



EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT...

...YOUR VISUAL ARTS PORTFOLIO REVIEW

What to expect:

- Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your audition time. Come into the lobby of the building and sign in. You will be given a number, have your picture taken, and when the panelists are ready you will be asked into the portfolio review room.
- Your portfolio review will take approximately 30 minutes. The parent or guardian that brings you will be invited to wait in the lobby while you are in the portfolio review room.
- There will be four artists at a table to greet you. You will have five minutes to meet the panel and lay out your portfolio.
- For about fifteen minutes you will present your portfolio and the panelists will ask you questions. The interview component will focus on assessing your experience, interests, and aspirations. We would like to find out more about you personally, particularly your interest and motivation to pursue advanced visual art studies at NMSA.
- Please select one piece of artwork from your portfolio that is of particular importance to you and be prepared to discuss it with the panel. We would like to know why you selected that piece. We might also ask about the content and what you hope to express. You may also consider sharing why you chose the medium and/or the materials of the piece. For more information on what the panelists will be evaluating please visit our website at www.NMSchoolForTheArts.org and click on the Visual Arts Rubrics.
- Following the portfolio presentation and interview, all applicants will be asked to make a drawing of a shoe or pair of shoes. You can either bring a shoe of your choice, or draw what you are wearing. You will be provided with a 4B pencil, a pink Pearl eraser, and a piece of 11x14 inch white paper. You will have five minutes for the drawing. The panel will keep your drawing.
- You will have a chance to pick up your portfolio and say farewell to the panel.
- If you are missing school in order to attend your portfolio review, please ask for an excuse note at the sign-in table.

What to prepare:

- ❖ Your portfolio! ☺ It should include a minimum of five and maximum of ten pieces of work.

These may include:

1. Two-dimensional works (drawings, paintings, photographs, etc.)
 - Bring original work (no photocopies)
 - Include at least one drawing from observation (as opposed to drawing based on photographs, magazines, or other artwork)
 - Your sketchbook can be one entry if you have been working in one
 - If large scale murals/graffiti are your preferred medium, a photograph of this work can be one entry

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- Please label your two-dimensional works, in pencil on the back of work, with the following: Created with Instruction (ie: in class with teacher) OR Created Unsupervised (i.e. done completely independently)
2. Three-dimensional works (sculptures, mobiles, etc.)
 - Small sculptures can be brought to the interview
 - If the sculpture is large or bulky, a photograph of it, taken against a contrasting background, is acceptable
 3. Four-dimensional works (time-based work, i.e.: digital film, animation, etc.) can be included
 - Have laptop cued and ready for viewing
 - Limit clips to 2 minutes

We discourage portfolios consisting solely of cartoons or superhero images. We encourage a variety of subject matter; this typically indicates someone who is able to try different problems.

TIPS:

- There is no need to purchase an expensive presentation portfolio. A simple hand-made portfolio of stiff cardboard is adequate.
- Select works that are in reasonably good condition and easily viewed.

All portfolios will be returned at the end of the interview.

❖ **Preparing for the Drawing From Life portion:**

You can prepare for this part of the audition by practicing drawing of shoes. Consider various angles and configurations. Consider the shapes and forms. If you are drawing a pair of shoes, consider the space between them. The important thing to remember here is, don't panic! We would like this to be a fun, creative, and informative part of the interview.

❖ **Preparing for the Interview portion:**

You can go to the NMSA website at www.nmschoolforthearts.org to see the evaluation sheet the panelists will use during the portfolio review. If you do not have internet access, please call (505) 920-0965 to have the document sent to you.

What to bring:

1. Portfolio
2. A shoe or pair of shoes you wish to draw
3. Completed Medical and Media Release Form
4. Patience and a positive attitude
5. Your passion for art

We look forward to meeting you!

Please call (505) 920-0965 with any further questions or concerns.