



Pre-entry Preparation, Requirements and Recommendations

Welcome to Art and Design at Comberton Sixth Form.

Preparation

We would like you to complete a summer project that has two main aspects.

The first aspect is a set of tasks to be presented in an A3 sketchpad. The tasks are as follows;

- 1) A detailed pencil drawing of an exhibit of your choice from a museum collection of your choice. The Cambridge University Museums of Zoology, Anthropology & Archaeology and Classical Archaeology are all good. Or you could look at The Victoria and Albert Museum, The British Museum, The Natural History Museum in London. (use their websites to access their collections if you are unable to visit.)
- 2) A pen/ink/watercolour study of a person, either from life or a photograph and drawn on an interesting surface (book pages, newspaper, map, fabric, wallpaper etc.)
- 3) A copy of a painting by Tai Shan Schierenberg in either acrylic or oil paint
- 4) A detailed study of something architectural, mechanical or structural in materials of your own choosing (again, preferably from life but from a decent quality photo is also fine)
- 5) A detailed written analysis of one of the following pieces of art;
 - 'The Angel of the North' by Antony Gormley
 - 'Guernica' by Picasso
 - The 'Pieta' by Michelangelo
 - Tracey Emin's 'Bed'
 - 'No Woman No Cry' by Chris Ofili
 - Rachel Whiteread's 'House'
 - 'Stare' by Jenny Saville

Make sure you research the meaning/context of your chosen artwork thoroughly before you write the analysis.

The second part of the task is absolutely not prescriptive! It is your chance to show your interests and talents in art. With entirely your own direction, we would like you to submit a series of work in whatever medium you like based on themes that interest you. You may present this work in any manner you choose; we just want to see what inspires you and how you like to work. Make sure the effort and thought you put in reflects your commitment to and passion for the subject. Your coursework in September will be based loosely around the theme of Identity so you may want to use this as a starting point.

You should end up with 10-15 pages overall. This introductory project will inform the initial work that you do at the start of the course so have fun and we look forward to seeing your completed journals in September!

Requirements

Many of the day to day materials such as a range of different papers, printing inks, specialist drawing materials, household brushes for bold work and a basic range of bristle brushes will be provided for you. However, you will need to buy the following equipment to successfully undertake the course;

All of the materials below are available at art shops like Hobbycraft and Tindall's in Cambridge but they can be expensive so it might be worth considering a trip to London or a browse on the web. Atlantis Art Supplies in Spitalfields (the artists' version of Homebase) and The London Graphics Centre in Covent Garden are better value and have a greater range to choose from. Jackson's Art Supplies and both Discount Art and Art Discount (mail-order only discount suppliers), Cass Art and London Graphics Centre are great value too.

Materials Payment for Printmaking Projects

Over the course of the year, we would like all Yr12s to experience the following printmaking and book arts projects so that they can have an enriched experience of a broader number of areas of art and design. This is a key part of their curriculum and will include woodcut, linocut, drypoint, zinc plate etching, screen printing and handmade sketchbook making. The resulting work will go directly into their Yr13 A Level coursework projects. These processes require professional quality materials and due to current school budget restrictions, this is only possible if we ask the students to pay £60 to cover the costs of the materials and consumable resources that would be needed over the course of the year for these projects. We do not make a profit from this, and the cost is worked out to cover the materials used only. There is a bursary scheme available in the sixth form for those that are eligible for financial support.

Essential Equipment:

A3 SKETCHBOOK

These must have high quality heavy weight cartridge paper suitable for painting as well as sketching and drawing (170-220gsm). One with a hardcover is best but whichever you go for, make sure it's a spiral bound one so that the pages don't fall out - Daler Rowney and Windsor and Newton both make excellent sketchbooks. A great deal of the art you produce over the two years will be presented in journal form so it would be wise to invest in the highest quality sketchbook you can - it's time to say goodbye to the ones with silver plastic covers and the black leatherette ones with hundreds of wafer thin pages in them!

MAKE SURE YOU ONLY WORK ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER. YOU WILL EVENTUALLY COLLABORATE WORK INTO A BIGGER A2 SKETCHBOOK THAT WE WILL SELL YOU LATER IN THE COURSE.

ACRYLIC PAINT

Most good art materials manufacturers make good student quality ranges of acrylic paint. It's worth getting 'heavy body' paints if you can as they tend to be thicker and therefore more versatile. The ones to go for are Daler Rowney (System 3 or their artist range), Windsor and Newton (Galeria are affordable and good quality), Liquitex or Golden (if money is no object!). Big tubes are better value but avoid budget brands as the paint is often slimy and thin.

It should be possible to buy a starter set for around £15-20. This would need to include most or all of the following colours (or nearest approximations); CADMIUM RED OR VERMILLION / CRIMSON / ULTRAMARINE BLUE / CADMIUM YELLOW / LEMON YELLOW / YELLOW OCHRE / BURNT SIENNA / RAW UMBER / TITANIUM WHITE / BLACK

Other colours that would be worth having but aren't essential are; EMERALD GREEN / MAGENTA / CERULEAN BLUE / PRUSSIAN BLUE / PAYNES GREY

GOOD QUALITY BRUSHES AND BASIC DRAWING EQUIPMENT

As mentioned earlier we will provide some basic bristle brushes and larger house painting brushes but it will be necessary to invest in a range of decent quality synthetic brushes suitable for acrylic painting and ink work. These are often available in discount packs and you will need large, medium and small round and flat brushes to achieve a broad range of mark-making. One or two fine brushes for finishing touches and detail are never a bad idea but don't get beguiled by fan brushes, they're largely useless! Good quality sketching pencils (2H -9B) and a stash of plastic erasers and putty rubbers are essentials.

Useful Extras:

In addition to the above materials you may wish to purchase the following materials. Although they are not essential, they will certainly prove invaluable for sketchbook and drawing work throughout the course and you won't regret owning them.

SOFT PASTELS / CONTE PASTELS / A BOX OF WILLOW CHARCOAL OF ASSORTED SIZES / GRAPHITE STICKS / DRAWING INKS / DRAWING PENS

Trips and Life Drawing Class:

We are intending to run an 8 week compulsory after school life drawing class in the autumn term to develop the students' higher level drawing skills. There would be a fee of around £60 to cover the cost of a professional life model, materials and tutoring for these sessions and we will inform you once this has been arranged. There will be a number of trips to museums and galleries in Cambridge or London and we are also planning a trip abroad for AS and A2 Art and Photography students.

If you have any queries about your course preparation please contact Joe Dean joedean@combertonvc.org

CHECKLIST FOR SUMMER PROJECT

THESE TASKS ARE ESSENTIAL AS THEY WILL FORM A MAJOR PART OF YOUR EARLY YR12 WORK SO YOU MUST MAKE SURE THEY ARE COMPLETED BEFORE YOUR FIRST TIMETABLED ART LESSON IN SEPTEMBER.

- 1 detailed pencil drawing from a museum of choosing
- 1 pen/ink study
- 1 detailed written analysis
- 1 detailed painted study of a Tai Shan Shierenberg portrait
- A 10-15 page personal project of your choosing

CHECKLIST OF NECESSARY EQUIPMENT

- An A3 sketchbook for summer work
- good quality acrylic paints
- a range of good quality round and flat brushes of various sizes
- optional but extremely useful drawing equipment

IN ADDITION COULD YOU ALSO MAKE SURE THAT YOU DOWNLOAD AND EXPLORE THE POTENTIAL OF THE iOS AND ANDROID BASED APPS 'SNAPSEED' AND 'PRISMA'. BOTH ARE EXCELLENT AND BOTH ARE FREE!