

# **BFA Portfolio Review**

## Overview:

**The BFA Portfolio Review** is a required portfolio review for students pursuing the BFA degree in the Department of Art & Design and should be completed shortly after the student has **completed** 21 credit hours in studio art. Students should not wait to take the review; the accumulation of too many studio credits may postpone fulfilling requirements for the BA degree should the student not pass the review for acceptance into the BFA track.

Students assemble a portfolio of existing art work and write a short statement to be presented during a thirty minute question and answer session. The review is conducted by three faculty members who assess the student's strengths and weaknesses in order to determine if the adequate skills and understanding of art concepts, art practice, and art history are present to successfully enter the BFA program. Students are scored in three categories which include: Formal Elements and Principles of Design, Execution/Craftsmanship, and Visual Research and Communication.

Students completing more than 10 studio classes will be considered "advanced" and are subject to higher standards and a greater expectation of artistic development. Transfer students should complete at least one semester at ETSU before taking the BFA Portfolio Review. A grade of "Pass" or "Fail" will be issued through committee consensus, and delivered through e-mail to the student upon completion of the review. Grades appear on student transcripts, however they do not factor into GPA or effect student aid. A student may take the BFA Portfolio Review a total of two times (1 initial, 1 repeat) in order to pursue a BFA degree. Students not meeting this requirement will be advised to consider the BA degree in art. Successful completion of ARTA 2916 is required for enrollment into ARTA 4916 Portfolio and Exhibition, and must take place prior to the student's final semester.

## **Prior to the review students should complete the following:**

1. Sign up for a time and room number in the Art Office, 121 Ball Hall
2. Assemble a portfolio of art work that follows the below guidelines (**Discuss choices with Advisor**)
3. Write an artist statement including historical and working influences
4. Be able to discuss your work using formal vocabulary (Elements & Principles), as well as, content and ideas that inform the work
5. Complete the attached "Transcript Analysis"
6. Prior to or at the time of the review, students not enrolled must complete a late admission form for ARTA 2916, BFA Portfolio Review

## **Day of the review students should:**

1. Arrive early to set up work; rooms will become available 30 minutes prior to scheduled time
2. Students late or unready will not receive extra time
3. Display work around the room chronologically; tables and walls are available. Do not use hardware other than thumb tacks to attach pieces to critique walls.

## **During the review:**

1. Students will read their statement and discuss the work
2. Faculty will ask questions specific to the evaluation form
3. After 20 minutes the student will leave the room and faculty will deliberate

## **BFA Assessment**

A copy of the completed BFA Portfolio Assessment Form will be available for students to review in the Art Office approximately two weeks after the review.

## **BFA Portfolio Review Requirements—**

Students completing BFA Portfolio Review are expected to select art work corresponding to the list below. Use a blank BFA Portfolio Assessment form for guidelines in selecting work for the portfolio and consult with your advisor.

## **PORTFOLIO – 10-20 completed art works**

You must display a group of 10-20 completed art works that cover ALL the design elements and principles, listed below, in an effective way. The works can be from any course (1xxx, 2xxx, or above). At least one 3-Dimensional work, and one drawing from life, MUST be included.

Between all your displayed art works, these design elements and principles must be represented. \*

- Effective use of **Line**
- Effective use of **Space**
- Effective use of **Value** (i.e. shading; depth/volume; variety/range)
- Effective use of **Color**
- Effective **Visual Relationships**

\* For more information regarding the above design terms please consult the “BFA Portfolio Review Assessment Form” or consult with your advisor.

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While much student work produced prior to BFA Portfolio Review is based on assignments, the student is expected to develop greater problem solving and critical thinking skills with later work. Demonstration of greater maturity may be made in a variety of manners:

- (1) Related Images - cohesiveness in the portfolio of work
- (2) ‘Series’ of Images - pieces made with images or materials that depict a variety of solutions to a similar idea
- (3) Preliminary Studies & Problem Solving – preparatory drawings, models, etc. for more advanced work (Sketchbooks)
- (4) Originality & Inventiveness - demonstrating a greater sensitivity to craft or a specific development of technique

## **ARTIST STATEMENT**

Students must prepare a written document approximately 250 to 500 words for the BFA Portfolio Review. The document should provide the committee with information regarding the student’s artistic goals, as well as, influences and ideas that generate the work.

The artist’s statement should focus primarily on art work that has been completed in the 2xxx level or above courses. When describing pieces from Foundations classes (1xxx level) students should be prepared to identify their strongest formal skills (line, color, proportion, etc.) and have the ability to identify weaker areas. Students should name 2 or 3 artists whose work has influenced the student and/or whose work is similar formally or in relation to content. References to nature, objects, or other material influences may also be used in combination with historical choices. The statement should describe what the student is attempting to communicate and what ‘informs’ or influences the creation of the work.