

Coral Glades High School

2D Art Department

Nathan Eldred Banks -AP Studio Art Teacher

Summer Work:

Over the summer I am asking that each student who is registered for AP Studio Art, either 2D Design or Drawing, purchase a new sketchbook. Over the days and weeks of warm weather I would like each of you to draw the people, places, and things around you. Fill up the pages of your sketchbook with drawings from *direct observation*. Draw the food, crumbs, streaks of sauce left on your plate when you are finished eating a particularly good meal. This process of looking and translating items and objects that are in the world around you, that are three dimensional and moving, will help to strengthen your abilities in drawing. The challenge with translating an object this way is that your head will move as you look down at your paper and then back up to the object. To compensate, your mind will have to do some of the translation so that your drawing can make coherent sense. This skill will get stronger with practice. This activity of drawing from life will also strengthen your line quality and ability to work from 2D references or from your imagination when we begin next fall. You could also work on your phone. Using the notes function or another drawing app you could sketch swaths of color that you see forming interesting patterns. Draw the lines of hair as they cross back and forth in the braid of a loved one. The idea is to jot down what you are seeing. These notes will act as fodder for your experimentation and is a great way to kick start your investigations. The most important thing is that you choose subjects that you find *interesting*.

Additionally, I would like you to write about some of your experiences over the summer. I want you to write about what you see, hear, smell, and feel. Describe the details of what you experience and how the sensory input impacts you. Describe the glow of when you close your eyes and see the backs of your eyelids on a sunny day. Describe the feeling as you sit around a table with family. Write about the sounds of a keyboard as you chat with friends. Write about your experience of the world around you. Write about your music. Write about the snail crawling across your patio. What is her life like?

I am also attaching a series of readings from some of the books that influenced my thinking as an artist. I want you to read and digest these *slowly*. They are dense and difficult passages and I suggest that you read them in small bites. Write down your thoughts and questions in your journal and we will discuss them beginning on our first day back. Be prepared to show your drawings and share your thoughts with the group. Remember to draw things that you love and are interested in. This is an opportunity to find joy in the freedom of your explorations. Happy drawing and I look forward to hearing your thoughts in August!