

IB Visual Arts Summer Work

Year 1 (HL & SL)

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Welcome to your journey into the IB Visual Arts! Your experience in IB art is meant to be both truly enjoyable and challenging to push you and your artmaking to new levels. By the end of the two years, you will have created a highly personal and independent art portfolio tailored reflecting your interests and creativity. Be willing to take risks, collaborate and learn from fellow artists, and put time and effort into this course. Every piece of art and new skill you work on will be worth the learning experience, even if you don't deem it successful. I will be here to guide and encourage you through your program, and ultimately, your art portfolio and journey will be what you decide to make of it.

The following summer work will help get you started in art the first few weeks of school. These assignments will be graded, so please complete them by the first day of class. Over the summer, think about the art you already know you like and the art you want to try, take pictures, find inspiration, and keep your artistic eye open! Have fun working this summer, and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Materials Needed:

1. **Visual Arts Journal** – The exact sketchbook you use is up to you, but I strongly suggest a hard cover bound sketchbook that is at least 9x12 inches. You want something sturdy and big enough to hold and protect all your work. The Canson sketchbook from Blick (item # 10350-1011) is a good choice.
 - Reminders when working in your sketchbook – never rip out pages or trash anything you make! Even practice sketches or “failed” attempts can be useful to show the progression of your work. Always cite your images and inspirations – you will want to find your references or sources later and will need to cite these all in IB final components. Record artist, title, medium, date, dimensions, location/gallery for images.
 - Maintaining your visual arts journal over two years will be used to document:
 - the development of art-making skills and techniques
 - experiments with media and technologies
 - personal reflections on your work and process
 - responses to first-hand observations
 - creative ideas for exploration and development
 - evaluations of art practices and art-making experiences
 - responses to diverse artists and their works
 - detailed evaluations and critical analysis
 - records of valued feedback received
 - challenges faced and achievements
2. **Home art supplies** – Drawing pencils, colored pencils, pens, and maybe a small watercolor palette or supply of acrylic paints. You will be working on artmaking at home over the summer and throughout the course to support your work in class, so you will need basic art supplies available when working in your Visual Arts Journal. You can find a wide variety of inexpensive core supplies on Amazon or any arts craft store.
3. **File folder, binder, and/or large flat file portfolio** to keep handouts, loose sketches and artworks, etc.

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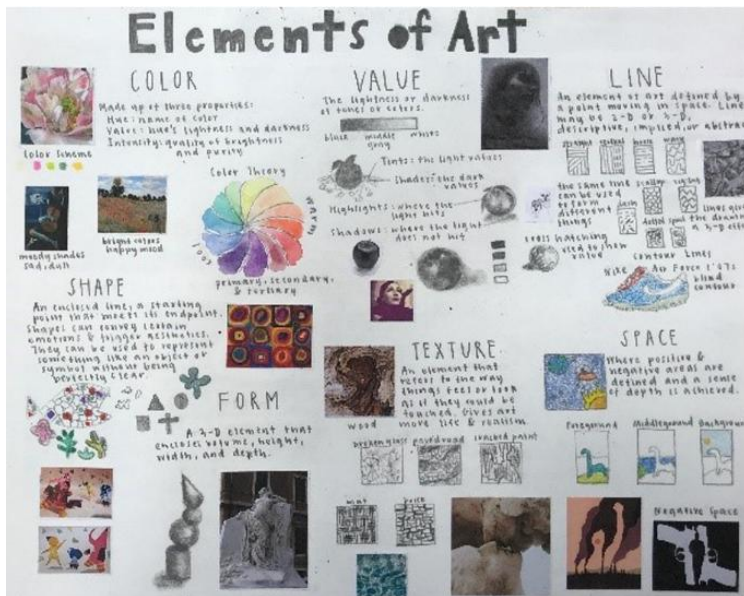
* The following three summer assignments will be due on the first day of class. These should be completed in your Visual Arts Journal, at least 10 complete pages (more if you choose). *

Assignment 1: Art Vocabulary

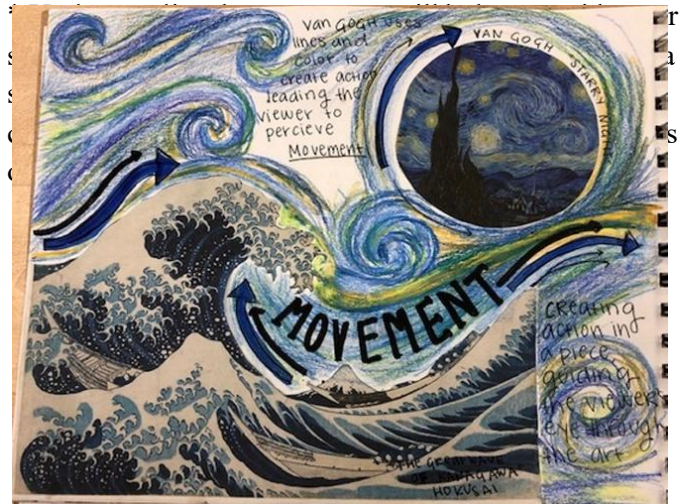
Elements of Design – Color, Line, Shape, Form, Space, Value, Texture

Principles of Design – Balance, Emphasis, Contrast, Proportion, Movement, Rhythm, Variety, Pattern/Repetition, Unity/Harmony

1. Define each of the Elements and each of the Principles in your own words.
2. Create a small drawing with your own interpretation of each Element and Principle in your journal – this can be in any art form you would like (pencil, collage, marker, etc.). Make sure it is clear that this visual represents each art term.



* Sample journal pages – you can be creative within your own journal and organize this vocabulary in the way that works for you as long as you complete each task.



Assignment 2: Museum/Gallery Visit and Analysis

1. Visit a museum or art gallery this summer. If you are staying locally, DC and Baltimore are full of art museums, or you might find museums, local galleries, or art shows anywhere you travel. Find a piece that catches your interest for whatever reason. Analyze it in your arts journal.
 - a. Include a citation: artist's name, title, medium, date/period of work, name of gallery.
 - b. Include a picture or drawing of the artwork in your journal.
 - c. Complete one page of your written analysis and interpretation, using the process below. Try to use specific terminology (ie. the elements and principles of art) and include as much detail as possible!

Visual Analysis & Description: What do you see?

- What elements/figures/objects do you identify in the work?
- Subject of work – Landscape, portrait, people, still-life, animals, historical event, etc.?
- Composition – how are the components arranged? Foreground, background?
- Style – Abstract/realistic, etc.?
- Medium of artwork – 2D, 3D? Acrylic paint, watercolor, drawing, photo, ceramic, etc.?
- How does the artist use the elements/principles to get your attention?
- Line: strong, sketchy, bold, thin, directional, broken, outline, structural, curved
- Color & value: warm, cool, light, dark, solid, transparent, bright, dull, monotone,
- Texture: smooth, rough, coarse, soft
- Space: perspective, foreground, middle-ground, background, point of view
- Shape & form: 2D vs 3D form on flat surface, sculptural form
- Contrast, emphasis, rhythm, pattern, balance, unity, variety, proportion

Contextual Analysis: What things are happening around the time this art was created?

- What info can you find from the artist label? What can you find from further research?
- In what location, time period, and culture was this work made?
- Can you identify any art style or movement to this work?
- Any personal, historical, or cultural information about the artist that influences this work (both its concepts and how it looks)?
- How do you think the artist's work is situated within the context it was created (place/time/location/culture)? For example, historical, social, or individual context – how does the work reflect the artist's life or time period?
- Why do you think the artist chose this medium/style? How does it support the idea? Do you know the artist's artmaking process?
- Are there symbols or metaphors used that you could research to understand more?

INTERPRET: WHAT IS THE MEANING OR PURPOSE?

- What do you think the art is about/why do you think the artist made this work?
- What is the artist's statement? Title? What do you think it means? The artwork is about... The artist is saying...The artist wants you to see...
- Mood & feeling evoked by the art – calm, violent, sad, joyful, angry, hopeful, awe, etc.?
- Function & purpose – is the work decorative, functional, political, expressive, commemorative, shock, etc.?
- The artwork reminds me of... It makes me think about...
- Symbols/metaphors in the art are meant to represent...make us think about...

EVALUATE: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- What do YOU think about this artwork?
- Do you think the work achieves its goals/the artist's intentions?
- I like/dislike this element because... The strengths or weaknesses of the work are... I want to know...I don't understand...
- How could you connect your own work to this artist/their art? Are you inspired by any aspect of it? Is there anything you have learned that you could try in your own work? Do you connect with its concept?

Assignment 3: Reflection - Who am I and What Moves Me?

- In your art journal, create at least 6 pages of visuals and writing of who you are and what things interest you. Include topics and passions that interest you, art techniques and processes you like, styles and artists that inspire you, ideas or philosophies you value, and things that capture who you are and how you see yourself.
 - Each page should be different and focus on one theme (for example, a page all about your favorite artist(s), another page about your art in your most often used medium, etc.) so you will have at least 5 different themed pages. Include pictures, drawings, and writing. Label each page with an open-ended statement or inquiry question about what you are exploring. (For example: 'How can I explore [concept] in artwork?'; 'Use of watercolor techniques'; 'Exploration of Expressionist art'; etc.)
- On your final 6th page, come up with a new potential project idea based on your reflections and explorations. This can be any type of work, subject matter, and any medium. Consider what medium you would use to complete this piece and sketch out ideas for a project in your journal. Include your thoughts and ideas in written form as well.

Sample journal pages: Be creative, be thoughtful, be thorough! Enjoy reflecting through your artmaking!

