

Welcome and Welcome back!

ArtQuest Photography 2020-21 School Year!

Dear Parents and Students,

I'm John Sappington and I am the AQ Photography Teacher for the 2020-21 school year. - my 4th year in the program. I am an artist and educator working primarily in photography and digital media. I graduated with a Bachelors Degree of Fine Arts in Photography from the Kansas City Art Institute and a Masters Degree of Fine Arts in Photography from the San Francisco Art Institute. I hold a California Teaching Credential to teach Art/Digital Media for Kindergarten through 12th Grades. I have 20 years teaching experience at the College Level and this will be my 9th year teaching here in ARTQUEST! My own art work within photography and image making draws from a range of diverse influences including photo history, conceptual art, performance art, semiotics, linguistics and sociology. I have worked as a journalist, photographer, artist, educator, curator and IT Specialist over the course of my professional career. I am a proud parent of two college students, Stella and Hugo and I continue to live in Sebastopol. More information regarding my activities as an artist and educator, as well as my credentials and portfolio are available via at my website at <https://www.basearts.com/>

AQ Theme for 2020-21 is "Question • Disrupt • Create • Change" a call to action for artist activists.

As a cohesive programmatic theme this year we will work with concepts resulting from current socio-cultural events, protests, actions, activities and concerns "Question • Disrupt • Create • Change" is both a call to action for all artists and encapsulates the artistic process we all engage in when making art.

AQ uses a theme each year to connect the various arts and core-related classes and to create an overarching artistic dialogue throughout the program regarding shared topics, cultural conditions, situations and ideas, some relevant to a particular time or context, some focused on a specific performing or visual art work, some humorously thoughtful about the human condition, and some a serious investigations of political or social issues. Interpreted in a wide array by teachers and students, through projects, events, other activities the outcomes generated have been delightfully surprising. Past AQ themes have been: From the Inside/Out..., Objects In The Mirror Are Closer than They Appear, And Still We Rise..., Its not about the Destination, its about the Journey (2015-16), The Other (94-95), The Coexistence of Order & Chaos (95-96), No Theme ? (aka It's a Mystery!) (96-97), What is Real? Is it Real? (97-98) etc...

IMPORTANT FALL DATES:

- **Monday August 31, 2020** : Forms & Lab Contributions deadline.
- **Back to School Night September 17th**, - 6:30-9pm
- **October OCTOBER 8, 6:30 pm**: "ArtQuest 26th Annual Fall Showcase of Programs", beginning at 6:30 pm in the Auditorium. This is an evening for prospective students and families, to find out more about the opportunities ArtQuest has to offer, as well as current ArtQuest families to learn more about the program. Please plan to attend and also help us spread the word. Early application is highly recommended due to limited space.
- **Tuesday October TBD to November TBD**, "Shadowing", ArtQuest offers students interested in the ArtQuest program the opportunity to "Shadow" a specialty for a day. Shadowing is by appointment only. Call (707) 535-4842 for more information and to schedule your student. Monday through Thursday.
- ArtQuest Application Deadline for Fall 2020 Entry Priority Deadline is **TBD**

Parents, I look forward to meeting you at Back to School Night and I thank you for supporting your child's interest in the arts and photography.

Students, I am honored and excited to be working with you as you embark on your new photography filled life.

John Sappington
ArtQuest Photography
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Instructor: John Sappington

Level 1 - Beginning - Class Schedule:

Google Classrooms: __Will be accessible via Classlink__ /Room 23

Monday Tuesday Thursday Friday

PERIODS 1st and 2nd 8:30-9:50

Levels 2 & 3 - Intermediate / Advanced - Class Schedule:

Google Classrooms: __Will be accessible via Classlink__ /Room 23

Monday Tuesday Thursday Friday - 10:05-11:25 am

PERIODS 3rd and 4th

Office Hours :

Wed. 9-12 by appointment - *subject to change*

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to ArtQuest Photography. All the ArtQuest teachers are excited about the opportunity to meet each and every one of our unique students. Our goal is to help each student grow as successful individuals in the classroom and beyond. The following packet of information is to explain a little bit about what students might expect from this course and provide some guidelines for success in this award-winning program in general and Photography in particular. Welcome (& welcome back) to school and to the SRHS ArtQuest Photography program. Please read these next 3 pages carefully and save it for future reference. **I require that students and a parent or guardian sign the linked Google form and that the student return it to me no later than Friday, August 31, 2019.** Hopefully this outline of the course description, expectations and rules will help to answer questions. Parents/Guardians are welcome to email me with any questions or concerns.

John Sappington: jsappington@srcs.k12.ca.us

Overview

Photography has been the most powerful visual art medium and form of communication since the mid19th century. The purpose of this course is to develop an expressive visual language utilizing the medium of photography and to explore the ways in which photography has impacted our culture, our histories and our lives. Questions about what photographs do will be explored as well as how we can make photographs that will impact our communities. Problems and assignments are structured to develop a personal vision and to build a working knowledge of photographic materials and methods.

The four artistic processes of the **California Visual Art Standards** are an integral part of the photography curriculum. The visual arts standards describe expectations for learning in the visual arts regardless of style or genre. The standards impart the breadth and depth of the visual art experience through the art-making process. The standards serve as an impetus for arts educators and administrators to inspire, support, and develop their students in the many facets of visual arts so they are prepared for a lifelong appreciation, understanding, engagement and, if pursued, additional study towards a career in visual arts.

Like the other disciplines, the four artistic processes of visual arts (creating, presenting, responding, and connecting) are addressed linearly in written standards, but are envisioned to occur simultaneously for students in the actual practice of visual art. The concepts embedded in the standards reflect the scope of learning—the knowledge, skills, and understandings—taught through study of the visual arts. An artist imagines, executes, reflects, and refines work before finally completing a piece of work (creating), shares or displays the work (presenting), reflects on the completed work (responding), and connects the experience to other contexts of meaning or knowledge (connecting). Students engaging in the artistic process learn by solving problems, exhibiting their work, and thinking critically about it; then, they continue the process by relating other ideas, contexts, and meanings to their own as they refine their future work to a more sophisticated level.

Development of content (message or concept), artistic vision and style, critical thinking, judgment skills and technical skills will all be emphasized. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to meet local fine art and commercial photographers to interact and learn more about photography as a course of study and/or profession. ArtQuest Photography classes will incorporate the visual arts standards at the appropriate levels.

It is assumed that students who have applied and have been accepted to the Photography program have a deep interest in Art and Photography.

We will look at art in various forms and from many cultures. We will study and engage with elements and principles of art. We will develop and refine skills utilizing a variety of software. We will make artworks on paper and on the computer. We will discuss and make artwork in response to historical and contemporary cultural issues as well as artwork addressing more personal issues. We will investigate the interrelationships of art and technology as well as the relationship of art to other aspects of contemporary culture.

Course Description

The course curriculum is designed to make each photography student competent in both the technical and aesthetic aspects of the photographic medium.

Technical aspects include the use of the camera, film, and film processing and printing. An emphasis will be placed on craft and presentation. Students will also develop an understanding of photographic image in terms of light, shape, form, and organization of the 2D plane. Beyond this, each student will be encouraged to use photography to develop a personal vision and to explore an autobiographical concept in his or her work.

Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate how to use a 35mm SLR manual camera and a Digital Single Lens Reflex ; process black and white film, enlarge prints from the negatives and digital files and have a basic understanding of camera technologies, filters, print and web based distribution and presentation methods.
- Students should be in the process of developing a photographers eye by exploring the history of photography through photographers who have made a difference and through the variety of photographic assignments.
- Recognize the importance of personal experience and express it in visual terms.
- Explore a variety of content issues including current cultural and world events, school, community and personal issues that are meaningful to the student.
- Explore alternative photographic processes.
- Research and recognize prominent photographers, their artworks, movements and styles from various times and cultures.
- Consider how photography has influenced the world and is influenced by society today. Identify the effects of media on our culture. Consider what role photographers have played in our culture.
- Develop critical thinking skills that enable one to describe, analyze, interpret and judge photographic works in writing as well as orally. Develop this into an artist statement about their work.
- Visit several galleries and conduct a formal gallery review of artworks.
- Present and discuss work in a portfolio review.
- Keep all photographs and written work, lesson plans and graded rubrics organized and accessible in a binder.

Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory for individual development and for the valuable contributions that each class member has to give the group. These contributions of opinion, information, and discovery are an essential element for a stimulating studio environment. Tardiness will affect the entire class's progress, thus affecting the student's grade.

Students are expected to arrive to each class on time and be prepared to engage with the curriculum for the duration of the class period. Attendance will be taken by either roll call or visual observation at the beginning of each class. Excessive unexcused absences or tardies will result in a lower grade.

Grading Criteria

You will earn a grade for every assignment. In addition, you will receive grades for the work in your sketchbook. Incomplete and/or late work will result in lower points for each day past the due date. For Example: A project grade of A- becomes a B+ if handed in by the next class meeting an A- becomes a B if handed in by the second class meeting past the due date, etc. In addition, grades will reflect the student's:

- Ability to demonstrate a grasp of curriculum material through the creation of exceptional artwork.
- Originality in execution of high quality ideas.
- Ongoing dedication to developing creative/artistic growth, techniques, and visual library.
- Desire to analyze, implement, and challenge suggestions received during all critiques.
- Quality of craftsmanship and degree of professional presentation.
- Appropriate use of lab and equipment during school hours.
- Appropriate use of time during lab hours.
- Effectively meeting or surpassing any requirements of this course.

While there is not a specific grade for behavior, I do grade on your level of participation. Complete all assignments to the best of your abilities and submit them on time in order to receive full value for the assignments.

Rules

- Full Name must be used and not changed during the session when connecting via Zoom
- Camera should be on to start the session.
- Mic should be muted to start and unmuted only when speaking.
- You must be fully dressed and out of bed to attend the class.
- Keep personal chat to a minimum - remember, chat feed is accessible to everyone and me at the end of the session.

We will discuss Zoom and Google Classroom expectations and guidelines more extensively when we meet.

(We will discuss lab procedures and rules related to dangers specific to the photographic lab, hazardous materials, chemicals etc. for the classroom studio in extensive detail when we resume face to face instruction.)

Additionally, you must follow all school-wide rules and as they are detailed for you in the SRHS Student Handbook. Make sure that you have a copy.

Our classroom rules are simple, and they revolve around respect and responsibility.

- Be Respectful of other people and their work.
- Be Respectful of yourself and your own work. Consistently do your best.
- Be Respectful of the classroom, environment, supplies and equipment.
- Be Responsible in all that you use. Use equipment appropriately. Keep everything in the studio in good repair.
- Be Responsible regarding the expectations for each assignment.
- Be Responsible to produce the best work you can and turn it in on time.

Required Materials and Lab Donation:

The Camera

Beginning AQ Photography students are required to use a 35mm, manual Single Lens Reflex (SLR) camera with a 50mm lens for the first year of participation. Intermediate students are required to have a Digital (SLR) in the second year of participation with a minimum of one kit lens (17/18-55 or more). AQ Photography will provide the 35mm cameras with completion of the Equipment Loan Contract signed by the student and parent/guardian.

We use many high quality materials in this course. There is a lab materials contribution of **\$120.00** per year, per student. We are asking for this to be sent in as soon as possible so supplies and materials can be purchased. This donation covers the cost of the field trips, classroom materials, technology, darkroom chemistry, paper and other misc. supplies required throughout the year.

Face to face materials list (addition materials may be required):

- *Black and white film is \$4.00 per roll. (All students should purchase their film through this photo department. This is to alleviate the multitude of mistakes that students make each year by purchasing the wrong film.)*
- *Plastic negative/proof sheets for each roll of film are \$.75 each.*
- *Presentation materials \$2.00 per print.*
- *Three ring binder 1 1/2- 2" thick*
- *Scissors (small, blunt tip)*
- *Flash Drive*

Journal/Sketchbook

All students will be required to maintain a journal or sketchbook. Do not underestimate the value of your journal/sketchbook and its impact on your artistic development and your final grade. Frequent out of class research assignments documented in your sketchbook will be required. The instructor strongly suggests that students dedicate a minimum of 5 hours of sketchbook a week (1 hour a day) in addition to the 10 hours of regular class lecture/lab time. Sketchbooks are not only for drawing but for storing concepts, quotes, significant historical information, images from magazines, writing down dreams, pasting your fortune from a fortune cookie, etc. Your sketchbook is your vault of ideas and your future text book for life. Make the sketchbook your constant companion.