

## ART JOURNALS

**For every assignment I give in this class, you will fill a predetermined number of pages in your Art Journal. These pages should address the following guidelines:**

1. **Your visual arts journal should be visual!** Using drawing to plan and communicate your ideas. Draw from observation, from memory or from your imagination. Brainstorm using visual organizers.
2. **Your visual arts journal should have writing!** No single page can just be drawings or photos. Write about your process, your intentions-- imagine the person reading it hasn't seen you at work at all.  
Some things you can write about:
  - a. How your work is progressing and what successes you have had
  - b. Conceptual or technical problems you have encountered (for example, how to create a realistic 3D "space" in a drawing) and how you have solved these.
  - c. Comments on your attitudes about life, social, cultural and political concerns. Think about the world outside of school and the Diploma Program! How does your art reflect your values and beliefs?
  - d. Any connections you might see between art and your other subjects: literature, sciences and so on. Make links across the curriculum and follow up your ideas! For instance, the study of blood cells in biology might inspire some prints of tiny natural objects; the description of characters in a novel might inspire a series of portraits...
3. **Your visual arts journal should have experimentation!** Make notes on which materials you have used in your studio work, and when trying out any new medium (inks, graphite, chalk pastel, oil bars and so on), experiment with it, find out what you can do with it and show results in your journal.
4. **Your visual arts journal should have inspiration!** Include images and writing about artists whose work you appreciate, or artworks that are inspiring your work. Look for artists and/or artworks that have investigated similar themes to your themes or are using the same materials.
5. **Your visual arts journal should have SOURCES!** Acknowledge all sources of ideas and images in line with the IB's academic honesty policy. Search out artist names whenever possible, use BOOKS whenever possible, and always provide website names/ links. You don't have to use MLA or formal citations, just give credit where it's due.
6. Gallery visit pages are separate from project pages in your art journal.
7. A 'page' for this class is the front AND back of a page in your journal.

## **Is my art 'DONE'? The IB CHALLENGE.**

**You're in the big leagues now! Each time you might call a piece of art complete, think about the following:**

- Empty Space: What is missing or not represented in your composition? How might adding to your composition change it?
- Reposition: How would your composition or its meaning change if you repositioned an object or element of your piece?
- Overlay: If you overlaid an additional image or word, how would this change the focus of what is important, emphasized or intended?
- Juxtaposition: if you put two things together that weren't usually together, how could this create new meaning or emphasis?
- Unexpected/ out-of-context: Place a different face or body in the image or place something in the setting that one would not expect. How does this challenge our assumptions?
- Change the label: What might your title (or embedded text) say that would redirect the meaning of your work?
- Cover up: What if some sections were covered up or removed, placing emphasis on other areas? What about cropping it a little?
- Comparisons, Metaphors, Analogies: How could you creatively use metaphors and analogies to illuminate subtle meanings?
- Adding Media: what emphasis, meaning, or improvement could be created through the addition of multimedia techniques? How could these media work together cohesively?

## **Gallery Visit Documentation**

**During this class, you will be required to complete one gallery visit a month. Gallery visits will be due the last MONDAY of each month unless otherwise stated.**

**For each of your gallery visits, you will be creating a page (front and back) in your Journal to be submitted for grading. These pages should include:**

- Description of the exhibition—is it themed? Where is it? Who is the curator? If this is an artist's portfolio (online exhibition) please provide the website/ organization's name.
- Quality sketches of artwork you saw.
- Written analysis of the compositional choices of at least three pieces of artwork that you saw.
- Written reflection on the message of the art—what is the artist trying to say? How does he/she convey that message? From what social or cultural background does this artist come, and how might that influence his/her message?
- What do YOU think about this art? Does it relate to you and what you want to say as an artist?

## **Awesome local art galleries to physically visit:**

Richmond Center—WMU's art galleries (exhibitions change weekly!): <http://www.wmich.edu/art/exhibitions/>

Kalamazoo Art Institute: <http://www.kiarts.org/>

Lotsa Little Things Gallery: <http://lotsalittlethings.com/home/>

Any of the galleries listed here: <http://www.kalamazooarts.org/business/listing/3>

ANY CREDITABLE ONLINE GALLERY: look for a '*curriculum vitae*' or resume