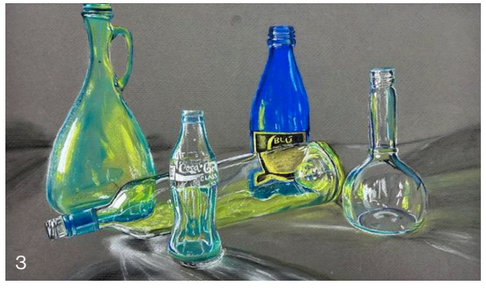
Drawings from Direct Observation



1


2


3

Drawing from direct observation means drawing, rendering, painting, etc. where you're creating the piece from directly observing the subject, **not through a photograph**. The use of materials is up to you: anything from working on a tablet to materials such as pencil, charcoal, or paint.

Scan the QR code to view our **portfolio requirements** and see which cities our College of Art and Design faculty will be visiting for NPD events.

Catch us on your favorite socials!
Follow us: **rit_artdesign**

Connect with Us and Learn More!

Apply: You can upload your portfolio electronically via the **RIT Admissions Portal**. An authenticated login will be required. Once your application is received you'll receive instructions on creating your admissions portal account. The portal is a one-stop shop, allowing you to monitor your application checklist, connect with an admissions counselor, and ultimately receive your admission.

Application Deadlines

- Early Decision I: **November 1**
- Early Decision II: **January 1**
- Early Action: **November 1**
- Regular Decision: **January 15**

Prior to submitting a portfolio, there are several ways for you to receive feedback! Faculty from the College of Art and Design travel around the country to **National Portfolio Day** events. The College also offers virtual portfolio review opportunities in which students can meet with faculty.

No admissions decisions or scholarships are offered at these events, but RIT's College of Art and Design can accept your portfolio. Acceptance of your portfolio does not guarantee acceptance to RIT.

For any questions regarding portfolio guidelines or the submission process, please contact RIT's College of Art and Design at **portfolios@rit.edu**.

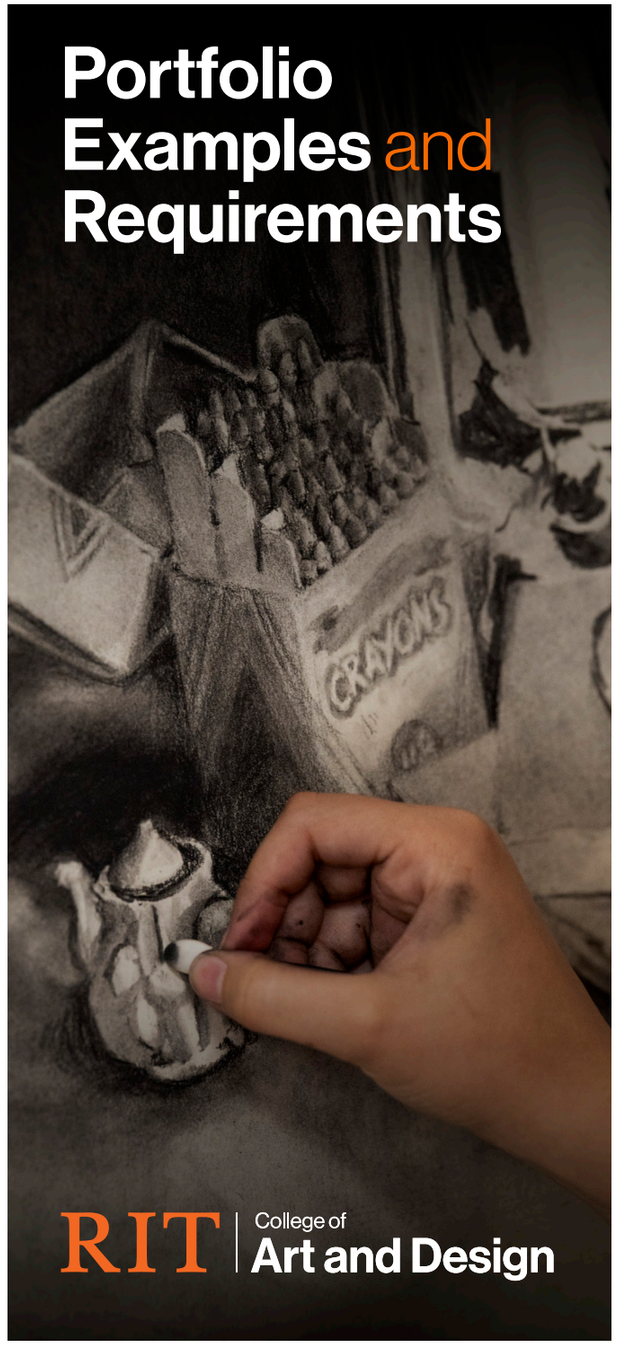
Visit Campus

The RIT campus is located in a suburb just south of Rochester, N.Y. Whether you can visit in person or want to experience virtually, we offer opportunities every day for prospective undergraduate students to get to know RIT. Go to **rit.edu/visit** to learn more.

Credits:
Cover image shot by Elizabeth Lamark

Artwork credits:
Jess Orsino: 1
Jessica Hall: 2, 14
Maggie Kerr: 3
Lucille McLaren: 4
Carrie Edwards: 5
Bayon Dienta: 6
Ava Guarino: 7, 9
Jala Afif-Hayes: 8
Colin Norland: 10
Amy King: 11
Delilah Duffy: 12
Bari Hayden: 13

Portfolio Examples and Requirements



RIT | College of Art and Design

Portfolio Requirements

Creativity and Originality

The ideas you present are just as important as the work itself. You can demonstrate creativity through innovative ideas and content, interesting composition and proficient use of materials. Portfolios will be reviewed based on pictorial composition, storytelling, creativity/originality of ideas, drawing and design ability, a sense for the use of materials, and attention to detail.

Portfolio pieces (**7-10 pieces**) could include but are not limited to:

- **2D work:** paintings, drawings, collages, photographs, digital art, prints
- **Sculptures** made from clay or other materials
- **Fiber** and **mixed media** work
- **Design**-based artwork
- **Marker** renderings
- **3D modeling** and renderings (both digital and physical)
- **Animations** or **storyboards**
- **Original character designs** or sketches
- **Photographs**
- **Puppets**
- **Graphic novel** pages
- **Video files** of sketchbook page turning
- **Video** or scene from a film

Do not include:

- AI-generated artwork. All work must be completely original.
- Artwork copied from photographs, comics, fantasy, movies, or pop culture
- Scripts, creative writing, short stories, or written code

Since drawing is the foundation of many of our disciplines, the BFA programs in Illustration, Medical Illustration, Painting and Printmaking (Studio Arts BFA options) require that applicants include drawings from direct observation.

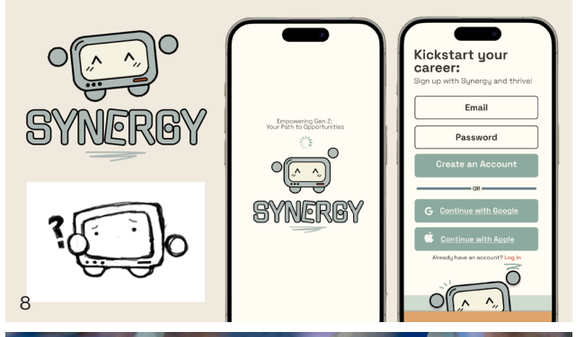
The BFA in Photographic and Imaging Arts, BFA in New Media Design, BS in Photographic Sciences, and BS in Motion Picture Science **do not require** a portfolio for admission.


4


5

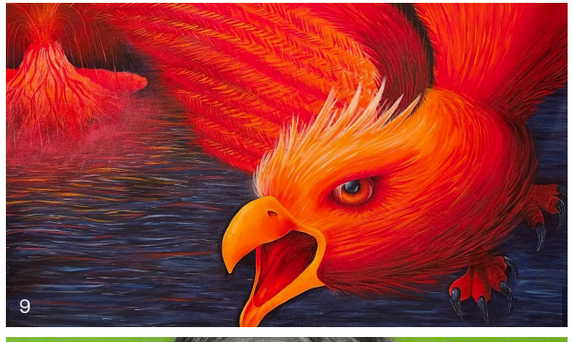

6


7



8

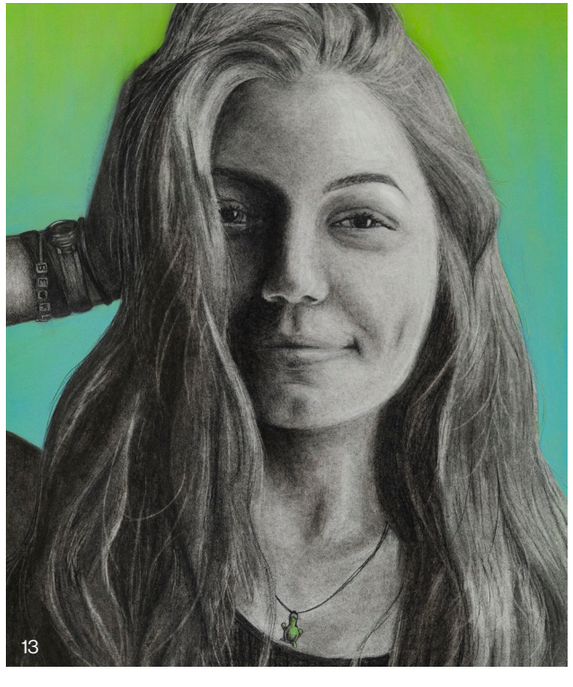

11

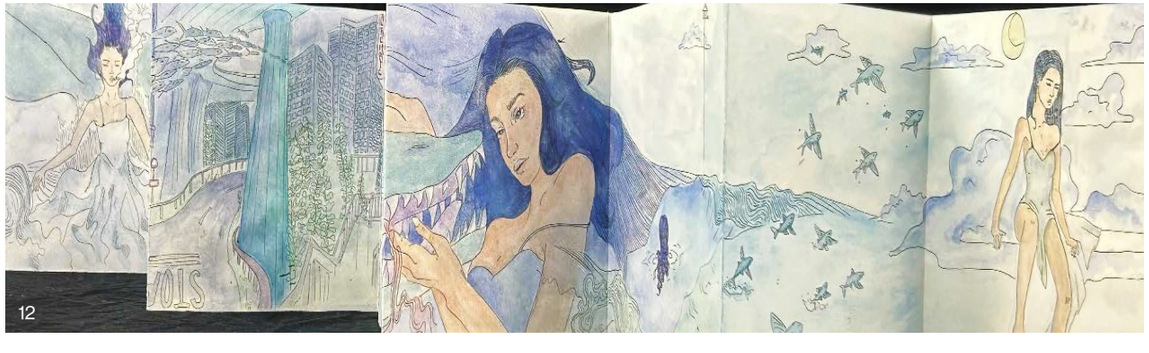

9


14



10


13


12