

PLANNING TECHNIQUES FOR APPLYING TO AN ART COLLEGE

Take as many art classes as you can.

Whenever possible take an art class, even if you don't need the academic credit. Art classes outside school can show your enthusiasm and dedication to your future career. The work from these classes can also be used to build your portfolio.

Get to know your teachers and guidance counselors.

Always present a positive attitude with your counselors and teachers, especially your art teachers. Their letters of recommendation can be very beneficial to the college application process and will tell the admissions staff how interested in art you really are. Also, it may be advantageous to have more letters of recommendation than you need for admission.

Draw at home.

Always practice drawing at home. Keep a drawing journal or sketchbook with you at all times. Make drawing enjoyable while you are practicing your technical and observational skills by drawing subjects that interest you. Try to bring at least one sketchbook or drawing journal to your portfolio interview.

Look at art.

Go to museums and art exhibits and look at art history books as much as you can. It is important to understand what other artists have done and are currently accomplishing in the art world. You may also find an

artist's work that you can relate to or appreciate. Try to keep in mind a few artists with whom you visually connect and talk about their art during your interview. Also, this information can be very helpful when you write your college admissions essay.

Standardized tests.

The SATs or ACTs can be an important part of your application. Not all colleges require these tests, but the tests will help the college become familiar with your learning style.

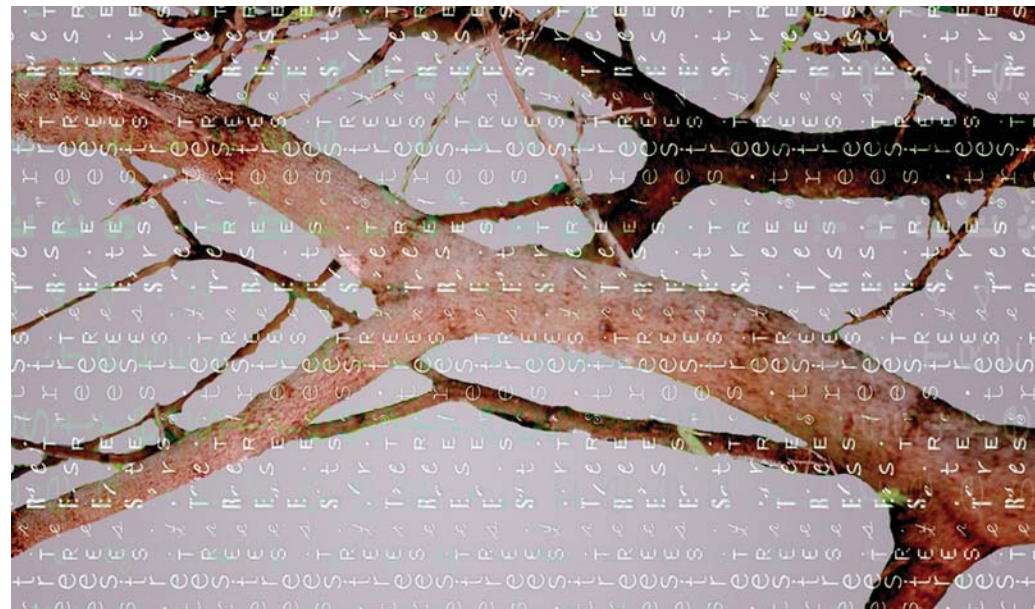


PHOTO BY ASHLEY BELIVEAU

NEW HAMPSHIRE
INSTITUTE
OF ART

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New Hampshire Institute of Art
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PREPARING YOUR
APPLICATION PORTFOLIO
for the New Hampshire Institute of Art



THE PORTFOLIO INTERVIEW

The portfolio is one of the most important aspects of a student's application toward acceptance for the New Hampshire Institute of Art's BFA program. The review of a portfolio provides insight into the applicant's creative process and methods, and is an indication of an artist's creative capacities and strengths. Portfolio reviews are

required from all applicants and provide applicants with an opportunity to express their intent on pursuing their education in the visual arts. Here you will find some very useful information on putting together your portfolio, preparing yourself for the portfolio interview, and some helpful steps in planning for your college application experience.

The New Hampshire Institute of Art prefers that

portfolio reviews be conducted in person with the actual artwork. However, we accept portfolios in slide or digital format from applicants who have circumstances that prevent scheduling a personal interview.

Portfolio reviews can be conducted at the Institute through an appointment with the Admissions Office, National Portfolio Days that are attended by a New Hampshire Institute of Art representative, Institute Open Houses, and high school visits.

PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS

The portfolio should consist of 10 to 20 pieces of original works of art that reflect your artistic strengths and interests. Typical portfolios should include several direct observational drawings, which are not copied from photographs or published works. Other portfolio artwork may include a variety of 2D and 3D works such as photography, painting, illustration, ceramic, sculpture, digital, printmaking, metalsmithing, or other mediums. Sketchbooks can also be an important part of your portfolio review and should be included whenever possible. Artwork needs to be organized and



JAMESON BURKE



BRANDON VESCI



MILTON TAYLOR



RACHEL GOTTSCHÉ



ELIJAH BEEDE

neatly presented in a portfolio; however, it does not need to be matted, shrink wrapped, or framed. Slides or other approved digital media may be mailed directly to the school (please, do not mail original artwork). Label all images with name, medium, dimensions, date, and, if desired, a title.

Portfolio Example A: All works are direct observational drawings (not copied from photographs or published works). Examples: self-portraits, figure drawing, still-life, landscape, cityscape, interiors, and architectural.

Portfolio Example B: 50% direct observational drawings and 50% in-class assignments. These can include any 2D design or 3D design work, such as color theory, pattern, value, line, volume, mass, space, and conceptual exercises. Also any class projects in ceramics, photography, digital imaging, illustration, sculpture, printmaking, metals, etc.

Portfolio Example C: If you decide to reflect your personal interests and strengths, you may submit up to 50% of your portfolio with ceramics, photography, illustration, painting, printmaking, metals, or other mediums. The other 50% can be made up of a combination of direct observational drawings and in-class assignments.

Photography Portfolio Example D: All or most portfolio pieces represent your interest in photography.

Ceramic Portfolio Example E: All or most portfolio pieces represent your interest in ceramics.

PORTFOLIO INTERVIEW TIPS

Preparation: Be prepared! After selecting desired programs and colleges, research the application portfolio requirements, and, if possible, their institutional character and philosophy.

Editing: Select only your best examples of what is required for your portfolio. Reviewers want to see that you are aware of what is your best work in order to evaluate your decision making process.

Presentation: Make sure your presentation is neatly organized, lightweight, easy to carry, and uncomplicated to look through. This does not have to be an expensive project, but it will be worth your efforts.

Perspective: Talk about your work and class assignments. What is a particular assignment and its purpose? What inspires you to create art? Take suggestions from the portfolio reviewer as a positive step toward learning more about art and creating a better portfolio.

Closing: Leave behind a positive impression of yourself as a thoughtful individual and a successful student.

APPLYING TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE INSTITUTE OF ART

To schedule a portfolio interview for the application process please contact the Institute's Admissions Office. You may apply in person, at Institute Open Houses, Portfolio Days, and during high school visits. To apply online visit our website at www.nhia.edu, go to BFA Admissions, and select "Online Application." You may also mail a completed paper application to the Institute's Admissions Office. All supporting application materials should be mailed directly to the Admissions Office. (Please do not mail original artwork.) If you have any questions please contact the Admissions Office at admissions@nhia.edu or by calling 866-241-4918 x576.

Admissions Office
New Hampshire Institute of Art
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Manchester, NH 03101