

Visual Art Department Audition Requirements

The Visual Art Department curriculum is focused on traditional fine art skill-building in a rigorous and progressive manner. Students learn to work from both direct observation and the imagination in order to establish an enduring understanding of the elements and principles of design. Auditionees must prepare the portfolio component including the required artwork created from direct observation as well as creative choice pieces showcasing a commitment to studying the visual arts on a daily basis. *Note:* carefully read the portfolio artwork section below for more details. Portfolio artwork examples must be original, current (made within the year), and finished works of art. Sketchbook pages and doodles should not be included in the portfolio. However, a sketchbook may accompany the portfolio to emphasize areas of curiosity and problem-solving. The entire portfolio should be photographed (well lit/quality artwork photography only) and be arranged in Google slides.

The introductory video component should include the auditionee's name and genuine answers to the provided questions. The reflective essay component should describe why studying art is meaningful to the auditionee and include a minimum of one favorite/influential artist who the auditionee wishes to learn from. Finally, the in-person live draw exercise and meet and greet interview components will be completed on the day of the scheduled audition. During the live draw exercise students will be asked to draw a pre-arranged still life from direct observation for an hour. Please carefully read the directions for the required portfolio, Google slides presentation, video, and essay components included below.

Prior to the Audition:

Attend an open house and/or visit the school website to learn about the Visual Arts Department's program of study to know it is a right fit. Auditionees and families should have an understanding of the visual arts department's program of study and the sequential and skill-building nature of the studio classes. Students should enter the program with a flexible/beginners mindset ready to learn and grow as a visual artist.

Audition Preparations Checklist:

- Assemble the required portfolio and Google slides presentation.
- Create the introductory video addressing the provided prompt/questions.
- Write a 3-5 paragraph reflective essay following the prompt.
- Be well rested and ready for the in-person live draw exercise and meet and greet components on audition day.

PORTFOLIO ARTWORK REQUIREMENTS

- **Self-Portrait Drawing:** Create a self-portrait drawing **from a mirror** (no photographic aid). Sit in front of the mirror and draw an accurate and proportional self-portrait directly from life using a drawing medium such as graphite or charcoal.
- **Still Life Drawing #1:** Create a still life arrangement of three or five objects with a defined source of light. Draw the still life from direct observation using a drawing medium such as graphite or charcoal.
- **Still Life Drawing #2:** Working from the same still life, rearrange the objects or take a new viewing position in order to create a new drawing or painting from direct observation using drawing or painting media (media open).



- **Creative Choice Pieces (minimum of 5):** Include a collection of a minimum of five finished artwork examples demonstrative of creativity, curiosity, current skill level, and sound craftsmanship.

GOOGLE SLIDES PRESENTATION DIRECTIONS

Create a Google slides presentation including the following set of slides in this order:

1. **Introduction Slide** - Include a current photograph of the student's face, full name (first and last name), and current grade level.
2. **Self-Portrait Drawing Slide** - Include an artwork photograph and a brief description of what you learned when drawing the self-portrait from direct observation.
3. **Still Life Drawing #1 Slide** - Include an artwork photograph of the drawing *and* a photograph of the actual still life set-up side by side. Include a brief description of what you learned when creating the still life arrangement and the drawing.
4. **Still Life Drawing #2 Slide** - Include an artwork photograph of the second still life drawing/painting *and* a photograph of the modified/rearranged still life or a photograph from the new viewing position side by side. Include a brief description of what you learned when creating the second still life drawing/painting.
5. **Creative Choice Pieces 1-5** (or more) - Include all of the creative choice pieces on slides with the medium and brief descriptions of what was learned when creating the work.
6. **Final Thoughts Slide** - Include any additional final thoughts or reflections about your ideas about art.

VIDEO PROMPT/QUESTIONS

1. Introduce yourself with full name (first and last name) and current grade level.
2. Choose five words to describe yourself.
3. When did you discover your serious interest in learning about the visual arts?
4. What kinds of visual arts classes or training have you completed and what did you learn there?
5. How often do you focus your time and attention on creating your artwork on your own at home?
6. What artistic strengths do you have and what do you still need to learn as a growing artist?
7. What other hobbies or interests occupy your time?
8. Why is the Charter Arts visual arts program of study important to you as a developing artist?

ESSAY PROMPT

Create a three to five paragraph reflective essay addressing why skill-building and studying the visual arts in depth is important to you. Additionally, include at least one example of an artist you wish to learn from with regards to how and why they create art.

GOOGLE SLIDE PRESENTATION ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION DEADLINES

January Audition - submit no later than Monday, January 17th

February Auditions - submit no later than Monday, January 31st

Email all audition materials to auditions2223@charterarts.org

PLEASE NOTE: ALL AUDITION FILES SHOULD BE ATTACHMENTS. DO NOT SHARE A FILE FROM YOUR GOOGLE DRIVE - WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCESS IT.

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