



Bringing contemporary artists into LA high school art classrooms

LA Guest Artist Presentation Guidelines

Things to Know Before You Arrive

Career Work on USB Flash Drive

Each artist must have 10 – 15 images (JPEG or PNG format) spanning their recent and earlier work on a USB flash drive. If you are going to include video files be sure your flash drive is rated for **high data transfer rates** so the video plays smoothly. Regular data and image storage flash drives will not show your videos fluidly.

Work Samples

It is recommended that each artist bring 1 – 5 work samples to the classroom. Only bring as many pieces as you can safely handle on your own.

WiFi Connectivity & Classroom Tech

Most LAUSD high school classrooms have WiFi or wired (Local Area Network) connections to the Internet. It is also typical for a teacher to have an Internet ready laptop, an LED projector and a digital reader (think video overhead projector) for AV use. It is also true that all LAUSD administered schools have stringent web content control filters. Simply put it is very unlikely your favorite fine art websites will be available. If you must include images from these sites copy and paste them into your USB flash drive.

Image Content Restrictions

Please remember while assembling your portfolio that you will be presenting to minors in a secondary school environment. Do not include images of graphic violence, erotic nudity, offensive or profane texts within a composition, or as a stand-alone statement. Think, PG-13 as the outer limits of propriety. Uncertain about where a particular image falls, email the teacher for a final judgement or do without.

PRESENTATION & CLASSROOM ACTIVITY TIMELINE

Arrival (20-30 minutes before the bell)

It is a good rule of thumb to allow approximately 20-30 minutes before class starts to park, get your Visitor's Pass at the main office and find your way up to the classroom. If necessary request a student escort to your destination.

Set Up (5 minutes before the bell)

Arrange work samples around the class for easy viewing. Have the teacher plug your USB flash drive into the class laptop and make sure you can easily see the first image of your portfolio with the class projector.

The Presentation (20 minutes)

Please use some variation on the following set of introductory remarks:

"Hello, my name is..."

"I live in..."

"I am a (what kind of) artist"

"I have an (X) degree in Fine Art from (X) institution" *If Applicable*

"I am represented by (X) gallery in (city location)" *If Applicable*

"I create work that addresses issues of..."

"I use (X) materials) in my work"

"I have been making art for (X) number of years"

When going through each slide please say its title followed by a few brief remarks about the creative process , the materials in the piece or your intentions for the work.

Questions & Answers After the Slide Show (5 minutes)

Typically students are still trying to process what they saw so don't be surprised to be greeted by silence after calling for questions. Often, teachers will try to pump the well by feeding a question or two to a reluctant student. If you continue to hear crickets its time to move on to the class activity.

Class Art Activity and Discussion (20 minutes)

Guide the class into the art activity. If you choose to model it for a few minutes use the class *digital* reader so students can follow along in real time Once they are on their own circulate the room and engage individuals with your insights. Try to avoid hovering over one or more students. The rest of the class may get bored which can undermine engagement for the remainder of the period.

Wrapping Up the Session (5-7 minutes)

It's a safe bet the teacher will give you the "five minute warning" as the session wraps up. Use the time to thank your host for the opportunity to show your work. Answer any final questions that may pop up, then make sure you collect your work samples and your USB drive portfolio before leaving.

Post Visit Evaluation

I try to email an artist within twenty four hours of the presentation with a link to the online Artist's Response Questionnaire. This is your moment to reflect and evaluate the entire class visit experience. It only takes a couple of minutes but it really helps the program get better.

I hope these suggestions make your LA Guest Artist experience fun and enjoyable. Have a great presentation and thanks again for your commitment to this program.

David A Valentine, Founder

LA Guest Artist Series

<http://facebook.com/LAGuestArtist>

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