

: PORTFOLIO TIPS & APPLICATION ADVICE :



Andrea Fraser
Chair and Professor

We're looking for students whose portfolios demonstrate an engagement with art and a commitment to art-making that extends beyond the framework of art class assignments. **Students who show a high degree of inventiveness, a focused exploration of a particular medium, and/or ambition in scale or formal or conceptual complexity, tend to stand out.**

The UCLA Department of Art has a fine art focus. We do not offer classes in illustration, commercial animation, architecture, graphic design or product design. Applicants with portfolios that focus on this type of work, or whose statements indicate an ambition to work in these fields, are unlikely to be recommended for admission.



Patty Wickman
Vice-Chair and Professor

We are looking for a distinct voice or common thread that runs throughout each applicant's portfolio, for work that is not simply a response to classroom assignments but that demonstrates a deeper level of interest and engagement. **We want to know what is important to you and what you care most deeply about.**

We are especially interested in applicants who have pursued an interest in art both in and outside of school, such as making art on their own; applicants who are curious about the work of other artists, past and present, and who have taken advantage of whatever art opportunities are available to them. Keep in mind that we are interested in why you want to study art, and why you want to study art at UCLA.

Applicants should select work for their portfolios that reflect their interests, not a sampling of everything they know how to do. It's important to prepare your portfolio with care and attention. Take clear, in-focus pictures of your work. Submit individual pictures of your work: do not submit photos with multiple images and text in one photo. Review the sequence of your images and edit or move images if necessary so that they complement or speak to one another.



Catherine Opie
Professor

Incoming studio art majors have all shown an independent vision, making a coherent body of work beyond classroom assignments. **Within their written statement as well the work submitted, they are able to articulate why they want to study in the department and with the faculty, and why being a studio art major is important for their future.**

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Hirsch Perlman
Professor

We look for flexible, curious, and critical makers. Your portfolio should evidence your creative endeavors openly and thoughtfully. Technical expertise is best utilized when it demonstrates your excitement and investment in any particular medium(s), but showing a willingness to fumble and experiment can be just as, if not more, expressive.

Your portfolio and/or your essay(s) should describe what motivates you. Is it a particular material or a subject matter, or both (or neither)? Have you considered the connection between your artistic drive and a larger social context?

At university, art includes self-expression and critique, hands-on learning and the construction of meaning and metaphor. So, some self-reflection and critical thinking should also be in evidence in your artwork and your writing.



Jennifer Bolande
Professor

We look for students who give evidence of creative thinking, rather than simply conforming to commercial or academic models. We may not be as interested in seeing proof of your technical skills or ability to draw a nude or still life perfectly, as we are in your subject matter, ideas, your composition, use of color, or of form, or materials.

Take good quality photographs of the work: do not gang up numerous images or use fancy typefaces or layouts. Show a variety of subjects and types of work. **Be sure to include works that were generated by your own ideas and not just works generated by class assignments.**