

Investigative Workbooks (I.W.B.'s)

WHAT IS AN IWB?

An IWB is an investigative workbook. It is a sketchbook that becomes a working journal of your life as an artist over the course of a semester. You should have your sketchbook by the first week of class either purchasing from your teacher or an independent retailer. If you are going to purchase your own sketchbook, please make sure to check with your instructor first to ensure you are buying the right kind of book. For the junior classes there should be a minimum of 50 pages in each book. The senior level classes require more.

WHERE DO I START?

Put your name and address (or school address) inside the front cover. A phone number or email address is essential – you don't want to lose it! Also, put the date. Then leave the first page blank. This can be used as a table of contents later. Now number each page on the bottom right. You will only be using only one side of each paper.

Good working habits

- *Work in your IWB everyday!* – get into the habit, start today. Several good IWB sessions spread throughout the week are always better than hours of rushed work late at night! Remember that drawing and designing your IWB pages will be an excellent creative break from other types of study – you should enjoy it!
- *When you finish working* in your IWB for the day always put the date including the year. This is so that your progress throughout the course can be clearly seen.
- *When you write in your IWB* always use a black pen and write clearly. This is because I need to read it. You should try to make your IWB a pleasure to look at and read! Don't use coloured pens to write with unless it's really appropriate to your work.
- *Never ever cut or tear pages out* of your IWB! Don't stick pages together even if you think you've made a mistake or a terrible drawing. The IWB has to show mistakes, good work and very importantly your development as an artist over a period of time – if you hide your weaker work how can anyone see how you've improved?
- When drawing something from observation (looking at a model or still life) write down where you are and why you have chosen to draw it. A photograph of the subject can be very useful if you are going to develop the sketch into a painting or a sculpture.
- *If you have used a book or the internet* to find an image or information, always write down the full address as reference in your IWB – you may need to find the information again at a later date. The same goes for magazine articles, television programmes, music and films. Sources of information must always be acknowledged!

Help! What should I write about in my IWB?

- There should be written comments on every page of your IWB even if you just write the date.
- You should make comments on your feelings, how your work is progressing and what successes you have had. You should also write about any technical problems you have had and how you've solved them as well as any research into the topic you have done.

- You should write down any connections you might see between Art and your other courses. Make links and follow up your ideas! For instance, a description of a character in a novel might inspire a series of imaginative portraits, or the study of cells in science class might inspire some prints of tiny natural objects.
- You should make notes on which materials you have used in your studio projects. What type of paper, the type of medium, what type of glue gives the best results etc. If you chart your successes and what made them successful it is easy to repeat.
- When trying out any new mediums: inks, graphite, chalk pastel, oil pastel etc. experiment with it and find out what you can do with it (by drawing in your IWB) and make notes about what you discover. Imagine that you are carrying out a scientific experiment and recording your results.