

Fine Arts School Tips for Success

What type of school is best for you?

If you want to study art beyond high school, you have a few options. You may go to formal art school, you can go to a college that offers a fine art major or you can take art classes as an elective while majoring in another subject. Most art schools and art programs require a fine arts portfolio for admission into the school or program of study.

Art School

In art school, you will learn a specific craft; a variety of disciplines in other fields will not be offered as it would be at a liberal arts college or university.

Art schools award a BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) degree. Earning a BFA generally takes four years if you're studying full-time. Expect to spend at least two-thirds of your time creating or learning about art, and the rest completing general education requirements. Art school will develop your technical skills as well as your own creative voice. You'll also discover how to present, evaluate and talk about your work.

Traditional Colleges and Universities

If you are interested in pursuing other subjects in addition to art, a traditional college or university with an established art program may be the best fit. You can major in art, but you'll be able to study other disciplines as well. If you choose to study in another field, you may switch majors without switching schools.

What is an entrance art portfolio?

An art portfolio is an edited collection of a prospective student's best artwork intended to showcase the artist's skills and voice as an artist. A portfolio is used by prospective students to show admission counselors how versatile they can be by showing samples of recent original artwork.

TIPS

Start Early

Start developing art before senior year. Think about ideas for artwork before you are under pressure.

Research

- Research the art school
- Internet for portfolio advice (YouTube videos, art schools produce, portprep.com)
- Look at each school's website to see departments and the art being made at each school.
- Select the art programs you are most interested
- Review the portfolio requirements
- Follow the requirements

Requirements Vary

All schools have specific requirements. Some require a digital portfolio. Some require physical work (actual artwork) to be sent. Some have specific requirements about the work that is included in the portfolio. It is important to read through the requirements and make sure you follow them.

Create an Action Plan

- Where do you want to apply and what order?
- Mark your calendar with school deadlines for applications and for scholarship consideration.
- Mark your calendar with goal dates for artwork completion (example on October 25, 2020 I will have five pieces of art completed)

Make, Create & Develop

- Create more pieces than the admissions requirements so that you can edit to showcase only your best work.
- Keep up with your sketchbook. Many schools want to see your working process (how you think and your experimentations)

Content

- Showcase your technical skills (strong line quality, value rendering, dynamic composition, digital skills)
- Express your creativity and your voice as an artist in your work
- Make work with an idea behind it
- Focus on recent work (you should be showing work that was created in high school or independently.)
- The portfolio is a comment on who you are? What is unique
- How do you think? What was the process?
- Show original work (there should not be sketches of licensed characters or plagiarized images)

Presentation is everything

- Show art in a professional manner (no dog ears, not torn out of sketchbook)
- Present your portfolio in the best way. Showcase your skills, your imagination, and your working process. How you put your work together is very important.
- Consider what art should go in what order. Have another person view the art in that order and ask for feedback.
- Consider cropping images for the best composition.
- Consider creating several images that relate to one another (a theme)
- Practice talking about your work with teachers, parents, friends, and strangers. You may have the opportunity to interview with a counselor and you want to be comfortable discussing your work and answering questions about it.
- Put out all your work on the floor so that you can see all of them. Weed out the ones that do not feel as strong.

Put a strong piece at the beginning. Think about the flow of how the admissions counselor will look at the work. Should all the brightly colored images be together or do they look better separated?

What is a Portfolio?

A portfolio is a collection of your strongest artistic work that is presented as professionally as possible and, depending on your area of talent, can take one of the following forms:

- A **building arts** portfolio should demonstrate strong spatial understanding and creative skills through the inclusion of samples like observational sketches, AUTO CAD drawings and building interiors/exterior.
- A **visual arts/design** portfolio should include 2-D and 3-D works executed in any medium that demonstrates both creativity and a grasp of basic artistic techniques and principles.
- A portfolio composed of **digital or time-based media** (animation/film) should demonstrate basic mastery of the concepts of composition as well as effective use of software or other relevant digital tools.

Visual Portfolio Tips

Including visual arts, design, building arts, digital and time-based media portfolios

Submit fully resolved pieces.

Create artwork early and often.

*Keep a sketchbook or journal to build your creative ideas.
Take art classes.*

Seek portfolio feedback from peers, teachers, professionals and college representatives.

Use original work – don't "borrow" images.

Whenever possible, work from direct observation.

Experiment with different media and techniques.

While building your artistic repertoire, be PROLIFIC: this will give you more options later and allow you to be selective when compiling your final portfolio.

- **Composition** – placement or arrangement of elements in a work.

- **Drawing** – demonstration of line weights, mark-making, proportion and medium.
- **Design** – overall unity achieved by combining elements of art and principles of design.
- **Value** – relative darkness or lightness of color.
- **Spatial perception** – understanding of the spatial relationships of objects, as well as foreground, middle and background.
- **Technique** – skillfulness in the use of fundamental methods and media.
- **Color perception** – general sensitivity to color and sophistication in its application.
- **Originality** – capacity to think independently and transform the predictable; the quality of being new and original.
- **Conceptual awareness** – an expression of a clear idea and effective use of materials and processes to strengthen the concept.
- **Aesthetic awareness** – guiding principle in matters of artistic beauty and taste.

Things to Avoid in a Portfolio:

- **Drawing directly from printed photographs** - Drawing from photographs printed in magazines or books does not show how you would interpret an image, but how another artist already has. You may, however, use photos for reference, or draw from your own photographs.
- **Copied Work** - Try not to copy directly from other artists or designers for your final portfolio work. Although copying can sometimes help you learn technique, you should only do it for exercise.
- **Dated work** - Include only your more recent work, completed within the last two years, in your portfolio. Although you may like a piece you did when you were a high school freshman, it will not show your current abilities.
- **Superheroes/Cartoons** - One or two drawings of comic book superheroes may be acceptable to include, especially if this is an area you are interested in pursuing as a career, but most reviewers frown upon seeing too much emphasis on them. This is because in most cases, the student draws in a pre-existing style as opposed to demonstrating a style of his or her own.

- **Celebrities** - Everyone likes to do drawings or paintings of their favorite celebrities, but most often, these are inspired by another artist's photographs. If you truly want to include a star piece, make sure that it is the art itself that is interesting, not just the fact that the subject is a celebrity.
- **Snapshots** - Snapshots differ from photographs in that they tend to be quick remembrances of a vacation, party, occasion, etc. rather than thoughtfully conceived work. Photographs that are interesting compositionally through the use of tone, color, and point of view, however, would be worthwhile to include.

Presentation Counts!

Think of your portfolio as a "visual interview". Your portfolio must speak for itself. Strong presentation shows work in its best light and indicates your ability to communicate in an effective manner. Pay close attention to the content and presentation of your portfolio.

- Fill the frame and don't include anything that distracts from the artwork.
- Consider the entire composition.
- Strong values reproduce best and make a good first impression.
- Images should be clear and easy to read.
- Images should show accurate color balance.
- Crop images for professional appearance.
- Edit your portfolio by keeping only your strongest work (quality over quantity).
- Clearly label images to coincide with inventory information.
- Your portfolio should be evenly paced with your strongest work.

You may include supporting materials such as resumes, copies of awards and certificates as well as newspaper articles or other features.

Submission Requirements

A portfolio inventory sheet must be included. In the case of documented professional or group projects, applicants should indicate personal responsibilities.

Traditional 2-D & 3-D work:

- Submit 10-20 pieces digitally on a CD, DVD, USB Flash Drive or through the online file management system of the college you are applying for.
- Files should be saved as JPEG or PDF, or a digital portfolio can be created in Powerpoint, or Flash (JPEG images are preferred).
- Animation/Multi-Media work should be a maximum of five minutes in length and presented in a platform-independent player format or in QuickTime with the file suffix labeled as .qt, .mov or .mpeg.

Think About...

- What is special about you? Are you showing that in your artwork?

Photographing a Portfolio

There are several ways to photograph artwork in order to create a professional and polished digital portfolio. For each method, use large image size, JPEG file type, 100 ISO and auto white balance. Do not use a flash.

Daylight Method

When shooting outdoors, choose an overcast day or a shady area to avoid glares and shadows.

1. Remove artwork from their frames to avoid glare. Affix artwork to an outdoor wall using tape or Velcro. If photographing a vertical piece; place it on a wall horizontally, as this will enable you to photograph the piece without having to change the camera orientation.
2. Place the camera on a tripod or steady surface.
3. Frame the artwork in the viewfinder so the artwork takes up as much of the viewfinder as possible. Make sure the piece is squared perfectly in the viewfinder.
4. Using your in-camera light meter, find the correct exposure and take the picture.
5. Double check your exposure with the preview screen to make sure the image is neither under-nor over-exposed. Make sure all the detail is visible in both the highlights and shadows.
6. Upload photographs to a computer and use photo editing software to crop out all the space surrounding the artwork.

Photographing 3-D work

For best results, shoot indoors using clamp on reflectors and flood lightbulbs. Shooting outdoors with natural light is also possible, but the results are more difficult to control.

1. Use a steamer or iron to press a large piece of black velvet, velour or felt fabric to eliminate wrinkles. Use a lint roller to remove all dust and debris.
2. Place a table up against a wall and use thumbtacks or tape to attach fabric to the wall above the table, allowing it to fall down over the table. Make sure the fabric arcs gently between the wall and the table. If the artwork is dark, consider using gray or white fabric or backdrop paper.
3. Place artwork on fabric, roughly 3 feet in front of the arc of the fabric.
4. Set up the lights, if light stands are not accessible, try clamping each light to the back of a chair. Direct one light on the work as the main or "key" light to the left of the camera, and place second light to the right, farther away from the work to fill in the shadows.
5. Turn off any additional lights and block as much daylight as possible from entering through windows or shoot at night.
6. If the artwork is very shiny, the light can be diffused by having assistants hold sheets of tracing paper between the light and the artwork to soften the light.

National Portfolio Day

The National Portfolio Day Association (NPDA) was created in 1978, solely for the organization and planning of National Portfolio Days. The Association consists of representatives from regionally accredited US colleges and universities that are accredited institutional members of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) and Canadian colleges and universities that are members of Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) or that hold NASAD Substantial Equivalency status. NPDA is the only organization of its kind and the membership represents the highest standard of visual arts education available in the United States and Canada.

All Portfolio Day events are free, open to the public and do not require pre-registration.

National Portfolio Day is an event specifically for visual artists and designers. It is an opportunity for those who wish to pursue an education in the visual and related arts to meet with representatives from colleges accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. Representatives will be available to review your artwork, discuss their programs and answer questions about professional careers in art. High school students, parents, teachers, guidance counselors, and college transfer students are encouraged to attend.

National Portfolio Day serves a variety of purposes. Most importantly, it is designed to help further the artistic development of young artists by bringing together experienced college representatives to review artwork and offer feedback. We understand that some people make certain kinds of art more successfully than others. Don't be discouraged if you see work that is "better" than yours. A National Portfolio Day may be the first time you have seen so many people in one place who all share a powerful commitment to the arts. The experience is a small taste of what a professional art program can be like.

National Portfolio Days are also about the exchange of information about your work, yourself, your college plans, and your concerns. This is not an examination or competition. The college representatives are pleased to talk about their programs with you and can be most helpful when discussing your artwork. Your portfolio should include your best and most recent work, but it can also include works in progress, sketchbooks and tear sheets. You'll hear many different opinions of your work. Don't hesitate to explain how you develop your ideas and where you want to go with them. No admissions decisions or scholarship awards will be offered to you at National Portfolio Day. Some colleges represented may accept your portfolio as the visual portion of your application. Other colleges have restrictions that prohibit them from making a definite portfolio decision at the time of your review. We urge you to discuss your work with as many representatives as possible.

Websites to review...

- [Tips for success at fine arts schools](#)
- [Grad School Rankings](#)
- [List of Art Schools](#)
- [Is Art School Right for You?](#)
- [National Association of Schools of Art and Design](#)

The following are programs being offered for high school students. Please be aware that many of these programs have application deadlines. Please check websites for this year's registration and start dates.

Portfolio Prep Classes

[Parsons- Pre-College Academy](#)

[Pratt- Programs for High School Students](#)

[Drew- Studio Art Portfolio Preparation](#)

[Visual Arts Center of New Jersey- Portfolio Development](#)

[Oogie Art- Art Portfolio Classes](#)

[Cre8sart- Portfolio Prep Classes](#)

Art Classes

[Visual Arts Center of New Jersey – Summer Camp](#)

[Watchung Arts Center- Workshops](#)

[Montclair State University- Academically Gifted & Talented Program](#)

[William Paterson University- Pre-College Programs](#)

[The Art Place- Workshops](#)

[The Art School at Old Church in Demarest- Classes](#)

[The Art Center of Northern New Jersey- Classes](#)

[The Ridgewood Art Institute - Classes](#)

Colleges and Universities to Consider:

Montclair State University -

The portfolio should consist of the following:

- **Selection of 15-20 pieces of 2-D and 3-D artwork.** Applicants are advised to review the [Studio Portfolio Preparation Guidelines](#) for advice on preparing the portfolio.
- **Sketchbook**

[William Paterson University -](#)

Your portfolio should be a selection of work that best represents you and your interests, and it should include works in a variety of media. You can present either the original pieces or photographs of them. Roughly 12 to 15 pieces total. Work can also be presented on a CD, DVD or via a website.

The work in your portfolio can include drawings, oil or acrylic paintings, watercolors, collages, two- and three-dimensional designs, photography, examples of graphic design and sketchbooks. Self-portraits, still lifes, landscapes, and drawings from life or from imagination are some of the appropriate subjects.

The portfolio can also include a brief essay about your artistic goals and objectives, as well as how William Paterson University can help you reach them. In the essay, please mention any awards or citations you have received for your artwork. Your portfolio will be evaluated in terms of the creativity, originality, technical skills, artistic potential and the variety it displays.

Please call our Art Recruitment Office at 973.720.3732 to schedule a time for the portfolio review, and to receive additional information regarding our Open House festivities, portfolio workshops, and other art department events.

[Marist College -](#)

Please submit ten to fifteen digital images (as a PowerPoint presentation) with a corresponding image list. The image list must include your name, medium, dimensions and date of the work. Please note if the work was an assignment. The work must include at least five examples of drawing and any other 2D or 3D examples of your choosing.

Please clearly label the CD with your name.

Do not send original work. Portfolios in any format will not be returned or held for pickup.

[Kutztown University –](#)

All Studio Art students are required to take a core program of studio courses during the Freshman (foundation) and Sophomore years. The Portfolio Committee reviews your work to determine if you're sufficiently prepared for these core courses.

INCLUDE IMAGES OF YOUR 10-20 BEST ARTWORKS ON A CD

You can include ceramics, collages, drawings, mixed-medium works, paintings, pastels, photographs, printmaking, sculpture, video, etc. However, you must also include at least 3 drawings from observation. You should also try to include

pieces that demonstrate your compositional and color skills. If you have 3-D pieces, you can include two images of each piece from different angles to better represent the total work (second views will not count in your image totals).

All portfolios must be submitted on compact disc: images must be .jpg format; films and videos should be Quicktime files (if you're submitting time-based work like videos, make a highlight compilation no more than 5 minutes long). All discs must be formatted to open in both Windows XP and MAC OS.

DRAWING FROM OBSERVATION

These may include drawings of still lifes, live models, landscapes, or self-portraits observed in a mirror. Do not include drawings from photographs, copies of commercial art, copies of another artist's work, or drawings made from memory. If you don't already have three drawings from direct observation, here are some suggestions:

- Arrange some simple objects on a table and draw them (cups, bowls and spoons work well) or draw a shoe from an interesting angle. Illuminate objects with a desk lamp to create interesting shadows.
- Draw a section of a room interior including furniture and wall features like windows and doorways.
- Draw an architectural structure in the landscape, like buildings or a bridge.
- The Portfolio Committee primarily looks for correct proportions rather than detail.

For the committee to evaluate how well you understand the volume of objects, be sure to shade all three drawings. The committee will base its overall evaluation on:

Visual perception (how well you "see" the world)

Visual organization (awareness of composition, color, texture, etc.)

Creative thinking

[Rhode Island School of Design -](#)

Two drawing samples are required of all candidates. Your first drawing must reference a bicycle. Your second drawing should be chosen from this list of options:

- In the course of a single calendar day, draw 25 related images in a single visualization

- A drawing that uses both sides of the sheet of paper
- A drawing that interprets the phrase "Inside/Outside"

Each drawing must be done on a sheet of white paper measuring 16" x 20" (40 cm x 50 cm). Your bicycle drawing must be done using graphite pencil. For your second drawing sample, you may use graphite pencil or any dry (fixable) medium, a water-based medium (such as ink, watercolor or gouache) or a combination of these media. Do not, however, use any oil-based medium, or collage, for your second drawing and remember that whatever medium(s) you choose for this drawing, you must be able to fold the paper to mail it to our office.

You may approach these two drawings in any way you wish. For example, your drawings may be abstract expressions or representational observations; you may choose to draw an object alone or place it in a situation; you may choose to cover the entire surface of the page or only a small portion of it, etc. Other than the stated requirements related to paper size (16" x 20"), subject (i.e., bicycle) and medium (graphite pencil), everything and anything else are up to you. These drawings must be submitted in their original form, not as reproductions. Fold your drawings in half and then in half again to a finished size of 8" x 10" (20cm x 25cm) and be sure to note your full name and address on the back of each drawing.

An important thought: we consider drawing to be as much about process as presentation, so we encourage you to consider your drawing submissions as exercises in experimental thinking and risk-taking more than final presentations or examples of technical proficiency. We encourage you to consider the full range of possible expression in your submissions, as we do not value any particular style of drawing more than another. Finally, using photographs as a source for your drawings is not recommended.

Portfolio

Your portfolio should consist of 12 to 20 examples of any type of two- or three dimensional work you have completed recently. We suggest that the work reflect your ideas, interests, experience and abilities in the arts to date. It may be in any media, may be finished or in sketch form, and may be the result of an assigned class project or a self-directed exploration. We strongly suggest that as part of this visual presentation you also reproduce and submit 2-3 pages from your journal or sketchbook to indicate your process of research, thinking or investigation.

To submit your portfolio, we prefer that you use [Slideroom](https://www.risd.com/slideshare), an online portfolio submission service. Detailed instructions for using Slideroom are available on the site ([risd.slideroom.com](https://www.risd.com/slideshare)), which charges \$10 for using this submission option.

As an alternative, you may reproduce your work and submit it as digital image files on a CD or DVD or as unmounted digital or photographic prints (no larger than 8.5" x 11" or 21.5cm x 28cm each). If you choose to send your portfolio

directly to RISD on a CD/DVD, each image should be submitted as a separate file in .jpg format. Individual files should not exceed 3MB. Do not combine images in a prepared presentation or slideshow of any type (e.g., PowerPoint or Keynote). Please be sure to include a printed thumbnail page showing all the images submitted digitally. Time-based work or performance pieces may be submitted as QuickTime or .mpg files on your CD or DVD.

Whichever format you select, include a work description sheet. Number the examples you are submitting and on your description page list the corresponding number, medium, size, date of completion and title for each work. It is very important that your full name and address be clearly noted on each CD, DVD, print, description and thumbnail page submitted.

Writing Samples

Submit two examples of writing, each between 200 and 400 words. In your first sample, please look ahead and address this question: How do you hope to have changed at the end of your time as a RISD student?

Your second sample should be chosen from this list of options:

- Every day we're confronted by circumstances that range from the worrisome to the inspiring. What do you find most compelling in the world right now? How might this impact our future? What influence can you have on this situation?
- Is there something you love, have to do, can't stop thinking about? Write about a personal passion or obsession other than visual art or design.
- Do visual creators have a responsibility to contribute to their community? If so, why and how?

While we encourage you to adhere to the rules of good writing, we look for applicants who are not afraid to take risks in their expression. Please don't hesitate to use a writing style or method that may be outside the mainstream as you express a dynamic position in the samples you submit.

The School of Visual Arts -

The ideal portfolio will consist of 15 to 20 pieces of recent artwork and will include examples of work done from the direct observation of life. When deciding which pieces to include in a portfolio, the advice and suggestions of others can be helpful. However, it is important that the applicant makes the final decision and submits a portfolio that best represents those ideas, issues and work that they would like considered in the review process.

Though applicants may want to include examples of work from past years, especially to demonstrate growth, it is more important to submit work that represents current skills and experiences. It is also important to submit work that speaks to an applicant's strength. Submitting work simply to show a range of

mediums (such as one charcoal, one pastel, one watercolor, etc) is not recommended if it sacrifices consistency of quality.

Drawing samples are the most important part of the portfolio for applicants to the majors listed. Please include examples of drawing done from the direct observation of live, three-dimensional situations. These can include self-portraits (using a mirror for reference), figure drawings, object studies, still lifes and landscapes. (Two-dimensional references can be included in a portfolio, but should be kept to a minimum.) Painting, printmaking, drawing and/or collage work that expresses the color sense of an applicant is welcome.

Three-dimensional work that explores notions of composition, light, form and/or spatial relations should be submitted in digital format (CD-R) and should include shots from multiple viewpoints.

Design projects and computer-generated images can be included but should be kept to a minimum. Applicants with computer-based interests are required to submit a portfolio that demonstrates their drawing-from-observation skills.

Sketchbooks offer important insights into the creative process of an applicant. Applicants are encouraged to include the most recent sketchbook at the time of a portfolio review.

[The State University of New York at Purchase -](#)

Portfolio Content Requirements:

- Twelve (12) to (20) examples of work
- Two (2) examples must be observational drawings (still life, figure, etc)
- One (1) example must be a self-portrait in any medium
- Written Artist's Statement of 150 – 200 words

Your portfolio must consist of a minimum of twelve (12) and no more than twenty (20) examples of your work, plus your written Artist's Statement. Slideroom.com allows you to include a description of each example uploaded. Please include the following information in your description of each example: title, size, date, and a short description of the piece.

Your portfolio must contain at least one self-portrait in any medium. Additionally, at least two examples of work must be drawings done from direct observation, rather than drawings done from photographs or reproductions. The subject matter of these drawings may be your choice of still life, landscape, interior, human figure, portrait or self-portrait. The balance of the portfolio will be evaluated as a demonstration of both the breadth and depth of your visual

interests. **OBSERVATIONAL DRAWINGS ARE REQUIRED OF ALL APPLICANTS, REGARDLESS OF MAJOR CHOICE.**

[Pratt Institute –](#)

Portfolio Requirements: Pratt requires a visual portfolio for art, design, photography, and architecture applicants and a writing portfolio for the writing program, the BA in Art History, and critical and visual studies. Film applicants may choose one of the options listed below. Architecture applicants must submit a visual portfolio for fall 13 on slideroom. Both kinds of portfolios are described below. We request that visual and writing portfolios be uploaded at <https://pratt.slideroom.com>. See below.

First-time Freshman Art, Design, and Architecture Applicants

All first-time freshman art, design and architecture applicants including photography but not including art history BA applicants must submit a visual portfolio consisting of 12-20 pieces of two-or three-dimensional work, although **film/video applicants may instead submit Option 2** below instead. (Art History **BA** applicants must submit a writing portfolio. See section below.) **BFA** in History of Art and Design applicants submit a visual portfolio.)

The visual portfolio should consist of a variety of media and approaches. It can include assignment-based projects, self-directed work or pieces of a collaborative nature. The portfolio **does not need to be specific** to the discipline to which you are applying. The portfolio **must** include at least three to five pieces of work from observation. Applicants should avoid including work that copies photographs, uses the grid system, or directly replicates any other artist's work (including replicating anime drawings, cartoons, or video game character designs).

[Massachusetts College of Arts & Design -](#)

Portfolio

All applicants must submit 15-20 pieces of work, completed in the past two years. At least 5-10 pieces should be direct observational drawings of live situations or three-dimensional objects. Use the rest of your portfolio to share your passion, ideas, or medium of choice.

[Mason Gross at Rutgers University -](#)

UNDERGRAD PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS

Please submit at least 15 examples of your artwork (produced within the last two years) that reflect your accomplishments and emphasize your strengths. Your

portfolio should tell us that you will be successful in our classes including those that introduce to you new materials and ideas.

Please be sure your pieces are clearly labeled in the fields provided with:

- Title
- Size
- Medium
- Media (for Photography and Video)
- Date

Please include at least one page from a sketchbook and if possible include a variety of media such as painting, observational drawing, photography, print, sculpture. If possible include self-initiated work as well as classroom assignments. If your primary interest is video include at least one video in addition to your other work. If your primary interest is photography you must include other media in addition to the photographs in your portfolio.

[The Savannah College of Art & Design –](#)

Portfolio Requirements

If a student wishes to submit a portfolio that combines visual and digital media, the portfolio may include the following:

- Up to eight traditional, visual art or design pieces with a maximum of three minutes of digital or time-based media work

Otherwise, students are required to submit one of the following:

10-20 Traditional visual art or design pieces may be executed in any medium, in black-and-white or color, and may include, but are not limited to, drawing, painting, design, printmaking, collage, photography, sculpture, jewelry, fashion, furniture or fiber art. Portfolio pieces may represent classroom assignments as well as independent projects. The portfolio should demonstrate originality of concept, use of appropriate materials, and visual literacy. Works should be purposeful.

Portfolios are reviewed on the following qualitative measures: aesthetic awareness, composition, drawing, design, color perception, spatial perception, quality of presentation, technique and originality. Favorable consideration is given to strong 2-D and 3-D work that shows attention to technique, drawing, scale and original design.

[Parsons The New School of Design –](#)

Portfolio Requirements -

PARSONS CHALLENGE—MUST BE COMPLETED IN SLIDE ROOM ONLY: All applicants

must complete the Parsons Challenge. This exercise helps the admission committee understand how a future student develops ideas, creates a theme, visually communicates that theme, and defends the work in writing. Use any media to interpret your work that shares a common idea with 3 new pieces. Acceptable media can be any: drawing, video, photography, sculpture, 3D work, collage, digital images, etc. You are allowed to choose a consistent or varied medium.

1. **PORTFOLIO: MUST BE COMPLETED IN SLIDEROOM ONLY**

Freshman applicants should submit a portfolio of 8 to 12 pieces. Portfolios can include drawings, paintings, photographs, digital media, design, 3-D work, web design, animation, video, and other digital media. Transfer applicants should submit a portfolio of 8 to 12 pieces in the area of interest.

2. **ARTIST STATEMENT:** What do you make, how do you make it, and why do you make? Ultimately, where do you visualize your creative abilities and academic study to take you after your education here at Parsons? Only up to 500 words, please.