



Tips for Applying to Art Colleges

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Quince Orchard HS





Art College?

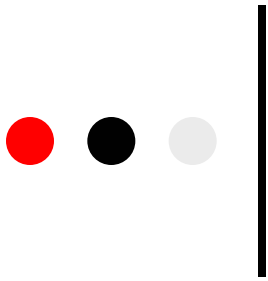


- Why attend an art college instead of a traditional liberal arts college or university?
 - ✓ Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) vs Bachelor of Arts (BA)
 - ✓ Specialized arts-based education
 - ✓ Environment of artists
 - ✓ Typically faculty has more instructors that are working artists and commercial arts professionals
 - ✓ Networking, exchange programs & internship opportunities
 - ✓ ***Best fit for your child!***

Admission Criteria

- What do Art Colleges care about?
 - ✓ GPA
 - ✓ SAT / ACT test scores
 - ✓ Extracurricular activities
 - ✓ Application essays
 - ✓ Letters of recommendation
 - ✓ Personal artist statement
 - ✓ ***Art Portfolio***





Art Portfolio



- Collection of your student's *"best"* art
- Typically 15-20 pieces
- Quality more important than quantity
- Can be class assignments, independent projects, sketchbook pieces, etc.
- Diversity in technique, variety in subject matter, & showcase student's *"artistic voice"*
- Solicit feedback from QOHS Art Faculty
- Portfolio should be clean, organized, easy to handle & view artwork
- Requirements & criteria vary by school



Top Tier Art Schools Portfolio Requirements

- Observational art

- ✓ Drawing or painting in traditional method using still life, figure model, portrait or landscape as subject and rendering as accurate as possible

- Personal art

- ✓ Created outside the classroom and reflects artists unique interests in materials, subject & concept

- Home exam

- ✓ School or department specific requirements (e.g. Rhode Island School of Design “*bicycle*”, Cooper Union home test for architecture & art)

National Portfolio Days (NPD) & Art College Forum



- Thurs 12/1, 5pm–7:30pm: Art School Forum
Walt Whitman High School, Bethesda
- Sat 12/3, 10am–2pm: National Portfolio Day
Corcoran College of Art & Design, Washington DC
- Sun 12/4, 1pm–5pm: National Portfolio Day
Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Baltimore

NPD Advice



- Bring your sketchbooks. Many reviewers will ask to see them; including rough and unfinished work.
- Go early, bring friend(s) / sibling to wait in line(s), and bring backpack with food / drinks. The most popular art schools will have *long* lines.
- Be prepared to discuss your art.
 - ✓ What inspired you to create this?
 - ✓ Where do you get your ideas from?

Art Pre-College Summer Programs



- Immerse student in spirit and substance of art school culture and environment
- Challenging lectures, courses, museum/gallery field trips, & portfolio development
- Typically earn college credits

Local Museums & Galleries

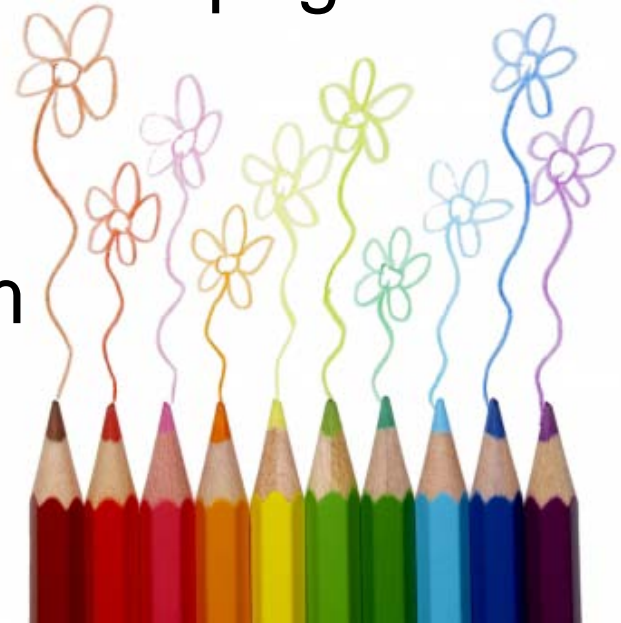
- American Visionary Art Museum
- Corcoran Gallery of Art
- Freer and Sackler Galleries
- Gaithersburg Arts Barn
- Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden
- National Building Museum
- National Gallery of Art
- National Museum of African Art
- National Museum of the American Indian
- National Museum of Women in the Arts
- Renwick Gallery
- Smithsonian American Art Museum
- Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery





Resources

- www.portfolioday.net (NPDA)
- talk.collegeconfidential.com/visual-arts-film-majors/
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/02/education/edlife/guidance.html?pagewanted=print>
- www.carbonmade.com
- www.cargocollective.com
- www.flickr.com



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