

NCAD - YOUR PORTFOLIO – YOUR WAY

Fine Art Guidelines

The following guidelines may be used when applying to **Fine Art**. Please note that these are simple guidelines to get you started on your portfolio journey and do not have to be followed.

If you do decide to follow them, we suggest that you come up with your own ideas for the guidewords.

Pick one or more of the following guide words to explore.

Expansion	Territory	Remnant
Departure	Encounter	Restriction
Gradient	Hurdle	Affinity

For example; go to your local bus station/train station/airport and find a comfortable seat. Spend some time documenting the busy atmosphere of the area and the people you **encounter** or who encounter each other. Try to capture the moment, or a particular movement or colour.

Paint or sculpt or document, **restricting** a certain colour or shape; how does the world look with no triangles or the colour pink?

Explore your local **territory**, whether it is your bedroom, or the kitchen or your local park. Observe everything, document things that interest you, delve deeper into things that might be ordinary to most people, but may be interesting to you. For example, could you draw the negative space in your cutlery drawer, or paint a tree using just colour blocks? Could you sculpt an object from everyday items or document an exchange? The possibilities are endless.

Your Portfolio will be assessed using the following criteria:

1. Research and observation

Constantly question what you see. Try to see ordinary things in an extraordinary way. Document your findings through photography, drawings, mark making, painting, sculpting or video. What makes something interesting to you? Is it the texture, the colour, the arrangement of lines? Record your findings, and enjoy your exploration, visually describing what you are seeing or experiencing. Research artists that you admire and try to discover what exactly it is about their work that you like.

2. Creative ideas - outcomes of your research and observation

We know that you are a creative thinker. So show us how you take an idea, a concept, the simplest of notions, it needn't be complex and turn it into something that we want to see. Have fun with any solutions you come up with, even if you don't think you will follow through on a particular idea. Try to understand your world in a way that makes sense to you and document this process. Expand your thinking and be open to experimentation.

3. Developed creative work

Take one of your creative ideas and develop it; take it to a conclusion. It could be through any of the Fine Art disciplines, Paint, Print, Sculpture, Media etc. This is your opportunity to show us your skill and your dedication to your practice.

Creative Notebook

Your notebooks can show any extra project development like planning, thoughts and notes. They should be full of ideas from your Observation and Research stage, right through to your final conclusions. We are also interested in the designers that inspire you, the drawings that didn't quite fit in the portfolio or the hobbies, art, school projects or work experience that you didn't get chance to show. We would suggest that you try to get into the habit of bringing a notebook with you at all times so that you never miss a good idea.

For information on the practicalities of submitting your portfolio to NCAD, [please CLICK HERE](#)

Helpful Information

Throughout the year, NCAD runs several Portfolio Information sessions, workshops and clinics. These will be in November and January and will be clearly advertised on our website. These events are specifically designed by our expert portfolio assessment teams to help you with your portfolio. If at all possible, you should try to attend at least one of these events. These events are free but places are limited, so be sure to check back on the website regularly in order to book your free place.