

## The Arts Foundations Review

Each student wishing to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree in Art Education, Studio Art, or Graphic Design must go through a Visual Art Foundations Review in the fall semester of the year in which they will have completed the Foundations Sequence of Art 120, 130, 140, 150. Students in the Visual Art Studio or Graphic Design emphases may also have completed Art 200 (Using Color) and GDES 210 (Graphic Design I). Transfer students should sign up their first enrolled semester at UTM or immediately after the completion of four out of five of the foundation classes. Admission to the B.F.A. program at UT Martin is contingent on acceptance by the successful passing of this review.

The Visual Art Foundations Review consists of the student presenting 10- 15 pieces of work in a portfolio presentation before a panel of the art faculty. These pieces will come from the Foundations Courses (Art 120, 130, 140, 150, 200, and GDES 210) and any additional courses taken up to that point. Generally, students sign up for a time slot on the designated dates selected by the art faculty. Adequate prior notice will be given.

Students should choose the strongest pieces they've completed during their first three semesters. Proper care of these pieces is needed to ensure an effective presentation. In addition, students will be asked questions about their work to which it is expected they will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of the basic elements and principles of art that they have learned in their classes.

The point system used in determining the resulting score from this review will be based on a ten-point quality evaluation, with "0" representing the least or poorest execution of the specific criteria and "5 or 10" the highest and most effective, depending on category. An overall acceptable score will range between 35 and 50. Any score less than 35 will merit the student returning at the end of the following semester for a second review. If the second review is unsuccessful the student will be advised to consider pursuing another major emphasis within the fine arts program or perhaps another disciplinary major altogether.

The evaluation criteria that students must consider for the review are as follows:

- Quantity of work 10-15 of the student's best work from the full range of foundation and other courses taken or are presently taking.
- Ability to verbalize knowledge of principles of design.
- Creative use of technical skill. o Knowledge of skills relevant to specific media is evident. o Project completeness and artwork care are evident.
- Dedication to the program through participation in League of Striving Artists, acceptance in juried art competitions on and/or off campus, or other outside events such as TACA, Potters' Council, The Arts Co-op, TAEA, TEA and professional art-related workshops and conferences.

As stated in the UT Martin catalogue, Department of Visual and Theatre Arts section, under the heading Admissions and Retention,

*"Only those students who make continuing and adequate progress (as defined by the faculty) in the Area of Emphasis will be allowed to continue beyond the second year."*

It is advisable that students undergoing this process demonstrate extra concern in the preparation and presentation of not only their work but also themselves. The art faculty strongly supports the belief that the presented work and the understanding of it have direct correlation to the student's progress and interest in the program.

## Snyder Visual Arts Scholarship Award (SVASA)

Students who score in the top 20% of the Foundations Review will be notified of their eligibility for the SVASA at the end of the fall semester of the year they review. Those students will have until January 31<sup>st</sup> to submit their application to the department chair for one \$1000 scholarship to be awarded the following fall. Once notified, students should submit (1) a resume that highlights academics, service, and scholarship, and (2) a 250-500-word essay providing a synopsis of their involvement with and dedication to the arts. A panel of visual arts faculty will select the winner based on applications.