

IB Visual Arts Summer Work
Year 1 (HL & SL)
Mrs. Brower bbrower@calvertonschool.org

Congratulations on beginning your journey into the IB Visual Arts Course. There are few things I would like you to know before you get started on your summer work.

- Making art should be fun not work
- Being creative is not always easy
- Hard work pays off in the end
- Nothing is worth doing if you aren't willing to take risks!
- Not every piece of art will be successful but it WILL be a valuable learning experience.
- Never trash anything you make, keep everything because you never know when you might be able to use it.
- Take lots of pictures this summer – Snap away on those phones but keep in mind an artistic eye!
- Hold on tight to your survival guide it will help you!!!
- I am always here for you, to support you, encourage you, and guide you. Together we will have a great 2 years and if you need me just drop an email or text!

Aims of the IB Program:

The arts aims

The aims of the arts subjects are to enable students to:

1. Enjoy lifelong engagement with the arts
2. Become informed, reflective and critical practitioners in the arts
3. Understand the dynamic and changing nature of the arts
4. Explore and value the diversity of the arts across time, place and cultures
5. Express ideas with confidence and competence
6. Develop perceptual and analytical skills.

Visual arts aims

In addition, the aims of the visual arts course at SL and HL are to enable students to:

7. Make artwork that is influenced by personal and cultural contexts
8. Become informed and critical observers and makers of visual culture and media
9. Develop skills, techniques and processes in order to communicate concepts and ideas.

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Please complete the following assignments. These will be due on the first day of class.

Materials Needed for Summer Work:

(You will use these items also throughout the year)

- Visual Arts Journal – This can take any form but may I suggest a hard cover sketchbook that is bound on the side. I would suggest ordering the Canson Basic from Blick Art Supplies item # 10350-1011.
- Please get a folder/ binder to keep loose sketches, pictures, and other items in. You may even choose to get an accordion file folder.
- Since you will be working at home, as well as school, you will need some drawing pencils, colored pencils, maybe a small watercolor palette as well as any other supplies you might want to have on hand to work in your Arts Journal with. I will provide you with these items at the end of the school year.

Assignment 1:

What did I sign up for??? –

Take a few days and READ the survival guide I have provided you. It has a wealth of information in it and will be a valuable resource over the next 2 years.

Assignment 2:

Art Vocabulary –

Elements of Art – COLOR, VALUE, LINE, SHAPE, FORM, TEXTURE, SPACE

Principles of Design – BALANCE, EMPHASIS, UNITY, CONTRAST, MOVEMENT, PATTERN, RHYTHM

Please do the following for each of above art terms:

1. Define each term in your own words, use a separate page of your arts journal per word (front and back counts as 2 pages)
2. Find a piece of artwork that depicts the term clearly in the piece and tell me how (make sure you cite all your images this is a must!) Print it out and glue in in your journal.
3. Create a small sketch with your own interpretation of this in your journal – this can be in any art form you would like including photography – write about how the term is present

Knowing these art terms will help you with your summer work and will be important for you to have a strong understanding as you progress through this IB course. Please complete these in the first few pages of your arts journal.

Assignment 3:

Museum/Gallery Visit and Critique -

- This is a must do – DC and Baltimore are full of art Museums but just as good is a local gallery. Look for galleries while you are on vacation. Be inspired by something you find!
- In your many travels this summer please visit a Museum or a Gallery. Find a piece that you cannot seem to move pass. One that says something to you. Critique the work and record your findings in your arts journal.
 - o Make sure you give the artist’s name, medium, and style or period of work
 - o Also include the name of the gallery or museum
 - o Include a picture of the piece or sketch one in your journal.
 - o Refer to “How to Critique Art” for help writing a critique about a piece of art your artist has created.

Assignment 4:

Who am I and What I Like?

- In your art journal I would like you to create 5 pages of images of who you are and what things interest you. These things could be associated with your family, hobbies, places you like to travel etc . . .
- Each page should be different and focus on one theme, so you will have 5 different themed pages. You can include pictures and drawings but all pages need to include your thoughts in writing.
- Be creative but they shouldn’t look like scrap book pages.
- Once you have finished the 5 pages I want you to come up with a project idea that incorporates one or more of your pages.
 - o This could be a self-portrait, landscape, collage, etc. . .
 - o Think about what medium you would use to complete this piece
 - o Sketch out ideas for a final piece in your journal include your thoughts and ideas in written form also.

*** Remember you are just beginning your journey in IB Studio Art. You are not limited to these entries and you may want to do more. Your summer work will help get us started the first few weeks of school. These assignments will be graded so please have them completed and ready on the first day of class.

*** Have fun working in arts journal this summer. If you need to contact me with questions or concerns my email address is: bbrower@calvertonschool.org or text me 240-731-8802 but tell me who you are! I don’t have your numbers in my phone!

A few reminders for Art journal use –

- Write your name and address in the front
- Never skip or tear out pages – remember we keep everything
- Number all pages in the bottom corner
- Use blue or black ink when writing
- Always cite all your images and sources

Analyzing artworks: a step by step guide

Follow these steps, answer all questions and you can't go wrong!

Remember that your own drawings/ copies of the artwork should accompany all written analysis.

1: First Reaction

Write down your first response to the artwork.

Do you like it?

How does it make you feel?

Does it remind you of anything you have seen before?

2: Description

List what you can see in this artwork

Figures, colors, shapes, backgrounds etc. . .

Imagine you are describing it to a blind person. Do this in as much detail as possible.

3: Formal Analysis

Write down your observations in more detail, looking at these specific aspects of the artwork:

- Color:
 - Which type of palette has the artist used: is it bright or dull, strong or weak?
 - Are the colors mostly complementary, primary, secondary, or tertiary?
 - Which colors are used the most in this artwork?
 - Which colors are used the least in the artwork?
 - Are the colors used in different ways in different parts of the artwork?
 - Have the colors been applied flay, straight from the tube, or have different colors been mixed?
- Tones
 - Is there a use of light/ shadow in this artwork?
 - Where is the light coming from? Where are the shadows?
 - Are the forms in the artwork realistically modelled (does it look 3D)?
 - Is there a wide range of tonal contrast (very light highlights and very dark shadows) or is the tonal range quite narrow (ie mostly similar tones)?
- Use of Media:
 - What medium has been used?
 - How has the artist used the medium – ie is the paint applied thick or thin? How can you tell?
 - Can you see brushstrokes, markmaking or texture? Describe the shape and direction of the brushstrokes/ marks.
 - Was it painted, drawn, sculpted, quickly, or slowly and painstakingly? What makes you think this?
- Composition (organization of shapes)
 - What types of shapes are used in this artwork
 - Is there a mixture of different types of shapes or are all the shapes similar?

- Are some parts of the composition full of shapes and some parts empty, or are the shapes spread evenly across the artwork?
 - Does the whole composition full of energy and movement, or does it look still and peaceful? How did the artist create this movement/ stillness?
 - What is the center of interest in the composition?
 - How does the artist draw your attention to it?
- Mood/ Emotion:
- What do you think the artist wanted you to feel when you look at this artwork?
 - What has he/she used to create a mood (think about color, shape, tone etc. . .)
 - How has he/she succeeded in creating this mood? (for example strong vivid colors might be used to create joy or angry mood in an artwork, depending upon how the artist has used them).
 - Could the same mood have been created in a different way? How could you change this?

4: Interpretation

- Now write down your personal thoughts about the work: there are no right or wrong answers here.
- What do you think the artist is trying to say in this artwork? What does it mean?
- What is the main theme or idea behind this space?
- If you were inside this artwork, what would be feeling/thinking?
- Does the artwork have a narrative (tell a story)? Is it a religious artwork?
- Is it abstract? Is it realistic? Why?
- How would you explain this artwork to someone else?

5: Evaluation:

- Based on what you have observed already, give your opinion of the artwork. You must give reasons to support your opinion.

Reference all works using appropriate citation line:

- Artist's name (Country, DOB- DOD)
- Artwork Title (Date of execution/ completion)
- Form and / or medium
- Dimensions
- Owner/ Collection/ Gallery

- A visual Art Critical Analysis should be visual: Make multiple copies of the work/s you are critiquing, enlarging interesting details that you will mention in the analysis and / or interpretation.
- Draw arrows, lines and shapes over the images to draw attention to details or demonstrate composition elements.
- Use subject specific terminology as much as possible and as appropriate, but give particular attention to the spelling of the terms (and the name of the artist and the title of the work!)

