

TIPS for EXTRAORDINARY Artwork

Ways for students to move their work from ordinary to extraordinary:
This list is meant to help you identify numerous ways to improve.

-Subject matter:

- INTERESTING DETAILS** of Object or Scene
- Choosing the “everyday” and letting the viewer examine in a new context
- Creating **AMBIGUITY** that requires “discovery” by the viewer
- A “snapshot” that seems to capture **CULTURAL CONTEXT**
- Visual connections to historical or cultural art (not to be confused with “copy work”)
- Personal connections to subject reveals “**ARTISTIC VOICE**”

-Composition:

- Interesting “**Point of View**” (close-up, birds-eye, unusual perspective, angles, foreshortening etc.)
- Treatment of **BACKGROUND** shows **THOUGHT** and **PLANNING** and works with composition
- Overall **BALANCE** with good **MOVEMENT** throughout composition
- Engagement of viewer with a “center of interest” or **EMPHASIS**
- Obvious use of other principles of design (**CONTRAST, PATTERN, RHYTHM**)

-Media/Technique:

- Obvious mastery of the technique/media through **DETAILS** &/or **EXPRESSION**
- COMBINATION** and/or **LAYERING** of techniques- push beyond a single layer or single media
- RISK TAKING**
- Work **EXCEEDS** the specific skills taught with **creative/innovative/expressive** technique
- Assertive **FORM/S** and use of **SPACE** through media
- VALUES** (lights and darks) used effectively through the media—push **VALUE** & **CONTRAST**
- Engagement with the viewer with **TEXTURE** (actual or implied) and unique **MARK-Making**
- MOOD** established through the use of **COLOR** in media
- CRAFTSMANSHIP** is challenged through engagement with creative details and **FULLY DEVELOPED** artwork