



What Makes A Good Portfolio Submission?

The primary purpose of the Los Angeles Academy of Figurative Art (LAAFA) is to educate and train artists in both the technical and philosophical use of the figure as it pertains to representation in the fields of drawing, painting and entertainment art. With this in mind we don't expect your portfolio submissions to be perfect. However, we do require seeing experience and interest that aligns with our mission statement and goals.

A good portfolio will contain the following, for a total of 15 pieces:

- Short observational sketches from life. A short sketch should take about 5 minutes, conveying gesture and form. A single page may have multiple images.
- Longer more studied pieces from life either taken to a finish or demonstrating an attempt at finish.

Finish means an image that you would consider a complete toned and shaded study of the subject.

- A required drawing that attempts to show technical abilities of shadow, light, tone and composition.
- 5 of the best pages from your sketchbook. This will count as 1 portfolio piece.
- We would like to see a few pieces that would relate to your chosen concentration or career goals.

Work may be in a variety of media, although we are principally interested in your **drawing skills**.

The shorter sketches should display a sense of fluidity within only a few minutes. The longer studies will show the underlying form and construction, with some sense of how to apply tone to indicate light and shadow.

Please note: We are not looking for flawless submissions. Our goal is to see that you have potential to succeed in the program or track that you choose. Importantly, work in your portfolio **should not** be based on photographic reference, unless it is a Master Study, in which you recreate from observation a well-known work of art.

What we are looking for in a portfolio:

Can you effectively convey your creative process? Draw in a personal way, rather than in a mechanical way. Communicate a strong sense of realism, which also captures the essence of the subject. Submit a portfolio of images that holds relevance to you, not

selecting random objects to draw.

Create a portfolio that is selective. Take time to create your portfolio. Carefully select your pieces, eliminating your weaker work. Start and end with your strongest artwork. Convey a sense of passion, commitment and enthusiasm for each piece. Focus on the kind of work you would like to create professionally, in traditional or entertainment art.

Submit direct observational drawing by making realistic representations of objects or scenes that have been viewed directly in real life. They can be produced using any medium or combination of mediums demonstrating your diversity, and skill, as well as an interest in learning new things.

Composition is a very important part of the artistic process. Make every effort to be sure that the elements of your image are well arranged to be the subject of your artwork and that your overall image is well composed on the page.

Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the tools and materials used to create visual arts, either traditionally or digitally. Prove to our faculty and admissions team that you can potentially record shape, proportion, tone, perspective, surface qualities, detail, space and form.

Be observant of the world around you and attempt to capture it in your artwork. Explore a range of interesting subject matter. Draw a landscape, still

life, portrait, animal, human figure, interior or exterior environments, costumes, props or any other interesting everyday object. Focus on your degree/certificate concentration.

Presentation is also a very important part of the artistic process. **We accept images as jpg image files that are 72 DPI.** Make every effort to be sure that your images are photographed in even light, that they are well lit and well exposed, and that they are cropped to exclude all non-art areas of the photograph.