UCLA Department of Art
Summer Art Institute for High School Artists 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS


Drawing (Session A, B & C)
Working in a variety of media, students in the Drawing course learn techniques for drawing from observation as well as from imagination. Students explore form, content, material, and ideas, to develop new approaches to making art. Individual and group critiques led by artist instructors help students expand their body of work, think conceptually, and learn to discuss the work of others. The course also addresses historical, contemporary, and experimental traditions in drawing.

Painting (Session B & C)
The Painting course offers students opportunities to investigate contemporary and historical concerns in painting, and to develop new approaches to making work. With instruction in composition, color mixing, technique, and exploring conceptual content, this course encourages students to experiment and innovate. Students also strengthen their art-making practice at the university level using class discussion and group critiques as critical tools for growth and development.

Photography (Session B & C)
This Photography course examines contemporary and historical photography with a focus on form, content, and new approaches to making photographs. Through workshops on camera operation and printing techniques, students learn the fundamentals of digital photography, experiment with Dark room techniques, and execute a wide range of projects and experiments. Individual and group critiques led by artist instructors help students expand their body of work and learn to discuss the work of others. Students must bring their own DSLR camera with manual mode.

Sculpture (Session B)
The Sculpture course is a unique opportunity to introduce students to sculptural techniques and interpretation rarely offered in high school curricula. Students examine the complex relationships between form, space, materials and meaning as they relate to contemporary and historical sculpture. Students in the sculpture concentration learn about a wide array of conceptual processes, construction methods, and materials in the UCLA sculpture lab. Through this course, students strengthen their art-making practice at the university level using class discussion as a critical tool for growth and development.

Video Art & Experimental Animation (Session A)
This course is designed to give students an opportunity to experiment with a range of art-making techniques, centered around the moving image. In addition to covering the foundations of video making, projects may include found-footage collage, short animation, music videos, live performance, and ad hoc set design and prop-making. The course will examine these experimental methods in the context of the history of video art and avant-garde filmmaking, using the rare collection of the UCLA New Genres video library. The class comprises a series of workshops designed to encourage experimentation and play with ideas and processes; students will learn core production skills using the department’s filming, recording, and editing equipment. Individual and group critiques will help students consider their work, and the work of their peers, critically and thoughtfully.
Experimental Animation will expand students’ notions of what art can be, building on their skills for making and unmaking meaning, helping them envision futures as artists and critical viewers.

Please note: Some course content will overlap between sections offered in both Session A, B & C; we recommend that students choose different sections if enrolling in different sessions (for example: Drawing in Session A and Sculpture in Session B).

For more information: www.summer.ucla.edu/institutes/Art
Summer Art Institute Student Gallery: www.art.ucla.edu/undergraduate/summerinstitute.html