

Independent Focus Portfolio

(Visual Arts EALR 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)

Project Overview

The Independent Focus gives you the opportunity to pursue an interest you have in art as well develop work for a professional portfolio. The focus can be an idea, subject matter, theme, medium or technique that interests you. During the semester you will design four projects oriented around the focus.

Each project should be strong enough to include in your portfolio for college or work. For your grade, you will receive up to four points for each of these areas

√ IDEAS: Generate original Ideas

√ PERCEPTION: Create carefully drawn images

√ TECHNIQUE: Show that you have mastered the basics of the technique you studied.

Experiment with advanced techniques.

√ DESIGN: Create a dynamic, unify and balanced composition

Plan and Design

√ Choosing a theme can be as simple as finding an idea or sight that catches your interest or moves you.

√ In the beginning course you tried many ways to generate ideas, making lists, brainstorming, gesture sketching, thumbnail sketching, doodling, blind drawing, hunting for scrap art or discarded objects.

√ Decide what medium and format will best convey your idea.

Study and Design

√ Create gesture drawings

√ Draw blind studies

√ Collect images

√ Make thumbnail sketches

√ Take notes

√ Build models of what you want to make

Create Independent Project

√ Gather your materials and start creating your final version.

√ Now that you have created all of those studies and designs, you may follow them faithfully or depart from them. As you work, you may even be inspired to modify the theme. Let the work evolve.

Review and Revise

How can you improve your work?

Use the principles of design and the impressions of others to decide how you might modify your work.

Be sure your work
Catches viewers' attention
Maintains their interest
Provides pathways to lead their eyes
Remains unified and balanced

You may ask other people to critique your work.

Final Project Review

Once you have completed the project, bring it to the teacher for grading.

Photograph Project

Since this is a piece of your professional portfolio, you will need to document it with slides or digital files.

Be sure:

- √ the work is lit evenly and brightly
- √ the camera and the work are squared
- √ the image fills the frame

Bracket slides (take multiple exposures at different f stops).

Scans should be made at high, medium and low resolutions.