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**Southern Arkansas University**

**Department of Art and Design Portfolio Competition**

Dear Art Student,

We invite you to enter the 2021-2022 Portfolio Competition for one of our several art scholarships. Deadline: Thursday, April 1, 2021.

When selecting pieces for your portfolio, here are some things to consider. Although you may be presenting your best works as a candidate for one of our Art Scholarships, the Art and Design faculty at Southern Arkansas University will be looking for much more than just good art. We will see your skill and imagination, but we are looking for those who think, communicate and express in a variety of media. We will see and appreciate your talent from where you are now as well as your passion to learn that will drive you to success in college, your career, and in life.

Portfolio Defined:

A portfolio should contain about 10 of your best pieces that show a variety of skills, willingness to experiment, creativity (originality), design skills, and how you think. If you decide to drop off a hard copy of your portfolio, the folder needs to be simple, (black vinyl), not expensive, but professional. Pieces need to be mounted or matted, protected with a cover sheet or in plastic sleeves to show that you value the quality of your work. No smudges, bent corners, or crooked mats.

Your pieces could also be photographed or in digital files (pdf or jpg). You are welcome to mail a removable storage drive (thumb drive) or poste on a website or provide us a link to cloud-based sites to the address below provided. Media and dimensions need to be identified for each work of art.

Portfolio Includes:

1. Drawing skills from observation (still life-arrangements of your own design, self-portrait from looking in a mirror, drawing of a friend from observation) Drawing skills are the most important in any area of art. It shows your skill in perception and in the ability to visualize. Regardless of the area you want to go into…if you can’t draw, you can’t see.
2. If you draw from photos, let it be your own photos and include them with the drawings so no one could doubt your integrity.
3. No copy work. Only original images and concepts (no drawings from magazines pics, no copying cartoon characters, no cliché or trite images). Even if it reminds us of Anime, Disney, or Lord of the Rings, it’s not original. Keep the subjects meaningful…especially to yourself.
4. Show a variety of drawing media. Graphite, pastel, charcoal, pen and ink, etc. This will show a willingness to experiment and learn. We don’t want to see any young person locked into a particular media or style.
5. Design skills (organization of elements and principles of design). If you are interested in Graphic Design, you may want to show text in combination with images such as logos, posters, advertisements, package design, website design, etc.
6. Color: either as painting, mixing of colors, color pencil, oil pastels, digital art. Show an expressive/personal mixing of colors – not just out-of-the-tube. Show your sensitivity and mood toward the relationships of adjoining colors as they relate to your subject or ideas.
7. Show your journal or pages from your journal. For us, this is one of the most important items. It tells us exactly how you think, feel, write, develops concepts, approach problem-solving, work through thumbnail sketches, rough drafts, etc. It may also include influences such as images torn out of magazines that you think are impressive. Just glue them into the pages, analyze them, and write about why you like the colors, subject, shadows, text, etc. A finished piece doesn’t give us near the insight into the “creative process” like a journal does. Think of it as a diary, sketchbook, research notes, and scrapbook, to experiment with ideas, observations, feelings, designs, etc. If you don’t have one, start one today.
8. Photography- should have strong composition and communicate ideas and feelings (just like all areas of art). Don’t go overboard on photo-editing and be careful not to crop too much. Crop is one of the simplest tools and yet, it can make or destroy a composition. Switch some of your shots over to black and white. Many times, color is so distractive that it overpowers the other elements of design and throws the composition off balance.

**Degrees Offered:**

BFA in Art Studio

BFA in Communication Design (Graphic Design)

BFA in Game, Animation, and Simulation Design

BFA in Interactive Media and Marketing

BFA in Pre-Art Therapy

**Minors Offered:**

Art History

Art Studio

Communication Design

Digital Photo and Film

Game Design

**Certificate**

Web Design

**Contact and mailing information:**

SAU Department of Art and Design Website: <http://www.saumag.edu/art/>

Online applications: <https://web.saumag.edu/admissions/apply/scholarships/application/>

Steven Ochs

Professor of Art/Dept. Chair

Southern Arkansas University

100 E. University MSC 9249

Magnolia, AR 71754-9249

seochs@saumag.edu

870-235-5053