

## 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

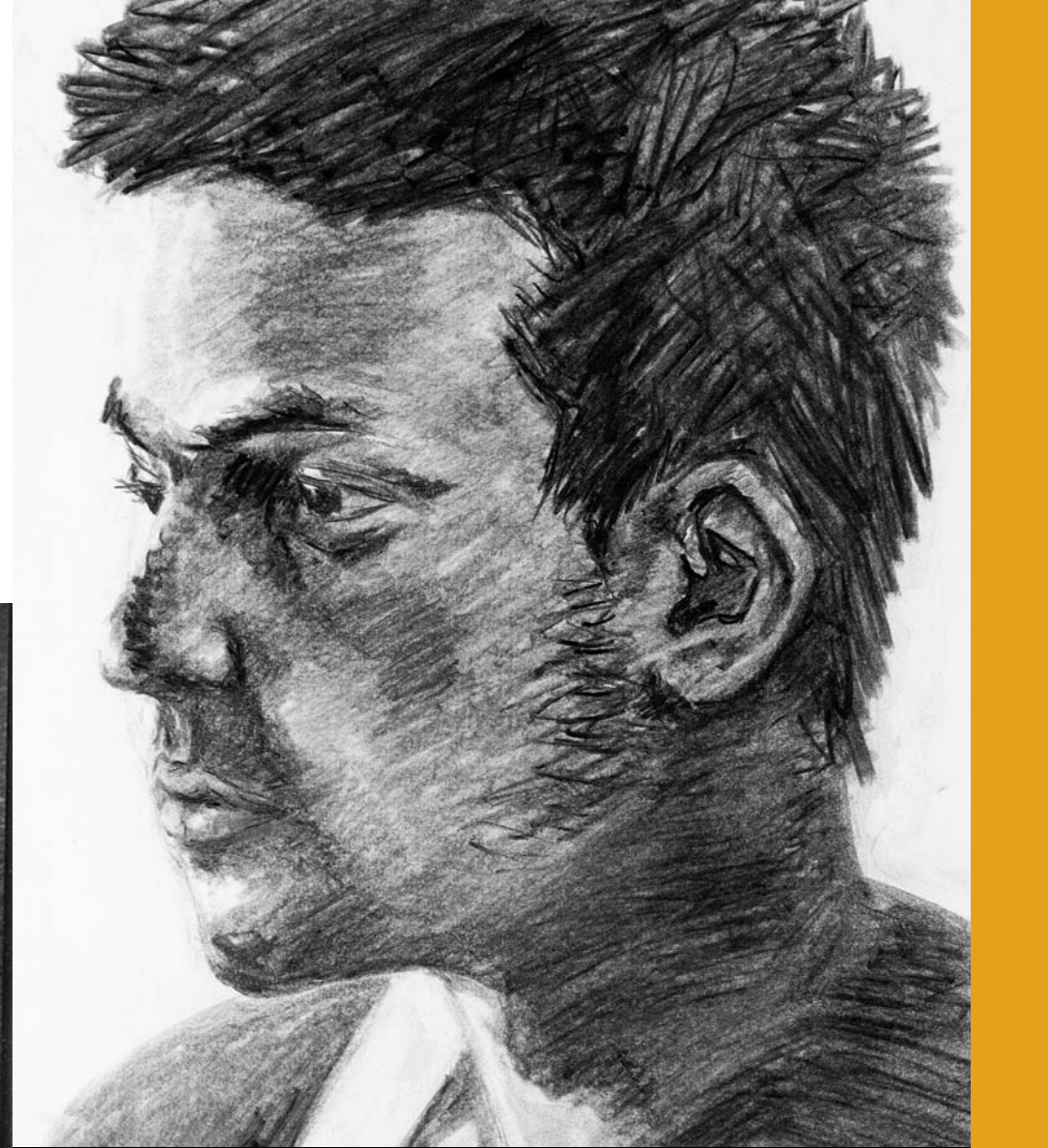
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
INSTITUTE  
OF ART

148 Concord Street  
Manchester, NH 03104-4858  
[www.nhia.edu](http://www.nhia.edu)

FRONT COVER: WESTON DEWOLFF; BACK COVER: JAMES DAVIS



## 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 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 other formats

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, or high school visits.

### PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS

Your portfolio should consist of 15 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, ceramics, sculpture, digital imaging, printmaking, metalsmithing, or other media. Sketchbooks can also be an important part of your portfolio review and should be included whenever possible. Artwork needs to be organized and neatly presented in a portfolio; however, it does not need to be matted, shrink-wrapped, or framed.



PHOTO BY GIEN SCHEFFER



KARA SUMMERLY



JACQUELYN WIELOCH



EMILY HARTANA



ANDREA-LIJOY SHIELDS

Please do not mail original artwork to the college. If you would like to mail a portfolio to the college, please mail digital images on CD in a paper CD envelope. Make sure that all your images are properly labeled with your name, medium, dimensions, date, and, if desired, a title.

### General Visual Arts Portfolio:

The General Visual Arts Portfolio includes a variety of direct observational drawings and other formal works of art. Direct observational drawings should be the focus of this type of portfolio. The drawings can be completed in any medium but should not be copied from a photograph or other reference material. Formal works of art can be two-dimensional (2D) or three-dimensional (3D) exercises that deal with line quality, value, pattern, color theory, volume, space, mass, and concepts. These can be done in any medium, including ceramics, photography, digital imaging, illustration, printmaking, sculpture, metals, etc. Sketchbooks can also be included.

### Concentration Portfolio:

This type of portfolio reflects your specific area of interest. All or most of your portfolio pieces should represent a medium, style, or concept that relates to your current artwork or what you would like to study in college. At the Institute, Concentration Portfolios can be accepted in the following categories: ceramics, illustration, painting, and photography. Observational drawings and sketchbooks can also be included.

### Visual Arts Portfolio with Concentration:

This portfolio contains artwork that reflects your personal interests and strengths as well as examples from the General Visual Arts Portfolio (see above). Half of the artwork included should reflect your interests, while the other half should include a variety of examples from the general visual arts category. Direct observational drawings are an important part of this type of portfolio. Sketchbooks can also be included.

### 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 your best work is 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

You may apply in person, at Institute Open Houses, Portfolio Days, or during high school visits. To apply online, visit our website at [www.nhia.edu](http://www.nhia.edu) and click on APPLY ONLINE TODAY, right on the homepage. All supporting application materials should be mailed directly to the Admissions Office.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a portfolio interview, please contact us at [admissions@nhia.edu](mailto:admissions@nhia.edu) or 866-241-4918 x589. Admissions Office, New Hampshire Institute of Art, 148 Concord Street, Manchester, NH 03104