

## Bachelor of Arts in Visual Art (B8BA7Q) Portfolio Requirements.

Your portfolio of artworks should consist of between six and ten pieces of your best work. These must be your original work. These may be drawings, paintings, photographs, prints, sculptures **or** good quality reproductions (photographs, or digital images on disc, flash drive or accessible cloud-based portfolio).

All portfolios, as well as individual pieces of work, should be clearly labelled with your name and contact details.

**A note from your parent, guardian or teacher, verifying the authenticity of all your work, **must** accompany the portfolio.**

At home, you must also complete **two** compulsory projects (See below) designed to assess your drawing ability, imagination, sensitivity to colour, proportion, design skills and a general ability to communicate visually. These two compulsory projects will form part of your portfolio submitted at the entrance assessment, and will help the department to assess your overall potential as a Visual Art student.

### Project 1: Drawing (approx. 1 1/2 - 3hrs to be completed at home)

**Subject:** Produce an accurate drawing of a wooden chair against a plain background.

- The whole chair must be represented.

**Medium:** Pencil on white cartridge paper.

**Size:** A2 (420mm x 594mm) in vertical format.

#### Consider the following:

- Do a number of sketches to explore the best composition before attempting the final drawing.
- Carefully consider the placement of the chair within the defined drawing area.
- Keep line work fresh and spontaneous.
- Ensure that the pencil is always sharp and use the eraser sparingly.
- Do not make use of mechanical drawing equipment such as rulers, compass sets, etc.
- Avoid large and illegible signatures – print your name in the lower right hand corner.
- Be aware of the factors that will aid in rendering the form of the chair, such as light, shadow, background/foreground contrasts, texture and context.
- Remember that irrelevant detail and decorative pencil smudging will not improve a poorly constructed drawing.

#### Example:





## Project 2: Self-portrait (approx. 9 hrs to be completed at home)

**Subject:** Produce a self-portrait with favourite objects using colour.

- The portrait must be naturalistically rendered but may also include expression.
- Any objects included in the composition should help to provide insight into your personality.
- The portrait should be the most important and largest visual element in the picture.

**Medium:** Any water-based paint e.g. watercolour, poster paint or acrylics.

- Good quality cartridge paper or board may be used.

**Size:** A2 (420 mm x 594 mm).

**The project will be assessed on:**

- Drawing and painting skills.
- Composition.
- Sensitivity in the use of colour.
- Imaginative interpretation of the theme.

**Example:**



## Entrance Assessment Requirements and Process

On the day of your entrance assessment you must ensure that you are prepared and the following are expected from you:

- Punctuality – the assessment begins strictly at the time stipulated in your letter / telephonic communication – if you are late you might not be able to sit the for the assessment and you will have to re-book for the next available date
- A certified copy of your latest marks: Grade 11, Grade 12 half year or Matriculation results
- A portfolio comprising your original artworks (see **Portfolio Requirements**, for details):
- A pen – for the completion of written exercises

The process will begin with the staff assessing your portfolio of practical work and the two compulsory projects. If your portfolio of work is accepted, you will continue to the second phase of the entrance assessment in which written exercises will be completed. One exercise asks for a description of an object provided whilst the second is a comprehension exercise on an art-related topic. You will be required to complete one OR both of these exercises.

You will also be required to complete a biographic information sheet where your latest marks / Matriculation results will need to be provided.

**HINT:** *It will be to your advantage to answer the written questions with correct grammar, sentence-structure, spelling and comprehension of the type of answer most appropriate to the question asked, i.e. do not go off on a tangent exploring possible meanings of an artwork if the question asks you to describe the work.*

Hereafter you will complete a personal interview where the staff will assess your suitability as a Visual Art student. In the interview you will be asked a range of questions such as:

- Why do you wish to study Visual Art?
- Why do you want to study in the Dept. Visual Art at UJ?
- What career will our program prepare you for / where do you see yourself after you graduate?
- Are you aware of the 1st year subjects / modules for which you will be registering if you are given a place in the program?
- Are you aware of the elective options available in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of study?
- Are you aware of the fees for the 1st year program and who will be responsible for paying them?
- Are you tenacious, and how well do you manage your time and cope with stressful deadlines?
- Who are your favourite local and/or international artists and why are you attracted to their work?
- What local exhibitions and galleries do you visit and what exhibitions were memorable to you and why?
- What books do you read and what films to you enjoy watching?

**HINT:** *It will be to your advantage to be prepared for such questions so as to be able to answer them with confidence.*

At the end of the assessment, the staff will assess your strengths and suitability for tertiary study in the Department of Visual Art and you will be told immediately whether you have been granted a place in the program, whether you are on a waiting list or if you have been unsuccessful in your application and what alternative options may be open to you. You will not have to wait for this decision.