

# Scholarship Guide

Saturday School and Summer Art Camp  
Revised 10/1/11



## AWARDS

A limited number of full and partial scholarships are available for our Saturday School and Summer Art Camp for children ages 5 to 16. Scholarships are merit-based and awarded at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee upon reviewing the submitted body of work. Awards based on financial need are not available at this time. All decisions of the Scholarship Committee are final.

## PACKETS

Completed packets are due on or before the deadline; no exceptions are made. Incomplete packets are not accepted. All five of the following elements must be submitted together as a packet. The Portfolio Preparation guide on the following page provides additional information to assist you in preparing the artist's portfolio. Please call our office at 901-272-5142 if you have any questions about preparing your scholarship submission.

To apply for a scholarship please submit:

1. PORTFOLIO of recent works of art completed within the last year. The applicant must complete the works independently with no assistance from other persons, technology or mechanical aid. Works should be submitted on standard, letter-size paper (not to exceed 9"x12") and may be originals or color photocopies of originals. Scans or photos of artwork may be submitted as digital files on CD or DVD in .jpg format only.
  - a. CORE PIECES: The portfolio must contain three required core pieces of original artwork—a *portrait*, *still life* and *landscape* (one of each) drawn or painted from *direct observation*.
  - b. ADDITIONAL PIECES: Up to three additional pieces may be submitted, but are not required.
2. LETTER OF INTEREST from the child explaining why s/he wants to attend the program and how s/he would benefit from attending.
3. LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION from an adult who knows the child but is not a family member or related to the child (e.g. teacher, youth leader, coach or mentor).
4. Completed SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM.
5. LARGE ENVELOPE self-addressed with correct return postage for returning portfolio. Portfolios without sufficient postage or that do not fit in the provided envelope will not be returned.

Mail or drop off scholarship applications to:

Memphis College of Art  
Community Education  
1939 Poplar Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38104

## DEADLINES

PACKET SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Summer Art Camp: first Thursday in May at 4 p.m.; Fall Saturday School: second Thursday in September at 4 p.m.; Spring Saturday School: second Thursday in December at 4 p.m. Packets are not accepted after these deadlines have passed.

AWARD ACCEPTANCE DEADLINE: Awards must be accepted by the recipient 10 working days prior to the first day of class or by the date specified in the award notification letter. If a partial scholarship is awarded, payment of any remaining balance is due at the time the scholarship is accepted.

## NOTIFICATION

Shortly after the packet submission deadline, the scholarship committee convenes to review eligible scholarship packets and then submits recommendations to the office of Community Education (CE). CE staff reviews the recommendations and awards the available funds accordingly. Notification letters are sent by mail to all scholarship candidates within 10 business days after the submission deadline, whether or not a scholarship is awarded.

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## PORTFOLIO PREPARATION GUIDE

### CORE PIECES

To be considered for a scholarship, young artists must submit three to six pieces of work following the guidelines in the *Packets* section of this document. Three *core pieces* (*a landscape, still life and portrait*) are required, and up to three additional pieces may be submitted. Additional pieces are not required to fall into one of the core categories, but all pieces must be created from direct observation and should display the *key elements* described below.

*Landscape* – An outdoor scene of any kind, usually featuring natural elements such as trees, sky, water, etc., but can be an urban setting or street scene as well. A backyard or nearby park would be an ideal subject matter for direct observation.

*Still Life* – Simply put, this is an arrangement or collection of everyday objects, usually three or more together. The objects are typically placed on a surface such as a table and should be overlapping rather than lined up side by side. The objects can be random, for example, a picture could contain a vase of flowers, shoe, toy, bowl of fruit, clock, etc. The objects don't have to make sense or “belong” together, but a variety of sizes, shapes, colors and textures make for an interesting still life.

*Portrait* – A drawing or painting of a person, usually from the shoulders or neck up. The artist should attempt to capture the person's essence, expression or mood. Like all the pieces, the portrait must be drawn or painted from *direct observation*. It is wise to ask a very patient relative or friend to model for the portrait. Portraits should display correct *proportions* of the parts of the face and head.

### KEY ELEMENTS

Regardless of the artist's level of talent or ability, there are some *key elements* that can make a piece of artwork stand out. Here are some important things the scholarship committee looks for in submitted artwork.

*Perspective and depth* – The objects in each piece should be scaled relative to each other and relative to the viewer; there should be some depth to the piece, rather than it looking flat. For example, an orange wouldn't be drawn as a flat circle, but would appear more rounded like a ball.

*Proportion* – The proper size relationship between objects or parts of objects should be shown. For example, the eyes in a portrait should be the correct size in relation to the nose, mouth, ears and other parts of the face.

*Composition* – The placement of objects and the arrangement or organization of the drawing should be pleasing to the eye. The artist should use the entire picture surface and not leave bare or blank spaces. Objects should be placed in a setting with a background, context or other reference rather than "floating" on the page.

*Other artistic elements* – Elements such as the use of light, shading, color, texture, etc. are important and make for a more interesting piece.

### DIRECT OBSERVATION

All work submitted must be created from *direct observation*, or “drawn from life.” In other words, objects, scenes and people depicted in the artwork must be created (drawn, sketched, painted, etc.) from observing them directly, rather than from other sources such as photos, other drawings or paintings or from the imagination. Work that is not created from direct observation will be disqualified.

### MEDIA

*Media* refers to the materials and/or technique used by the artist. Any media is acceptable, including pencil, charcoal, pen and ink, oil pastels, crayon, watercolor or acrylics. Plain letter size copy paper is sufficient, though artist grade papers usually work better with a variety of media. Works submitted on paper should not exceed 9x12”. Larger works can be submitted electronically (see “Packets” section).