

## SUMMER READING/TO DO AP ART:

REQUIRED READING:  
“*STEAL LIKE AN ARTIST*”  
BY AUSTIN KLEON

### OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

To inspire student artists to use inquiry-based research to complete a 15 piece art portfolio. Critical thinking guidelines, expectations, and core concepts of AP Studio Art.

### SUMMER REQUIREMENTS:

1. Read [Steal Like an Artist](#)
2. Write down your big takeaways after each chapter
3. Read about the [inquiry](#). Do some digging to see other people’s portfolio’s and what was successful for them. YouTube is a great resource!
4. Begin thinking about your inquiry for your AP portfolio.
5. **Life Drawings (see below)**

### SUMMER COMMUNICATION

1. email: [jenorton@madisoncity.k12.al.us](mailto:jenorton@madisoncity.k12.al.us)

### Life Drawings:

**Complete at least TWO** of the following observational drawings. These will be GRADED and Shared/Critiqued the first week of class!! The AP Readers (Judges), as well as art schools love to see a drawing made from life. Use charcoal or pencil. Spend the time needed to complete the work. Don’t just draw a contour. Use a full range of values, with deep shadows and bright highlights to create form and depth. Use the entire page, placing your focal points in the sweet spots, and running off the edges with your composition. Fill the paper up, using more positive than empty space.

1. A **self-portrait** that expresses a specific **mood**. Think about the effects of color and how it conveys the individual mood. You may use any style (realism, cubism, expressionism, etc.). Research online to study various artists’ self-portraits and their styles and techniques. Check out Van Gogh, Frieda Kahlo, and Rembrandt.
2. Still life that consists of 3 or more **reflective** objects. Set up the objects on a table, cover it with cloth, and place a lamp near it to create dramatic lighting. Your goal is to convey a convincing representation. Render as accurately as you can.
3. A drawing of an **unusual interior** – for example, looking inside of a closet, cabinet, refrigerator, inside your car, under the car’s hood etc. Include as many details as you can.
4. A still-life of your family members’ **shoes**. You should include at least three shoes - go for interesting shapes, design, texture, color. Place them in different positions,
5. A close-up drawing of a **bicycle/tricycle** from an unusual angle. Don’t just draw the bicycle from the side!
6. **Buildings** in a landscape: Do a drawing on location. Look for a building or spot in your neighborhood that is part of your neighborhood’s identity. It could be a fire house, restaurant

park, church or any other building or place that you would miss seeing if it were torn down. Consider going to where you can sit on a bench and draw

7. **Expressive landscape:** locate a landscape near your home or use a photograph that *you* have taken of a landscape. Or, you can also use multiple sketches or photos of different landscapes to create a unique one. It is best to work from an actual subject, so draw outdoors while looking at the actual landscape. Use expressive color to draw. Check out the Fauvists or the Der Blaue Reiter to see expressive use of color at work.
8. Create a **self-portrait**, using your **reflection** in an unusual surface, something other than a normal mirror. This could be a metal appliance (toaster, blender), a computer monitor, a broken or warped mirror, a car's rear view mirror, or tinted windows.
9. **Public sculpture: design plans** for a public artwork. Look at the work of Joan Miro, Claes Oldenburg, Louis Bourgeois, Auguste Rodin, David Smith and more, for ideas of sculpture and installation art in the environment. Make your project sketches similar to those that Christo prepares for his large-scale environmental installations. See his most recent project: "The Gates" in Central Park, NYC. <http://www.christojeanneclaude.net/tg.shtml>
10. **Café drawing** (or any other local hangout): go to a place where you can sit and sketch for a long period of time. Capture the essence of this place (local eatery/café, bookstore, mall, etc.) by drawing the people and places you see.
11. **Action portrait:** have a friend or family member pose for you doing some sort of movement (jump roping, walking, riding a bike, walking down stairs, etc.). Capture the entire sequence of their action in one piece of artwork. How will you portray movement in your work? Look at "Nude Descending a Staircase" by Dada artist Marcel Duchamp, as well as the work of Futurist artists Giacomo Balla or F.T. Marinetti. Check out the photographic motion studies by Muybridge.

I WILL DO THESE TOO! WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER! 😊