

## SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

### APPLICATION PROCESS / PORTFOLIO PREPARATION GUIDELINES

Many students attend classes at ArtWorks specifically because they are interested in auditioning to attend School of The Arts. Some who attend develop an interest in auditioning because of their experience in our program. We are often asked by parents if we will assist their child with preparation of the 3 components required in the application process; 1) the Visual Arts Portfolio, 2) letters of recommendation, and 3) the audition. We are more than happy to work with individual students toward these goals, provided that we have ample time to do so.

SOTA views it's program as pre-professional training and is looking for a high level of self-motivation and commitment on the part of applicants. Please be aware that the portfolio preparation for the School of the Arts is an intensive and time-consuming process. It is extremely competitive and requires a great deal of dedication as well as personal time, working independently.

SOTA's portfolio requirements are always very specific. All pieces submitted for the Visual Art Portfolio must be rendered from life. As a result, the majority of work that students create in our Foundations Program cannot be included in the portfolio.

The most recent portfolio requirements involve submitting portraiture, landscape and still life, all from life in both color and black and white. They require that 3-4 mediums be represented and from 12-15 total pieces submitted, as well as a sketchbook. Completing this volume of work at the level of finish that they expect is a huge challenge. This is why it is so vital that students begin to prepare as early as possible.

As part of the application process students are required to "audition". For Visual Arts this is a scheduled group drawing session where students are expected to draw still life objects, uninstructed, while the selection committee observes them. The third component of this process is submitting applications, transcripts and letters of recommendation by specific deadline dates. Again, we are happy to write letters of recommendation provided we have had ample time to work with students and feel that we have an ability to assess both their level of development and their potential.

If you have a student who is planning to apply to School of The Arts, it is imperative that you notify his/her teacher at least 1 year prior to his or her audition. If you are new to our program, please notify the office when you call to inquire about enrollment.

Auditions are scheduled months in advance for the first week of January for students who will be attending high school the following September of that year. The portfolios are due approximately 1 month prior to the auditions (mid-December for 1st auditions in January). If your child is planning to apply to SOTA please notify his or her teacher by January of the year prior to the week of auditions.

Please contact SOTA early, to verify all application deadlines, as well as updated portfolio requirements and timing for scheduling auditions. If you have any questions that we can assist with, please speak with an instructor or feel free to contact us in the office at 759.5757.