

# AAI Visual Arts Assignment Examples

The following documents are examples of projects that have been assigned in the past semesters. Each project gives detailed descriptions of the objectives, expectations, timelines, and grading criteria.

## **Anti-Self Portrait:**

**Objective:** You will create an anti-self-portrait and incorporate the idea of “opposite identity” or how others who know you might never perceive you. First research the theme of identity in artist work and how artist acknowledgments of identity are represented. The idea of “opposite” or “anti” is open to interpretation.

## **“BOP”**

**Objective:** Create a sculpture that involves a series of abstract shapes that represent each of your family members and how you interact with them. Using the elements of art and principles of design visually and physically represent your family dynamics in a sculpture.

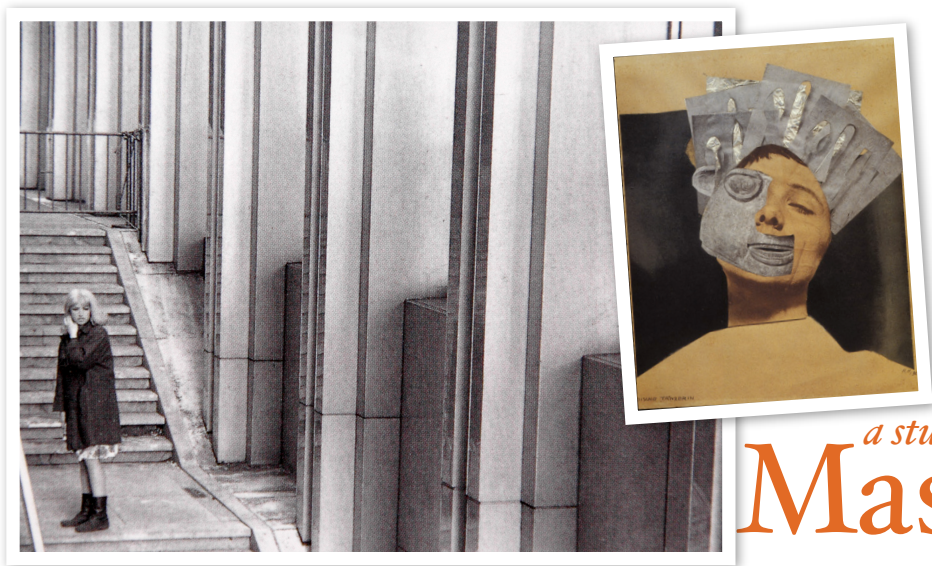
## **Ethnic Self Portrait**

**Objective:** In this portrait project you will depict yourself as a member of a tribe/culture that you might be from.

## **“Hot Off the Press”**

**Objective:** In this assignment you are asked to read the paper carefully. Look at the text in terms of how it gives you information. Does the article simplify, complicate, elaborate, amplify, confirm, contradict, deny, restate, or help define different types of meaning for you when it interacts with images?

For more information on curriculum or assignment details please feel free to email [ahscreativeclass@gmail.com](mailto:ahscreativeclass@gmail.com)



*a study of opposite identity*  
**Masquerade**

create an anti self-portrait

**objective:**

You will create an anti-self-portrait and incorporate the idea of “opposite identity” or how others who know you might never perceive you. First research the theme of identity in artist work and how artist acknowledgments of identity are represented. The idea of “opposite” or “anti” is open to interpretation.

**goals/parameters:**

At the end of the 3 weeks you will have the following due

**\* One completed ¾ to full body anti self-portrait.** This work should represent your opposite self, in a creative and original way.

This work will be worth 100 points. If you have any questions please let me know before it is due. It is your responsibility to pace and use your time well.

Graded On: Overall Design/**Composition, Originality** of creating an “Anti-Self Portrait”, **Craftsmanship, Creative Expression, and Communication** factor.

Size: Please shoot in highest resolution so prints can be 16” x 20” if need be. Initially 8” x 10” will be turned in with contact sheets.

**additional assignments:**

- Brainstorming in sketchbook regarding your opposite/anti personality/lifestyle traits
- \* Concept pages including:
  - o Three thumbnail sketches including info about setting, color (or not), props, etc.
  - o Additional pertinent information/research regarding other artists’ work
  - o Contact sheets
  
- \* Artist’s Statement about finished work.
  
- \* Self Assessment

# “Bop”

NAME:

## GOALS:

Create a sculpture that involves a series of abstract shapes that represent each of your family members and how you interact with them. Using the elements of art and principles of design visually and physically represent your family dynamics in a sculpture.



## STEPS ALONG THE WAY:

1. Research the following “isms”, periods of art:

Abstract Expressionism

Pop

Find at least 3 artists within each period that you like to look at and put examples of their work in your sketchbook with the usual info -

- date the work was made,
- where the work lives,
- medium used,
- dimensions.

2. **Brainstorm:** list all the members of your immediate family in your sketchbook. Come up with 5 words and or phrases that describe each person.

For example:

Sister: younger, generous, selfish, giggle, supportive.

2. **Thumbnails:** Draw thumbnails of shapes that represent each person. Sketch at least 3 different ideas (thumbnails) for each shape of you family member shape. These can be shapes within shapes, positive and negative space, or solid shapes.

**3. Compositional Sketch:** Using the shapes and color ideas you worked out in your individual thumbnails of each family member work out a composition that reflects the dynamics between your family members in a full color drawing.

Your sketch should be at least 9" x 12", or larger, outside of your sketchbook. The sketch should be full color AND reflect depth.

Your composition should include:

use positive and negative space

use layering and overlapping

use balance, flow, repetition and rhythm of shape, form, color and line

**4. Finished sculpture criteria:**

- Must be no larger than 72" X 72", try not to be smaller than 18" X 24"
- sculpture must be able to be free standing or hang on the wall or hang from the ceiling (not with great weight)
- you must find/supply your own materials for the foundation - foam core, cardboard, light weight wood, metal, etc., etc.
- You must have at least 3-5 shapes in your sculpture, use the technique of different levels to accentuate depth.
- Color must be a major element of your artwork, it must support your concept, not just "look pretty" or "cool".

Deadlines:

research and brainstorming-

compositional sketch-

final artwork-

critique-



# Ethnic Self Portrait

In this portrait project you will depict yourself as a member of a tribe/culture that you might be from.

Inspiration for this assignment for me is:

Kehinde Wiley <http://kehindewiley.com/>



1. You will work from both a digital photograph of yourself and by looking at yourself in a mirror.
2. You will thoroughly research the culture you are identifying with. Your research will include **fabric, textiles, jewelry, head dresses, hairstyles, body adornments, hats, etc.** Anything you add to your portrait should be indicative of your chosen tribe. Incorporating patterns and textures are required.
3. You will research the **place** your tribe comes from - the landscape, the architecture, etc.
4. You will create a self portrait paying particular attention to **value, texture, pattern, and create depth by having a foreground, middle-ground, and background.** Also think about **balance (symmetry, asymmetry), and whether or not you will be making a direct connection with the viewer.**

## Step by Step:

1. **Research.** Think about these things:
  - a. Why do you identify with that particular cultural group?
  - b. What do you admire about people of this culture?

Gather images of your selected tribe/culture from books, magazines, and/or the Web, of fabric, textiles, jewelry, head dresses, hairstyles, body adornments, hats, landscape, and architecture.

Put your images/resources in your sketchbook. You cannot hold this all in your head!!

**Photograph** yourself, your face, with at least 3 different expressions on it. (More is better!) Use a media arts student to help you if you want. Think about using a strong, directed light source to add highlights and shadow. Think about things like - "if I'm going to be holding a spear, how would I position my hand?" i.e. take a picture of your hand holding a broom or something like a spear!

2. **Sketchbook Concept Pages** - work it out in your sketchbook. Plan out the composition, details of dress, landscape, or architecture, that will be in the composition, body position, etc. Your concept pages should include images you are referencing, textural value experiments, and media experiments.

Do some small, quick, non-detailed thumbnail sketches of your composite face. This helps you plan it out ahead of time so you will create the best composition. Remember this is a portrait. This means head, neck and some shoulder showing.

3. **Media Choices** - Use appropriate paper: for your drawing-heavy weight, textured or not. Do not use light weight paper. **Media Arts**-final size will be 12 X 18 - unless we can get the large printer to work, then it can be bigger.

For **Visual Arts** - this is a **drawing**. You may use graphite, pen, or charcoal for this drawing.

5. Once you have completed the previous steps and are ready to start on your final, lightly sketch the entire composition onto your final paper. Make sure that you have the correct proportions. This is a realistic portrait. You may want to grid part of your face to get it just right. The adornments and additions need to be drawn just as accurately. Use great care and observation in this step. If you don't get it correct here, it will not be correct when it is completed.

Lay in all the correct values. There should be complete whites, complete blacks and all the values in between. It should look as close to a photograph when you are done as possible.

For **Media Arts** - this may be straight ahead photography, all done in Illustrator, or something in between. Choose your weapon, but choose it carefully. Everything above still applies to you - it's all about: **value, texture, pattern, background, foreground and middle-ground.**

**Due dates - research:**

**concept pages:**

**artwork:**





*from Arab Spring to...global warming*

## Hot Off the Press

The newspaper has been one of the world's most popular sources of information. Over the past couple of decades its popularity has declined due to the onset on the Internet and overall lack on interest in worldly events and stories. The newspaper is a wonderful part of our past history and the future stories the human race holds. The idea of reading the morning paper with a hot cup of coffee is historical and is a daily ritual for many folks, still. When you read the paper what kind of stories interests you the most: human interest, politics, social issues, science, economy, arts and culture, etc?

In this assignment you are asked to read the paper carefully. Look at the text in terms of how it gives you information. Does the article simplify, complicate, elaborate, amplify, confirm, contradict, deny, restate, or help define different types of meaning for you when it interacts with images?

Below is a list of objectives that must be apparent in your finished work:

### objectives:

- You will create a work of art based on an article from the newspaper.
- You will incorporate the actual newspaper into the artwork in an innovative way.
- You should use your knowledge of composition, media exploration, and color to create a narrative work that is evocative to the viewer.

### goal:

- The overall goal is to have a visual representation to your reaction of the article, not just the facts.

### directions:

1. Begin by selecting a newspaper to read. Read through each section and mark articles of interest.
2. Limit yourself to three articles to choose from.
3. In your sketchbook create a brainstorming list. Below each article list **10 concrete and abstract concepts** that come to you after reading each article.
4. Narrow down the most visual ideas to **two** and create **two thumbnails** for each. Remember to think outside the box. Think like an artist who is **reacting** to the article. not one who is just stating the fact.
5. Review thumbnail, color, and media choices with the instructor and **begin**, size: no **smaller** than 18" X 24" for visual arts students, 11" x 16" for media arts students.

### required nuts and bolts:

- \* Brainstorming re:articles - 10 concepts per article
- \* Two original thumbnail sketches for each "most visual" article.
- \* Additional pertinent information about article subject and studies/drawings from life & photographs
- \* Concept Pages including Color Study
- \* Finished Artwork with a minimum of 3 layers
- \* Artist Statement regarding finished work
- \* Self Assessment/Grading Rubric

This work will be worth 100 points. If you have any questions please let me know before it is due. It is your responsibility to pace and use your time well.

### Graded On:

- **Created work fully based on a newspaper article.**
- **Newspaper article is creatively used in the work.**
- **Knowledge is shown of good composition and use of media.**
- **Work exhibits evidence of critical thinking and planning for the work.**
- **Work is a visual representation of your reaction to the article, not just facts.**
- **Effort: took time to develop idea & complete project? (Didn't rush.) Good use of class time? Prep work, concept pages complete.**
- **Craftsmanship – Neat, clean & complete? Skillful use of the art tools & media?**
- **Artist's Statement completed with detail and evidence of critical thinking toward your art and personal expression.**