

Introduction to Art



Course Overview

This is an introductory art course focusing on two-dimensional art to learn new skills, develop new talents, and express thoughts and ideas in creative and positive ways.

Course Objective

1. Learn principles of art.
2. Explore various 2-D art mediums including, but not limited to:
 - a. Watercolor
 - b. Collage
 - c. Graphite
 - d. Pen & Ink
3. Engage with peers and instructors in an open and constructive manner.

Course Format

Students will be given art diaries in which they are expected to have one new entry each week. Entries may take any form needed to express the student's thoughts, feelings, experiences, etc. Classes will begin with a discussion of the students' weekly entry, followed by a short demonstration of new techniques or mediums, and a project to be completed in-class.

This course is intended to be interactive and engaging; we welcome feedback as to which activities you find most effective so that we can adjust the course to best serve your needs!

Course Expectations

1. Participate actively in discussion and exercises.
2. Be respectful and considerate to your peers. Art can be very personal and derogatory feedback will not be tolerated.
3. Make an effort on your outside-class work.

Course Certificates

Although this course is non-credit and students will not receive grades, this class still demands equivalent effort and time. In place of adhering to a typical A-E grading scale, students can attain certificates of completion. The scale follows:

- Certificate of Completion: 70% of classes attended and work completed

- Passed with Distinction: 80% of classes attended and work completed
- Passed with Honors: 90% of classes attended and work completed
- Passed with High Honors: 100% of classes attended and work completed

Course Timeline

Week & Date	Topic/Activity	Assignment Due
Week 1 – Aug. 25	Review Syllabus Introductions Art Diary Overview	
Week 2 – Sept. 1	“I Am” Mandala: markers, colored pencils - Create a mandala using patterns, colors, and affirmations that represents who you are.	Diary Entry #1
Week 3 – Sept. 8	Anime character: graphite - Create an anime or superhero character of yourself.	Diary Entry #2
Week 4 – Sept. 15	Vision board: collage - Using old magazines, cut and arrange images that visually represent your hopes, dreams, and ambitions.	Diary Entry #3
Week 5 – Sept. 22	Dreamscape: watercolor or pastel (artist spotlight: Dali) - Paint a place, person, thing, or dream from memory. Use exaggeration, distortion, and symbolism to enhance your	Diary Entry #4

	message.	
Week 6 – Sept. 29	<p>Blackout Poetry: pen & ink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take a page from an old book, select words from the page to create a poem, and blackout the rest. 	Diary Entry #5
Week 7 – Oct. 6	<p>Abstract Expressionism: acrylic paint (artist spotlight: Pollock, Rothko)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paint your emotions, what you're feeling at this moment, without form or structure. Emphasis on color and movement. 	Diary Entry #6
Week 8 – Oct. 13	<p>Calligraphy: pen & ink, watercolor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use letters as art to express your favorite word, quote, or saying. 	Diary Entry #7
Week 9 – Oct. 20	<p>Still life: graphite, pen & ink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This class will be mostly a lesson on still life sketching. Students will then incorporate new skills as part of their diary entry to sketch a still life of something they see every day. 	Diary Entry #8
Week 10 – Oct. 27	<p>Visual autobiography:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This project asks you to look back at your life and make a visual 	Diary Entry #9 – still life

	<p>representation of it. You can either represent your factual autobiography, or make a fictitious one up for yourself.</p>	
<p>Week 11 – Nov. 3</p>	<p>Blot Art: paint, pen & ink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Like a classic Rorschach test, fold paper in half with paint or ink in the middle and make an image out of what you see. 	<p>Diary Entry #10</p>
<p>Week 12 – Nov. 17</p>	<p>Holiday Card: watercolor, pen & ink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a card to send to friends or family over the holidays. 	<p>Diary Entry #11</p>
<p>Week 13 – Dec. 1</p>	<p>Comic Strip: graphite, pen & ink, markers/colored pencils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draw and write a short comic strip about yourself / your life. 	<p>Diary Entry #12</p>
<p>Week 14 – Dec. 8 (optional)</p>	<p>Dual Self Portrait: mixed media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On one side of the page, portray your outer self, what others see. On the other side of the page, draw your inner self – what you feel like inside. 	<p>Diary Entry #13</p>