



CAMBRIDGE
SCHOOL OF
VISUAL &
PERFORMING
ARTS

What we look for in a portfolio



An overview

When students apply to any of our courses, we are often asked “what should I include in my portfolio?” and “how many pieces do you want to see?” For us it is less about the number of pieces and more about what you put in there. Quality is more important than quantity; show us your best work.

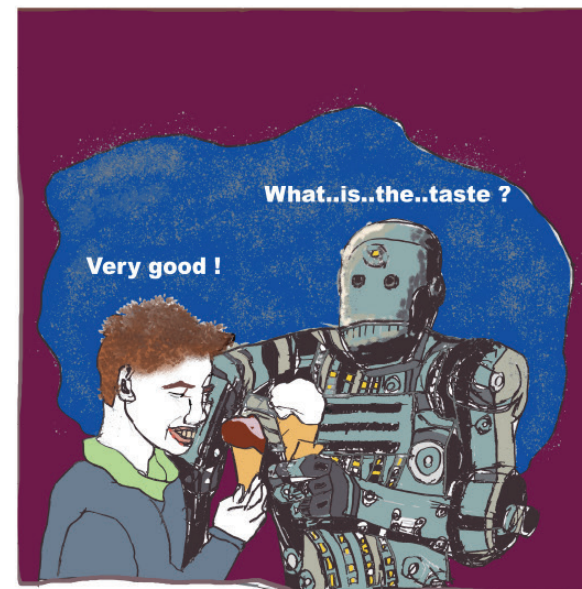
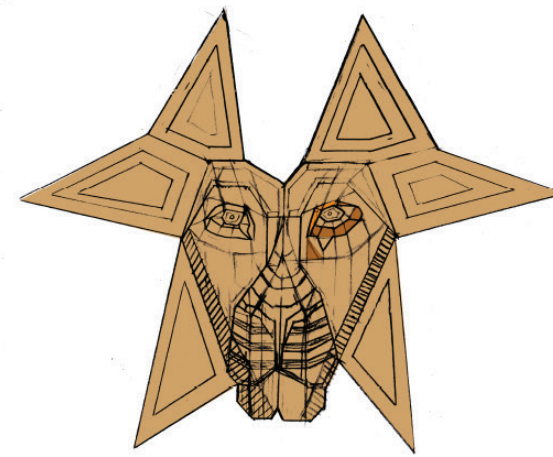
At CSVPA, we are looking for students to demonstrate originality and motivation. You need to show us that you are interested in the subject area you are applying for. If you are passionate about something, show it! It is less about the final piece and more about the thought process you have gone through. Present your research and ideas in sketchbooks or notebooks and let us see a variety of work which demonstrates the skills and experience you have.

FOUNDATION DIPLOMA IN ART & DESIGN

Your portfolio is your chance to show us your skills and passion. Use the following points as a guide for preparing your portfolio:

- evidence 10-15 pieces of your very best work: quality is more important than quantity
- include both taught and personal work
- demonstrate drawing skills from live observation, not from photos or reference materials
- express your personal ideas and areas of interest (if you're passionate about a certain subject, show it!)
- experiment with a wide range of media and materials
- present your research and ideas in sketchbooks or notebooks
- only use work you have made in the last 18 months: nothing older
- submit it electronically as a PPT or PDF, or arrange an interview to show your work in person.

awarded by **ual:** awarding
body



The Sketchbook Rules

Your sketchbook is your best friend, it gives you a space to grow and learn. You can try new things, experiment, make mistakes and allows you to be an individual. It is important to tell the story, evidence your ideas, where the ideas came from, the development of your ideas and the conclusion. The first idea is never the best one, but it can take you to the right one. Look after your sketchbook because it can help you to get into a top university.

NO EMPTY PAGES, DRAW ON BOTH SIDES

NO CROSSING OUT, LEARN FROM MISTAKES, ADD NOTES

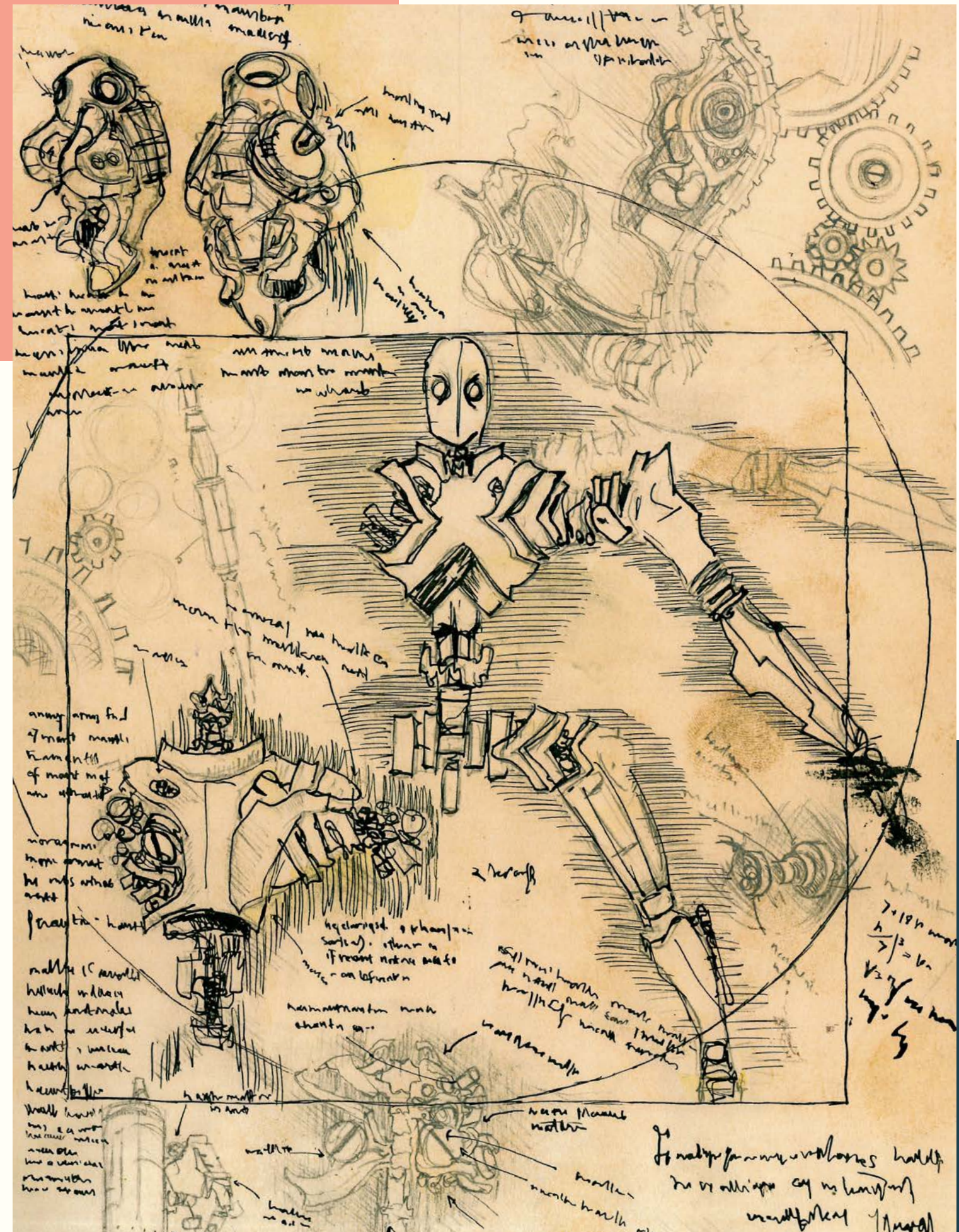
ORGANISED, CLEAR, EASY TO READ, SEPARATE BOOKS

VARIED APPROACH

SHOW DIRECTION

INCLUDE PROJECT TITLES, BRIEFS, TIME GIVEN

FEEL THE QUALITY



Structuring a Portfolio

Your portfolio should demonstrate the focus and the direction you want to take. It should show us your personality. If you like to be big and bold, then your portfolio should be big and bold, if you are accurate and neat your portfolio should be accurate and neat.

A portfolio should be made up of finished work.

The first pieces are the most important, so put your best work first.

Place your drawing at the back.

Photograph any large pieces of work and make sure it is a good photo. A bad photo of a good piece of work can make a good piece of work look bad!

Only include work you like and that you have picked – not something your parent, teacher, or friend has chosen.

Include work from the last 18 months only.

Make sure it is easy to read.

HOW TO SHOW YOUR WORK

Simple mounts white or black – no colour, glitter or pictures of fairies around the edge!

Window mount prints only.

Photos, large, clear and well lit.

Match direction portrait or landscape.

Keep it simple.

WHAT NOT TO DO

Never:

- Use borrowed work
- Use weak work to bulk
- Trace or copy a drawing
- Use bad photos of your work
 - Over mount
 - Mix directions
 - Mix areas
- Use special effects



one day PROJECT

GIVEN A METRE OF CALICO

I WAS REQUIRED TO MANIPULATE THE FABRIC AND CREATE FOUR DIFFERENT SKIRT DESIGNS



FOR THE FIRST DESIGN, I WAS HESITANT TO CUT THE FABRIC INITIALLY SO I JUST PLAYED AROUND WITH IT AND PINNED IT ON THE MANNEQUIN. I CAME UP WITH THIS DESIGN THAT FEATURES GEOMETRIC FOLDS AND DRAPE IN THE FRONT.



First DESIGN

FOR THE SECOND DESIGN, I SWITCHED THE FRONT DESIGN OF THE FIRST SKIRT DESIGN TO THE BACK BECAUSE I THINK IT IS MORE FLATTERING TO HAVE THE VOLUME ON THE BACK SO I DEVELOPED THIS DESIGN.

I THEN TIED A KNOT TO CREATE A SORT OF COCOON SILHOUETTE.



Second DESIGN



ONE DAY DRAPING PROJECT

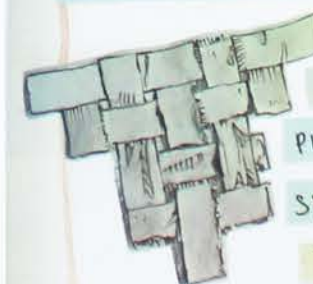


I STARTED THE THIRD DESIGN BY PLEATING THE FABRIC INTO A BASIC PLEATED SKIRT. I THEN FOLDED THE FABRIC UP AND PINNED IT TO CREATE THIS INTERESTING SHAPE THAT I FIND TO BE QUITE FLATTERING. I THINK THAT IT WOULD DRAPE BEAUTIFULLY ON THE MODEL.

Third DESIGN

Fourth DESIGN

FOR THE FOURTH DESIGN, I FINALLY GAINED THE CONFIDENCE TO CUT THE FABRIC AND I SNIPPED THE BOTTOM HALF OFF TO CREATE A MINI SKATER SKIRT. I THEN PLEATED EACH SECTION OF THE SKIRT UPWARDS TO PRODUCE AN INTERESTING SHAPE. I THOUGHT THE DESIGN WAS TOO PLAIN SO I



WEAVED STRIPS OF FABRIC AND PINNED IT TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SKIRT TO CREATE A SORT OF GEOMETRICAL TRIM.

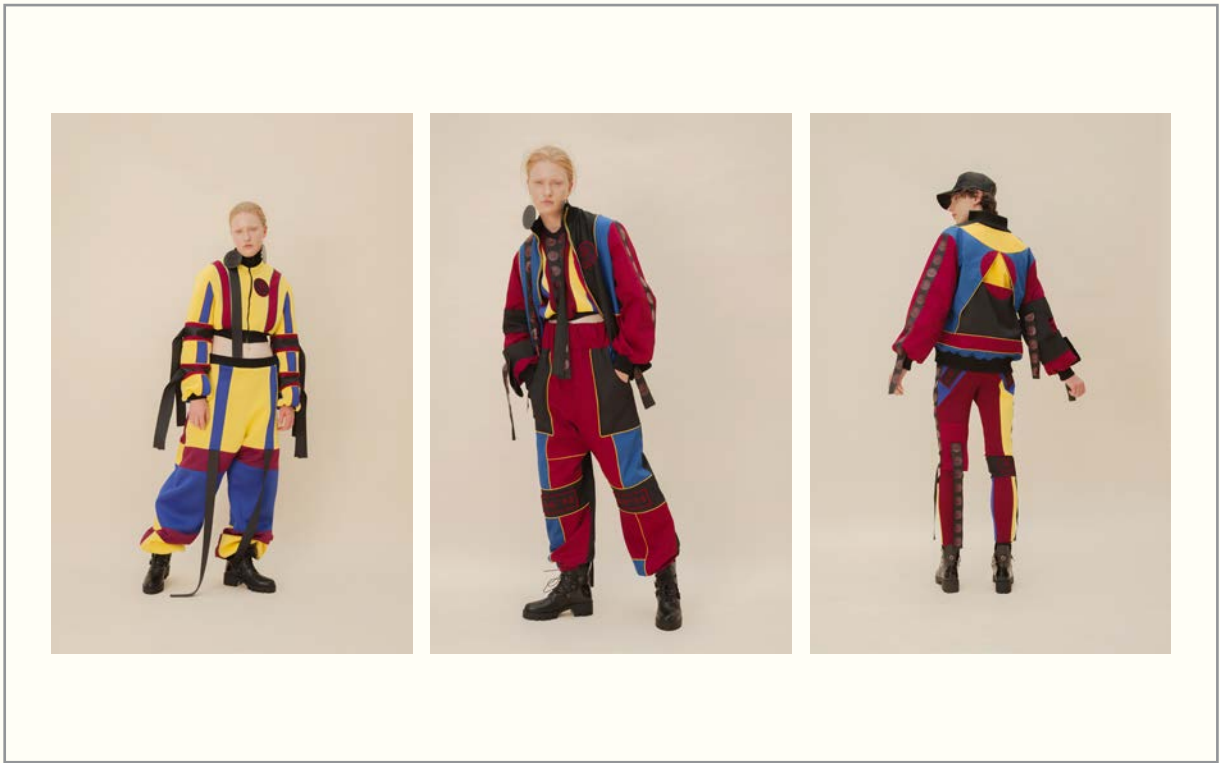


HOW NOT TO SHOW YOUR WORK



TOO MANY PHOTOS
NO OVERLAPPING AT AN ANGLE ACROSS THE PAGE

HOW TO SHOW YOUR WORK



IN A LINE
LEFT TO RIGHT, THE WAY WE READ

HOW NOT TO SHOW YOUR WORK



DON'T MIX PORTRAIT AND LANDSCAPE ON THE PAGE

HOW TO SHOW YOUR WORK



KEEP IMAGES THE SAME WAY UP

HOW NOT TO SHOW YOUR WORK



DO NOT OVER MOUNT – HERE YOU SEE THE BACKGROUND

HOW TO SHOW YOUR WORK



HERE YOU SEE THE PICTURE
THAT IS WHY WE KEEP IT BLACK OR WHITE



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL OF VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

FOR OVER 30 YEARS, WE HAVE CONTINUED TO DEVELOP THE SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE OF MANY ASPIRING ARTISTS.

Our school provides a unique and highly personalised method of learning, creating an environment in which to nurture, educate and encourage these creative individuals.

As a student, you are actively supported through a hands-on approach, extensive contact time with lecturers, and all the equipment and materials you need to ensure you meet your full potential.

By studying at CSVPA, we will support you through individual portfolio workshops, providing interview practice, whilst helping you to identify the right university to apply to in order to be successful in the career pathway you wish to take.

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