



# RAW ART WORKS

IGNITING THE DESIRE TO CREATE AND THE CONFIDENCE TO SUCCEED IN UNDERSERVED YOUTH

# Art Portfolio

## THE BASICS:

The portfolio is an essential component of the application. It reflects your interests, ideas, creativity, energy, motivation, and previous experience in the visual arts. The work should represent your best and most recent creative efforts and should demonstrate knowledge, skills, and visual sensitivity to such basic elements as line, form, color, composition, and space. The work included should also demonstrate conceptual development, that is, what you say through your artwork.

Every school has specific portfolio requirements. This is an example from RISD:

Your portfolio should show a selection of 12–20 examples of your best recent artwork. We suggest that the work reflect the full range of your ideas, interests, experience and abilities in the arts to date. Work presented can be in any medium (including film or video), in finished or sketch form, and the result of an assigned project or a self-directed exploration. We strongly recommend that you include a few pages from your journal or sketchbook to indicate your process of research, thinking and investigation.

Pay attention to the particular way the school you are applying to is requesting how you should submit your portfolio. Many portfolios can be submitted in person or during National Portfolio Day. A few may request that you send in a digital CD of your portfolio to the Admissions Office. Most though will suggest that you upload all your images online in **Slideroom**. Historically, you will always need an actual portfolio case with original artwork for your interview. Due to the impact of COVID-19, most college admissions offices are offering virtual review sessions instead.

- Images are accepted in JPEG format with a dpi minimum of 150 and no file size larger than 3 MB (many schools want each image just under 1MB)
- Often you will need to include a Portfolio List that lists the title of your piece, the size, the medium, and the date you completed them. Typing this information into your Profile\_Notes will help you get organized.

### **Work with your RAW Team to create a virtual portfolio in GOOGLE DRIVE.**

While it's handy to have your portfolio in a hard copy, having a virtual copy of your portfolio will be helpful when submitting your portfolio online, which is likely what you'll have to do for most applications.

- GATHER ALL OF YOUR ART! We need to PHOTOGRAPH ALL YOUR ARTWORK and will help you in the process of uploading each piece into your Google Drive Portfolio Folder.
- ALL pieces in Google Drive should be properly labeled and titled with your last name, first initial, the title of your piece and size of the piece. **Example: Lopez\_R\_SelfPortrait\_18"x24"**
- HAVE ONLY ONE PORTFOLIO in Google Drive. All portfolios should be kept and organized within the "Your Name\_Art Portfolio" Folder on Google Drive.

## WHAT YOUR PORTFOLIO IS MADE OF:

### 15-20 EXAMPLES OF YOUR ARTWORK COMPLETED IN THE PAST TWO YEARS

\* For most portfolios, you must include at least 5 examples of drawing from observation (any subject or media). Self-portrait, still life, animal portrait, objects in a space, people, texture and light, color study, landscape, cityscape, hand study, architecture detail, etc.

- \* Drawings, prints or paintings
- \* Animation, film, video, audio recordings, ideas for scripts and storyboards
- \* Photographs, collage and other mixed media work
- \* Sculpture, installation and ceramics
- \* Performance art
- \* Sketchbooks, journals and notebooks

Include in your portfolio a combination of work in a variety of mediums. Include works that are a reflection of your time and place in relation to the immediate world, tell a story or show how you have developed a theme or an idea in your work. Include two and three dimensional, traditional and nontraditional materials and techniques.

**Do not include work that is copied or rendered directly from photographs**, magazine clippings or images derived from other artists' works. If you have worked on a collaborative project, like a mural, please indicate what you have directly contributed to the project. Thumbnail drawings & sketches that illustrate your research and process are encouraged.

## IDEAS TO CREATE ARTWORK:

Themes to work with:

- \* Time and space
- \* Map your week
- \* History turned backwards
- \* Social/political issues
- \* Burning questions
- \* Energy drains
- \* Fragmented memories
- \* Explorations of identity, gender issues, stereotypes
- \* Social myths
- \* Artist as documenter, witness, anthropologist or collector
- \* Clothing as armor
- \* Clothing and memory
- \* Observations from your home
- \* Transforming the familiar, scary, funny, into another form
- \* Draw out your reoccurring dreams
- \* Show passages through the everyday
- \* Public spaces/public experience

## DESCRIPTION LIST

All physical portfolios should be accompanied by a printed description list. Each image should be labeled with a number that corresponds to the description list. The description list needs to include **your name, title, medium, year and dimensions** of the piece. Each item inside your portfolio case and the outside of the case must be labeled with your name.

## ARTIST STATEMENT AKA THE ESSAY

View the essays like an interview, it will be a time for you to distinguish yourself from other applicants and combined with your portfolio and transcripts will help each school determine much more about who you really are. Check about the theme for your essay for each of the schools that you are applying to. Most typical request is to write a 300-500-word essay about topics such as: **“Let us know who you are as an artist. Discuss your creative influences, goals and interests.”**

**From the Common App, this is a good prompt to answer:** *“Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.”*

## RESUME

The resume should include your employment and educational history and also your artistic achievements, film screenings, shows and awards. Remember that the purpose of the resume is to assist the assessment committee with gaining a better understanding of who you are. Information about where you live, your community, and what you have been doing are important to them. Please enclose your resume inside your physical portfolio case and also upload a PDF of your resume to the Common App. Only some colleges allow you to upload a resume on the Common App and sometimes it’s optional; always do it anyway.

## KEEP IN MIND...

- Application and Portfolio due date/s. Sometimes the portfolio can be uploaded after you apply.
- Size and format of work required.
- Whether only finished pieces are expected, or whether sketchbooks, development and process work are also welcome.
- Whether submissions are digital, hardcopy reproductions or original artwork.
- Labelling and presentation requirements.
- Whether there are special requirements for international or out-of-state applicants.
- Whether supplementary material is needed or interviews are needed.
- Requirements about what to draw / include.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Sign up to meet with admissions counselor for portfolio review. It’s a great way to get personalized feedback on how to improve before you apply. Ask your RAW Staff to take a look over your portfolio to give you feedback too. It will really help!

*“Last but not least: All the images are uploaded, all the descriptions are entered, but before you hit submit, ask yourself: Am I in this? Am I confident that this conveys what I know how to do, what I like to do, and what I am passionate about?”*