions.

Prior to the Audition:

Before scheduling an audition, parents/guardians are encouraged to schedule a shadow appointment through the main office. The shadow program is a great way for potential auditionees to find out if the Visual Art Department is a suitable choice for their study of art.

Audition Preparations Checklist:

- Practice drawing from life & create original artworks to fulfill portfolio requirements.
- Provide quality photographs of *ALL* portfolio artwork for the audition folder.
- Provide a recent student photograph for the audition folder.
- Compose and type a 3-5 paragraph essay about why studying art important to you and include an example of a favorite/influential artist in your description.
- Be ready to draw from direct observation for an hour on audition day!

Portfolio Requirements: Required portfolio artwork must be created from life/direct observation and without photographic references. The practice of drawing from life encourages the development of strong observational skills. Included artwork must not be more than one year old. Auditionees will discuss their work as portfolios are reviewed during the audition.

REQUIRED PORTFOLIO ARTWORK:

- **One Self-Portrait Drawing from a Mirror (no photographic aid)**- Sit in front of a mirror and draw a proportional self-portrait directly from life.
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- **Two Still Life Drawings/Paintings from observation (no photographic aid)**- Arrange 3-5 objects in a still life with a background. Draw the same still life objects twice. For the second still life drawing, consider a different viewpoint, new arrangement, light source, and/or try a different medium.
- **Minimum of 5 Student Choice Artworks**- Include a minimum of five example artworks in any medium or subject demonstrating skill, creativity, and craftsmanship. Works from life/direct observation are strongly encouraged. Sketchbooks are optional, however, they are supplemental and do not count as a final portfolio example. Sketches or doodles on notebook/scrap paper also do not count as final portfolio examples.