

# Advanced Art Summer Portfolio

## Part 1: Reference Album

A successful art portfolio begins with solid and *original* reference photos. The prep work that you do over the summer will allow you to begin creating art immediately and move right from one project into the next for the entire year.

You will be graded on **completion, organization, and quality** of the photos described below. Please make sure your photos are clear and easy to use for reference. Also make sure your photos have a good range of value and lighting (not too dark or too washed out). **Your reference album should be compiled and turned in for review on the first day of school.**

### **Items required:**

Digital camera or good quality cell phone camera

Photo album

Prints of each assignment---**please get real photos printed from a kiosk or website** (CVS, Walgreens, Target, Wal-Mart, Shutterfly, etc.) because home printers can distort colors, especially if you run low on ink. **Save digital versions for back-up, in case you need to reprint.**

### **Take *original* photos of the following subjects:**

1. Six photos of your face, each showing these different feelings: happiness, anger, sadness  
The more authentic the picture (like physically crying either from sadness or laughter), the better the reference will be for your artwork. Be sure to have good lighting and crop the picture very close around your face/neck/shoulder area:

YAY



NAY



2. Six photos of your face distorted using a filter or app. Do not include any text.

3. Three photos of a *monochromatic* still life that features at least 4 items. This means that all items included in the still life (at least 4) are in the same color family, not that you apply a filter over the picture to turn it one color. That's cheating! :)



**\*\*Think about what makes an effective composition: not an overabundance of negative space, varying shapes, heights, textures, etc.\*\***

4. Three photos of a "narrative" still life; items should be connected thematically or come together to tell

a story (meal prep, game night, vacation, etc.). Use at least **4** items.

5. Six photos of an assortment of candy, *arranged on a flat and solid, light-colored (preferably white) surface*. Think about angle, crop, and overall composition; excessive negative space is unnecessary and **unwrap candy**.



6. Three photos of a still life of *reflective* objects, like silverware, ornaments, small appliances (i.e. toaster or tea kettle), phone case, etc.

7. Six photos of different angles of your favorite shoe (pair or single). You don't want to crop too much but you do want a close picture without much negative/background space.

8. Six close-up pictures of a bicycle/tricycle from unusual angles. Don't just photograph the bicycle from the side.

9. Three pictures of the sunrise or sunset. You can choose the setting (including buildings, over the lake, etc.) but the majority of the picture—half or more---must be the sky.

10. Take an orange and photograph it whole. Start to peel it little by little, taking photos after each portion is peeled. You should end up with a series of at least 6 photos. Leave the peeled parts around the orange as you progress.

11. The inside of your refrigerator from three angles of your choice. Get up close and personal with the contents inside, thinking about unusual or unexpected angles. *Don't focus on only one object but also don't try to fit in everything—focus on one shelf or section.*

12. Six photos of an ice cream cone. This works best if it is a soft-serve one so you have the swirling layers. It is not necessary to include your hand in your project so don't let it take up too much of the cone. Be sure to take a close picture without a busy background.

13. Three pictures of a group--minimum of 5--of donuts (but some of them can be cropped). Keep subjects close together; pictures should be taken from above or eye level.



14. Choose one family member and photograph him or her 5 different times. **These should be candid--be an observer and capture him or her doing some ordinary. Make it a well-composed picture! Not a lot of negative space, focus on subject, good lighting, etc.**

19-23. Five additional photos you would consider worthy of creating art from. Think creatively, unusually, and outside the box! These can have more abstract subjects but remember that the clearer the reference picture, the more helpful it will be to you. These may be newly taken or ones you already have at home.

**Your portfolio should have a total of 70 photos.** They must be organized in your album sequentially, by assignment (1<sup>st</sup> on this list, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.) and topic (i.e. six orange pictures in order from whole to unpeeled)

## Reference Reminders

- **Poor reference photos = poor works of art.** Even if the assignment only calls for a certain number of printed photos (i.e. three), take *many* more. **A good rule of thumb is to take *at least triple the amount pictures that you will need to print, so if the assignment calls for three printed pictures, take at least 9 options so you can choose the best, clearest ones to print.***
- **Make sure you have good lighting.** Natural light (i.e. from a window) is best so be mindful that if you have to use a flash, it can sometimes wash out colors or make things look too shiny or have too much contrast; desk lamps and flashlights are options for providing softer light.
- **Eliminate unnecessary background space.** *This is so important!* For most of the assignments, like the food and self-portraits, your subject should take up the entire picture. The less extra “stuff” you have in the picture, the closer and more detailed your subject can be. For the portraits of your family member, it’s fine to have the background help tell the story.

### Part Two: Observational Drawings

Complete **two** of the following observational drawings. Each should be drawn directly from life or using an original reference photograph.

- ✓ Work should demonstrate a **full range of values**, with deep shadows and bright highlights to create form and depth and attention to detail.
- ✓ **Use the entire page**—drawings should be done on 8 ½ x 11 (minimum) sketchbook paper. You’ll need a sketchbook this year so if you don’t have one at home, you’ll want to purchase one.
- ✓ Use good quality materials. If you don’t have a set of drawing pencils, a good old-fashioned wooden no. 2 will work. Stay away from mechanical pencils! Cotton balls and q-tips should be used to help blend and show different textures. **Remember to spray your work periodically and after you are finished to prevent smudging.**
- ✓ Your work should resemble a finished drawing/project and show that you put thoughtful, solid **effort** into it (1-2+ hours, not 20 or 30 minutes).

1. A self-portrait that expresses a specific mood. This one should be in color (think about the effects of color and how it can convey mood). You may use any style (realism, cubism, expressionism, etc.).
2. Your view from the side view mirror of a car.
3. Create a self-portrait, using your reflection in an unusual surface, something other than a normal mirror. This could be a metal appliance (toaster, blender), a computer monitor, a broken or warped mirror, a car’s rear view mirror, or tinted windows.
4. Four mini drawings (all can be on one page) drawn from observation at restaurant, café, park, bookstore. Work to capture the essence of this place by drawing the people and things you see.
5. Four mini drawings on one page that bring us closer and closer to the subject. This works best with an organic subject, like a plant or flower, but it will work with an inanimate object, too. The first picture should clearly show what the object is; the last drawing should be a macro drawing and be much more abstract.
6. Drop some food dye into a clear container of water. Try to capture several pictures of the process (first drops, color rippling out, etc.). Choose your best/most interesting picture to replicate, in color.
7. Head outside and photograph as many different insects (ants, spiders, moths, butterflies, worms, grasshoppers, crickets, June bugs, etc.) as you can. Select your best four reference images and use them to create four mini drawings. Color is optional.

8. Pop some popcorn. Select a handful of pieces (at least 3) to draw. Remember, your drawing should take up the entire page so you'll be showing a pretty close view of the subjects. Focus on directional shading and blending to show the soft contours of the subjects.
9. Draw your sink with dishes floating in soapy water.
9. Illustrate this prompt: "Hot and Cold"
10. Illustrate this prompt: "Opposites Attract"
11. Illustrate this prompt: "It's not easy being green."
12. Illustrate this prompt: "Pretty as a picture."
13. Illustrate this prompt: "Fight or Flight"
14. Illustrate this prompt: "Caught red handed"
15. Illustrate this prompt: "Woke up on the wrong side of the bed."

### **Part Three: Class "Textbook"**

In lieu of a textbook, we will be using *Art and Fear* by David Bayles and Ted Orland. You will need to purchase your own copy; it can be purchased on eBay, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, etc. A digital copy is fine, too. We will be reading it throughout the year but it's not a bad idea to read through the first chapter before school begins, as it will set the tone for our year.

If you have any questions at all, please feel to email me at [ashley.hook@pinelakeprep.org](mailto:ashley.hook@pinelakeprep.org). **I am SO excited about our advanced course!** Remember that these assignments are to help you create great portfolio pieces.

**\*\*Please note that there may be additional reference photo and supply requirements throughout the year. Our curriculum is fluid and may change based on time or the interests of the class.\*\***

**Have fun!** 😊  
Mrs. Hook