

**College of Arts and Sciences**

**Division of Communications, Visual, and Performing Arts**

**Art and Film Program**

# B.F.A. in Studio Art - Portfolio Guidelines

The Bachelor in Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree in Studio Art offers an interdisciplinary approach to the visual arts with coursework in Art History, Ceramics, Digital Imaging, Drawing, Film, Fiber, Graphic Design, Glass, Painting, Printmaking, Photography, and Sculpture.

Portfolio reviews of creative work are a prerequisite in the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program. Two portfolio reviews are required for the B.F.A in Studio Art degree program. One initial review to gain admission to the program: Admittance Portfolio Review and one prior to graduation: Senior Project Portfolio Review. Portfolios are reviewed by a committee of program faculty led by the Program Coordinator. The Art Minor does not require a portfolio review.

## Process:

**Admittance Portfolio Review:** Admittance into the art program is competitive. Prior to the portfolio review all students are admitted into the program conditionally, subject to the student’s performance. Students are strongly encouraged to complete at least 12 credits of studio art courses before submitting for the review. The recommendation is after completion of Foundation Courses: 2-D Design, 3-D Design, Basic Drawing, plus one additional core studio/production course.

The portfolio can include artworks in all mediums including those created in Foundations courses, artwork created in other college and/or high school courses, as well as work created outside the classroom that showcase the best of the student’s conceptual focus, knowledge of design, and craftsmanship.

Transfer students who have completed the recommended courses before admittance to GSU are encouraged to submit their portfolio during their first semester at GSU.

*All students once admitted to GSU and declaring Art as a major, must pass the portfolio review within one year for permanent admittance into the program*. Grades and/or overall GPA do not determine the success of the portfolio review although they can be used as an indicator of potential. It is recommended that a BFA seeking student have a B or better in any studio/production course. The determination of permanent admittance is made on the overall quality and competency of the portfolio as outlined in the “Tips” below as well as student aptitude in the program thus far.

**Senior Project Portfolio Review:** Senior Project is completed in the last term of the student’s studies and culminates in participation in a BFA student exhibition. Permission to register for the Senior Project will be granted upon successful completion of the portfolio review. For this portfolio, students are encouraged to present a body of work that demonstrates the development of an individual voice and aesthetic. The portfolio can include work in any medium that confirms the most fully realized combination of skill and concept. Artwork should be finished and be of the highest quality possible. Grades and/or overall GPA do not determine the success of the portfolio review although they can be used as an indicator of competency. The portfolio is submitted to the email of three professors the student chooses as their Senior Project committee and to the email [artportfolio@govst.edu](mailto:artportfolio@govst.edu)

If students do not pass the Senior Project portfolio review at their first attempt, feedback will be given by the committee and they may choose make a second portfolio review attempt the following term.

# Portfolio - Content and Format

**Studio Art: Submit via email a minimum of 10 images of artwork and Portfolio Review Application to** [**artportfolio@govst.edu**](mailto:artportfolio@govst.edu)Email with attached files not to exceed 10MB

The portfolio can include creative work from any medium or discipline:

* Two-dimensional work (drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, collage, mixed media, etc.)
  + - * Three-dimensional work (ceramics, sculpture, jewelry & metals, glass, etc.)
      * Digital Media (animation, web design, digital imaging, video, film etc.)
      * Graphic design
      * Installation art

**Film Arts:** submit via email to [**artportfolio@govst.edu**](mailto:artportfolio@govst.edu) a minimum of three (Freshman / Sophomore) strong examples from any of these categories: screenwriting, production (including any assignments or completed projects in filmmaking), post-production (including editing assignments), and film theory/criticism (essays from film classes). It is recommended that students consult with the advisor as well as Film Arts faculty prior to submission.

Alternately you may send a link to the [**artportfolio@govst.edu**](mailto:artportfolio@govst.edu) email of an online portfolio (ie: Google drive folder), video, or web content created by you, but it must be limited to 10 submissions with descriptions that are included in your application. If you submit a One Drive link to your portfolio you will have to give permission to each faculty committee member to view your portfolio which may slow down your review

## Format - Portfolio images must conform to the following specifications:

* + **File Format:** Baseline Standard JPEG file only (Do NOT use PowerPoint or other presentation formats)
    - * **File Size:** a good quality image around 1800X1800 pixels at 72dpi or 6”X6” at 300 dpi.
      * **File Name:** Identify each image with name & number, for example: LastName-01.jpg. LastName-02.jpg. LastName-03.jpg

**Tips for What to Include in Your Portfolio -** Your portfolio will be evaluated based on the following equally weighted criteria:

* **Creativity:** Student’s work displays evidence of creativity, innovation, creative problem solving, and/or originality.
* **Conceptual Focus:** Student’s work exhibits a conceptual focus and/or visual logic. Work shows evidence of preliminary research. Process and design strategies are consistent with the concept.
* **Knowledge of Visual Elements**: Student’s work demonstrates knowledge of visual elements (line, shape, value, texture, and color).
* **Knowledge of Design Principles**: Student’s work demonstrates knowledge of design principles (repetition, contrast, balance, movement, emphasis, economy, unity/variety).
* **Craftsmanship:** Student’s work exhibits appropriate craftsmanship and presentation.
* **Variety:** Student’s work evidences various design approaches and creative strategies. There is a healthy variety in the work.

Make sure that you take these criteria into consideration when deciding what pieces to include in your portfolio. The most important aspect of the selection process is to include work you consider the strongest, and work that is representative of your artistic ability. To select the right pieces, you might also think about the cohesiveness of all of the works as you are trying to indicate how well you would perform as an art student in the program.

Here are a few questions you can ask yourself:

* What do I want to say with my art?
* Are these my best works? Get another peer’s opinion.
* Would I like my art to be seen together as a body of work?
* Would these pieces make a good exhibition together?
* Does my portfolio reflect my skill level (concept and creativity, design, craftsmanship, etc.)? Putting a portfolio together isn’t just about having each piece look good on its own, it is also about creating a cohesive picture of your artistic talent.
* Does this image reflect my ability to simply be a good technical mimic? Including attempts that you have made to mimic other more popular or famous artworks can be acceptable, but it may not tell the reviewer much about your artistic voice other than your ability to mimic. Consider why you are including a copy of an artwork by someone else.

## What Not to Include.

* Do not include unfinished or in-process works
* Do not include reproductions of cartoon characters.
* Additionally, you must abide by the University’s Academic Honesty Policy. Failure to do so could result in failing the BFA Portfolio Review. To review GSU’s Academic Honesty Policy, see Policy 24 at <http://www.govst.edu/policies/>

## Tips for Photographing/Documenting Your Work:

Submitting your work digitally means that you will need to correctly document work that is not already in digital format. For example, if you would like to include a drawing as one of your images, you will need to take a high-quality digital photo of the drawing.

Use a good digital camera (not your phone) with the highest resolution (minimum 10 mega-pixels). Make sure that the artwork is squared in the viewfinder, well lit, and in focus. It is important to record color and exposure accurately, so be sure to set the proper camera exposure and “White Balance” for the lighting conditions (consult your camera manual).

It is also important to eliminate distracting backgrounds by filling the viewfinder as much as possible with the artwork (but not cropping the artwork itself) and by using a background of neutral color; if these cannot be controlled, then you are encouraged to carefully crop out the distracting backgrounds in a photo-editing program.

Seek the help or advice from any of your professors or advanced students in the program. Check-out a digital camera from the photo lab or a faculty member. Additionally, look online for any resources that will help you document/photograph your artwork.

Consult with either the Program Coordinator or a mentoring faculty member if you have remaining questions or concerns about the Portfolio Review Process.

# Review of Your Portfolio:

Upon receipt of the portfolio you should receive a confirmation receipt email. If you do not receive this email it could be because your file size was too large to pass through. Please consult your file size. Upon completion of review you will be contacted via email as to the status of your application. Please allow up to 2-4 weeks for review process. Contact the Program Coordinator with questions or concerns.

# BFA Portfolio Review Application

**Please submit with images to Artportfolio@govst.edu**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Applying for Admittance \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or Senior Project \_\_\_\_\_\_

Year of Study: Freshman \_\_\_ Sophomore \_\_\_ Junior \_\_\_ Senior \_\_\_\_\_

Transfer student: yes \_\_\_ no\_\_\_ Expected medium emphasis (if known) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Expected Graduation Date \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Image List:**

Title Medium Size HxWxD Year

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