

## VISUAL ARTS

The Visual Arts department teaches the fundamentals of art in a variety of disciplines including drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, analog and digital photography, art history and graphic design. Students follow the curriculum prescribed by the Visual Arts Department Head based on work presented in an audition for evaluation, in addition to student interests. Additionally, course selections are based on grade level and technical proficiency.

- We teach the importance of visual thinking and creative problem solving.
- We emphasize observational drawing techniques for college portfolio preparation.
- We encourage collaborative work both within the Visual Arts Department, throughout CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Half-day Program and the Greater Hartford community.
- We encourage and support students' risk-taking as they progress through the rigorous curriculum.
- Art history courses, gallery and museum tours, guest artist lectures and hands-on workshops provide a context for students' work of artists past and present.
- We exhibit student artwork in the school throughout the community, nationally and internationally.

**Supplies** – Students are encouraged to bring supplies they prefer to create with, however all supplies for in-class studio work will be provided.

- **Year 1**: Foundation Drawing and Painting in addition to 2-3 of the following courses: Foundation Sculpture, Art History, Ceramics, Mixed Media or Printmaking
- **Year 2**: Drawing and Painting Level 1 in addition to 2-3 of the following courses: Sculpture, Art History, Ceramics, Mixed Media, Printmaking, Graphic Design or Photography
- **Year 3**: Drawing and Painting Level 2 in addition to 2-3 of the following courses: Sculpture, Art History, Ceramics, Mixed Media, Printmaking, Graphic Design, Photography or UConn ECE Drawing (*3 credit college course*)
- **Year 4**: Senior Seminar in addition to any of the following courses: Drawing, Painting, Sculpture, Art History, Ceramics, Mixed Media, Printmaking, Graphic Design, Photography or UConn ECE Drawing (*3 credit college course*). If the student has excelled through the curriculum from the previous year they would have the opportunity to develop an Independent Study in technique(s) and medium(a) of choice.

## **VISUAL ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **2D VISUAL ARTS COURSES**

#### **FOUNDATIONS DRAWING**

This course will focus on drawing from observation. Subject matter studied in this course includes still life, portraiture, landscape and perspective. The Elements and Principles of Design are the fundamental components to creating compositions in the course.

#### **DRAWING (2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup> YEAR)**

This course continues the exploration of working from observation in addition to conceptual design and contemporary drawing techniques. Drawing compositions created in this course could be included in a student portfolio necessary for summer arts programs and college auditions.

#### **UCONN ECE DRAWING 1**

This course will focus on the fundamentals of visual thinking through the process of drawing by direct observation. Experimentation with different materials, sharpening observational skills (eye-hand coordination) will result in a refined technique in order to draw subject matter from life. Students who successfully complete this course have the ability to earn **3 college credits**, which are transferrable to hundreds of universities nationwide.

#### **FOUNDATIONS PAINTING**

This course will focus on color theory through watercolor, ink and acrylic painting techniques. The ability to perceive and express relationships by understanding and implementing the Elements & Principles of Design are also included in the curriculum for this course.

#### **PAINTING (2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup> YEAR)**

This course continues the exploration of color theory, knowledge and application with the wet media such as watercolor, ink, acrylic and an introduction to water soluble oil paint. The significance of color will be explored as an art element and relationships between color through the Elements and Principles of Design will be examined.

### **3D VISUAL ARTS COURSES**

#### **INTRODUCTION TO CERAMICS**

This course provides an introduction to the history of ceramics and a beginning level experience in the use of clay as a fine art medium. Forming techniques through hand-building, surface development, throwing on the wheel, glazing and kiln firing practices will be introduced. Both the functional and sculptural ceramic techniques will be explored.

## **ADVANCED CERAMICS**

This course is designed to allow advanced ceramic students to work on developing a personal expression in clay. Each student has the option to direct their own projects with guidance by the instructor, if needed an assignment can be designated by the instructor with focus on hand-building, throwing on the wheel or experimental glazing techniques.

## **SCULPTURE**

This course focuses on creating works of art in the third dimension. Students will be introduced to a variety of materials for 3D problem solving including wire, clay, wood, plaster, and found materials. Students learn both additive and subtractive methods of sculpture.

## **MULTIMEDIA VISUAL ARTS COURSES**

### **ART HISTORY**

This course provides an introduction to the historical language of visual arts and a foundation for individual understanding artistic styles and movements. Students will learn how to communicate about art, analyze and interpret a variety of media and techniques practiced in addition to exploring cultural practices from around the world in relation to visual art making.

### **MIXED MEDIA**

This course will introduce students to a variety of traditional and non-traditional multimedia techniques in response to visual art making challenges. During this course the Elements and Principles of Design will be explored and developed through drawing, painting, collage and multimedia book design.

### **PRINTMAKING AND BOOK DESIGN**

This course will introduce students to techniques practiced in plate development and an edition series. Studio print media such as monotype, collagraph, linoleum block printing, dry-point etching and relief plate rubbings will be explored. Repetitious drawing practices and an understanding of color theory are significant components to this course. Students will also be introduced to a variety of book making techniques, which will include different styles binding and orientation such as accordion and stab binding.

## **DIGITAL AND PHOTOGRAPY VISUAL ARTS COURSES**

### **ANALOG PHOTOGRAPHY**

This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of photography and the operations of a 35mm, manual camera. Students will learn darkroom techniques, including the processing of black and white film. Different types of photographic techniques will be explored through lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on class assignments. Emphasis will be placed on proper camera and darkroom techniques including the use and care of equipment.

## **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of digital photography and the technical aspects involved with using a digital camera. Students will learn how to up load images, proper use of storage and manipulation of imagery through Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom.

## **GRAPHIC DESIGN AND DIGITAL ILLUSTRATION**

This course will introduce students to computer graphics, and explores Adobe Illustrator by using a drafting tablet for creation and manipulation, effects, graphic illustration techniques, and typographic functions in applying the computer graphics medium to problem solving in graphic design. In addition, this course is for students interested in developing their knowledge in the most up to date Adobe Photoshop Suite (APS). APS is a complex graphics and image editing software, and paint program.

## **VISUAL ARTS COURSES FOR SENIORS**

### **INDEPENDENT STUDIO**

This course is tailored by a student who has excelled through the curriculum from the previous years they attended CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Half-day Program and have expressed the desire to develop an Independent Study in technique(s) and medium(a) of choice. Based on research presented in the proposal for an independent studio, students will have the opportunity to study with any Core Arts Faculty in the Visual arts Department who exhibits advanced knowledge of the techniques and media outlined in the proposal.

### **SENIOR SEMINAR**

This course is designed for Visual Arts seniors to connect, share ideas, and brainstorm for the Senior Thesis Project and preparation for the future! There will be time for Capstone (if applicable), apply to schools, programs and jobs, design the annual yearbook cover page, and collaborate on the Senior Video Presentation for end of the year culminating event the *Academy Awards*. Students will be expected to write an artist statement explaining their senior process in visual art making in response to the researched and developed Senior Thesis Project.

### **UConn ECE DRAWING 1**

This course will focus on the fundamentals of visual thinking through the process of drawing by direct observation. Experimentation with different materials, sharpening observational skills (eye-hand coordination) will result in a refined technique in order to draw subject matter from life. Students who successfully complete this course have the ability to earn **3 college credits**, which are transferrable to hundreds of universities nationwide.