

# PORTFOLIO GUIDELINES

# PAFA

Pennsylvania Academy  
of the Fine Arts

Application to the *Fine Arts Certificate* requires an art portfolio of **12-15 images of original work**, which will be reviewed for both admission and institutional grant consideration. Consider the **following key elements of a successful portfolio**:

## TECHNICAL SKILL

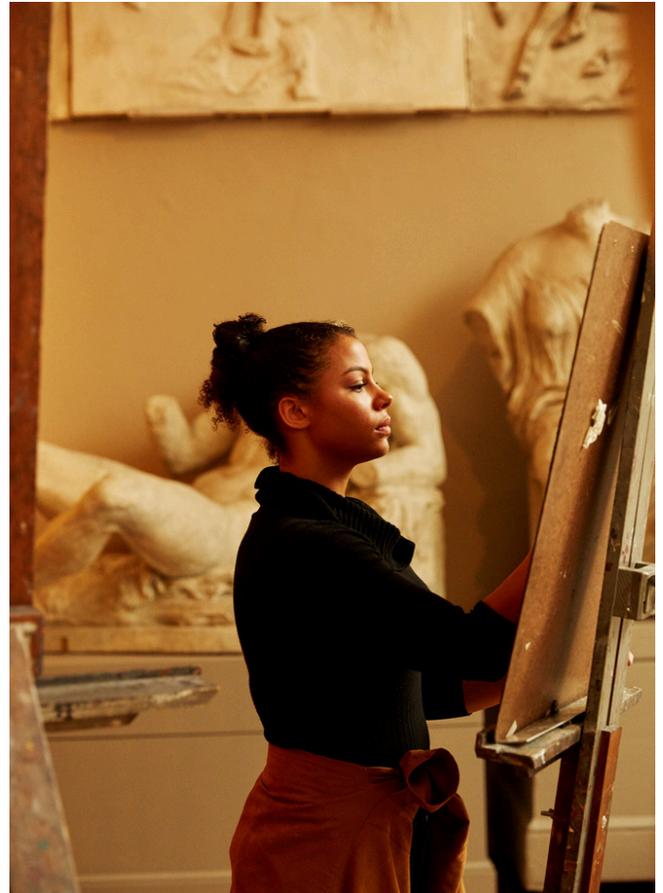
Provide **examples of observational work**, especially drawing. An observational work is any piece that you create while looking at actual subject matter, such as a still-life or portrait. We recommend not using photographs for reference, as it is important to evaluate your ability to render a three-dimensional space.

## AMBITION

Ambition can mean a lot of things - experimenting with size, materials, subject matter, etc. Include **work made outside of class assignments**, and make sure you identify it as such in the description. Your work should tell us about **your goals and interests**.

## CREATIVITY

Your portfolio is just that - yours! Show us the direction you want to take as an artist. Your portfolio should be **curious about the world around you and should communicate your point of view**. Do not submit fan art or copies.



### UPLOADING YOUR WORK

#### DO:

- Take images that are clear, well lit, and focused on the work
- Crop images to get rid of outside distractors
- Use JPEG format

#### DON'T:

- Upload screenshots from social media
- Use distorting filters or added text

Contact Admissions with questions or to schedule a portfolio review:  
admissions@pafa.edu, (215) 972 - 7625