

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Portfolio Preparation Process

We are often asked whether we can assist students who are interested in auditioning for Ruth Asawa School of The Arts. SOTA views its program as pre-professional training and is looking for a high level of self-motivation and commitment on the part of applicants. Their audition process is both highly competitive and intensive. They want to see students who are focused, responsible, disciplined and able to work independently. ArtWorks teachers are happy to support students toward this goal if requested, and provided that we have ample time to do so, but the personal motivation must come from the applicant.

Please be aware that we don't communicate directly with SOTA, so any guidelines we follow are based off of previous years' requirements and any feedback that we have received from past applicants. It is the parent and student's responsibility to be aware of current requirements and due dates for SOTA and to update their ArtWorks teachers accordingly. Requirements have sometimes changed mid-year, so please check the School of the Arts website frequently at www.sfsota.org.

SOTA's portfolio requirements are always very specific. All pieces submitted for the Visual Art Portfolio must typically be rendered FROM LIFE. Because of this, much of the work that students create at ArtWorks cannot be included in the portfolio. It is important that all the work submitted be of a consistent quality and high level of finish. Students should consider how quickly they work and allow themselves plenty of time to prepare.

The most recent portfolio requirements (2/26/2019) involve submitting drawings in portraiture, landscape and still life, ALL FROM LIFE. They require that 6 total pieces be submitted in these categories:

- Two portraits - one self-portrait, one drawing of a human face
- Two still life - three or more objects in each drawing
- Two landscape - may include interior or exterior view and demonstrate spatial relationships

As part of the application process students are required to "audition". Visual Arts applicants are scheduled for a group drawing session where they will draw both multi-object still life and a clothed figure, uninstructed, while being observed. Strong emphasis is placed on a student's ability to sketch and draw well from life. They will also be interviewed and will be expected to talk about their work.

The last component of this process is submitting applications, transcripts and letters of recommendation by specific deadline dates. We are happy to write letters of recommendation provided we have ample time to work with students and feel that we can assess both their level of development and their potential.

*******If you have a student who is planning to apply to School of The Arts, please notify his/her teacher as soon as possible and at least 1 year PRIOR to his or her audition.**

Please contact SOTA early, to verify all application deadlines, as well as updated portfolio requirements and timing for scheduling auditions. School of the Arts will be the best resource for any specific questions you have about the audition process and expectations. If there is anything that we can assist with, please speak with an instructor or feel free to contact us in the office at 415.759.5757.