

The Junior College Question

In the past several years the price for art school tuition has risen dramatically. On average the cost of a four year degree to a major art school, and in most cases, minor ones, has risen to a staggering \$160,000 including living expenses but not including the cost for books and art supplies. The rise in tuition costs is continuing. Parents are going so far as to re-finance homes in order to pay for tuition costs or facing student loan debt with increasing interest rates. To help stem the cost of private art schools I suggest, even recommend, junior college for the first two years of general education study. This offers a great many benefits, not to mention the savings of two years of extremely costly tuition. Should a student choose this route to an art degree from a private college, they will not have to take SAT or ACT tests and if they complete the two year program colleges will, in most cases, disregard High School transcripts as a means of determining eligibility. Another factor is that High Schools, even private ones, simply do not offer the necessary art training to for admission to art colleges. In fact, after significant research, I have found that most students currently enrolled in art colleges throughout the country, have had some to a significant amount of extra-curricular art training in order to complete a competitive portfolio. If this recommendation is taken seriously, and it is very difficult to convince students, they will be able to continue working on portfolio submission while at the same time studying their General Education course work and saving parents an enormous amount of money. Consider the alternative. I am always should you wish to talk further.

Gregory D. Mansi

Director

gregorymansi@valleyartinstitute.com

Junior Program at VAI

We have begun a new junior college preparatory program at Valley Art Institute. This program is geared toward junior high school students ages 12 and up who are identified as having talent in the visual arts. The program will consist of classes in foundation drawing and painting in order to develop a basic skill set as early as possible. This early training will be beneficial should the student wish to apply to an art college after high school and pursue a career in the visual arts. As tuition prices increase at art colleges and universities all across the country, this early training will assist in a better portfolio and increase the likelihood for significant scholarship for college study

NEW STUDENT DRIVE

VAI is now accepting applications for new students. We are focusing on junior high school students in an attempt to identify those who may wish to apply to art college after high school. Early identification and training will assist the student in gaining acceptance to art college as well as increase the possibility of receiving scholarship money. We are asking that parents and friends of current students help to promote our program of studies at Valley Art Institute. We will be offering significant discounts in the coming quarters for referrals to our school. For more information contact Greg Mansi at the school and he will give you details about the program and the specific tuition discounts for referrals to the school. All college preparatory referrals are accepted.

New Contact information for VAI

info@valleyartinstitute.com

818-712-0819

New classes offered at Valley Art Institute for Winter 06-07 Quarter

VAI will be offering three brand new classes this winter for our college preparatory students. **3-D Self-Portraiture and Drawing/Composition in Soft Pastel and Character Design** will be taught by Justine T. Bruner and James Levy (former VAI student and Sophomore at Otis College of Art and Design. Anyone who has admired Justine's use of the pastel medium will enjoy this class immensely. These offerings have already met with a considerable amount of interest by students so please register early. Spaces will be limited due to the size of the projects and the limited space. Check out the current schedule for days and times.

GALLERY FOR VAI STUDENTS NOW BEING BUILT

Students of VAI are encouraged to send jpeg images of their best work for insertion in our new student gallery on the website. Please send images to info@valleyartinstitute.com so that we may include your work in the gallery presentation. We would like to have this completed by the middle of January 2007 so send it on. By mid -year the website will feature one student artist per quarter with a special gallery page.

CONTINUING STUDY AFTER THE APPLICATION PROCESS IS COMPLETE

Students who are completing the application process for Fall 2007 art school admission should seriously consider continuing with art training for the important purpose of keeping up your skill level. Life drawing, especially, should be continued during that period of time from the completion of the portfolio to the time you enter art college. Without this students can find themselves very rusty at the onset of foundation year and very frustrated. Keep up the drawing.