



Art Portfolios

What is an art portfolio? While a sketchbook captures your thoughts and creative ideas, a portfolio holds your best artwork. An art portfolio is often a large flat case for artwork. Today, portfolios may be a photo slide deck (PowerPoint), a USB flash drive, or website, each of which houses your best artwork. The portfolio format depends on whom you are showing your works to.

A flat case portfolio is a container used to protect and carry artwork safely. It often has carrying straps and has some method to hold the two sides together to form a hinge. To protect the artwork, the portfolio should be at least an inch larger than the artwork it will carry. Although portfolios may be any size, 20" x 26" is a size that will hold most artwork.

Why does an artist have a portfolio? Regardless of the type of portfolio, professional and aspiring artists use it to market their work.

- A portfolio contains only the best examples of an artist's work with examples of early works and later works to show growth and development over time.
- Portfolios may show variation of work or different styles or media to show adaptability and creativity. As you complete 4-H project work, keep your best work in a portfolio. Use quality photographs to showcase large artwork or sculptures.
- A portfolio is an artist's resume and may be viewed for a job or exhibiting in a show/exhibition.

Label your artwork Artists keep records. Each study or piece allows the artist to develop their skills, techniques, and style. When pieces are labeled, it provides a record and/or documents growth. The label can be attached to the back or displayed next to the piece in the portfolio.

Artist: Chris Clover

Completed: 10/10/2024

Title: Granny's House

Medium: Watercolor on paper

Size: 8"x10"

Description: Visited my great grandma's homestead in Loyal, OK. Sketched the house and took a photograph. Used watercolor pencils to create my painting.

Example

What is a title and why is used? Giving your artwork a title is another way to engage and communicate with our audience. Artwork titles should be concise, descriptive, and imaginative. Some artists pick titles that capture the essence or story of their piece while others pick unusual words related to their work.

The description could include information about how the piece was created, what inspired the design or content, why the choice of art medium, etc.

Source: 4-H Create Art Now Curriculum. University of Idaho Extension. 2023

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