



*New Mexico's only public, statewide charter high school that serves young artists
with a rigorous, award-winning professional arts and academics program.*

NMSA VISUAL ARTS Department 2019 Portfolio Review Requirements

Arrival:

Please arrive 15-30 minutes prior to the Visual Arts Applicant Orientation. Enter the main/front doors of NMSA from East Alameda to complete the sign-in process.

What to Expect

Orientation:

The day will begin with a 30-minute orientation. This is an opportunity to meet the Visual Arts Faculty Panel and ask basic questions. Parents/guardians must be present for this orientation.

Group Drawing Class:

After orientation, students will take a 1.5-hour Group Drawing Class. Parents are not permitted. The class will emphasize observational drawing skills (drawing from life) and composition as well as your ability to respond to instruction. We will draw from a still-life in the center of the room. All materials will be provided and include pencil, eraser, an easel, drawing board, and 18" x 24" paper.

Students should come in clothes that can get dirty and shoes for standing in for 1.5 hours, water, and a snack. We will begin the lesson with a few loosening up exercises and complete a drawing by the end of the session. Bring this drawing to your Portfolio Review.

Individual Portfolio Reviews:

After the Group Drawing Class, individual Portfolio Reviews begin. Students and parents/guardians should plan to arrive 15 minutes prior to their scheduled Portfolio Review time. Reviews will last about 20 minutes. You will present a portfolio of pre-selected artwork to the Visual Arts Faculty Panel. Please arrange your artwork neatly, spread out on the tables provided. This is a private meeting with you and the faculty (without parents or other students present). Parents may wait in another part of the building. You should also include the drawing done in the group class. The panel will ask questions (review them on the Audition Form) and provide feedback on your artwork. We would like to learn more about you personally and assess your interest and motivation in pursuing visual arts studies at NMSA. The panel will take photos for reference purposes. They will conclude the review by asking you to step outside for 5 minutes in order to confer in private. Then, they will invite you back in to collect your artwork and portfolio. You will be free to go after your individual portfolio review is complete.

What to Prepare/Bring to your PORTFOLIO REVIEW?

PORTFOLIOs INCLUDE:

- 3 – 20 Artworks made in the last 2 years
- Sketchbook(s)
- Drawing from the group class made at NMSA on audition day
- Creative 3D Homework Project (described below)

CREATIVE 3D HOMEWORK PROJECT

- Make a portable 3D sculpture from recycled materials that **contains space**.
- Be creative, inventive, and resourceful!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS + TIPS on HOW to PREPARE for the AUDITION DAY:

What to include in your Portfolio?

- A Sketchbook (bring all the ones you use)
- Include a minimum of 3 artworks and a maximum of 20 artworks
- The Creative 3D Homework Project described above
- The Drawing made on Audition Day in the Drawing Class
- Two-dimensional works (e.g. drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, collage)
- Bring original work, not photocopies
- Three-dimensional works (e.g. sculpture, ceramics)
- Four-dimensional works (time-based work e.g. video, animation, screen-based work, web/game design, coding, computer art, digital drawing/painting, 3D models, etc.)
- Bring your own laptop/tablet. Be sure your device is cued and fully charged;
- we cannot provide a power source.
- Limit video clips to 1 minute.

How to Prepare the Portfolio's Presentation for the Review?

- There is no need to purchase an expensive presentation portfolio. A simple hand-made portfolio of stiff cardboard is sufficient to carry your physical artworks.
- If showing screen based work: Bring a device and charger. Have it open and ready to view. Clean off screen and keyboard.
- Select works that are in reasonably good condition and easily viewed.
- Bring works from the last 2 years.
- Please do not bring framed work. You do not need to matt work.

How to Prepare for the Audition Day Drawing Class?

- Practice drawing from life/direct observation with pencil and eraser only
- Practice drawing at a mid-size scale of 18" x 24" for at least 1 hour, standing up
- Practice drawing complex still-lives/spaces (ex.: a closet, kitchen counter, bedroom)
- Attend the Audition Workshop on Sat., Dec 1 at Noon and Feb 9th, 10-12 at NMSA

What to Bring to Audition Day?

- Portfolio of 3-20 artworks, sketchbook(s), "3D Homework Project" (see above)
- Since you may have to wait for your portfolio review bring a snack, water, book

For more information on what the panelists will be evaluating, please visit our website at <https://www.nmschoolforthearts.org/admission/apply>

If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Admissions, Francesca Rodriguez at francesca.rodriquez@nmsa-ai.org or 505-629-9245