Entrance Portfolio Review
Graphic Design Major_Slide Examples
Department of Art & Art History

The following examples are to demonstrate a variety of possible ways you could design your slides, show works, and format text elements. They include a small range of works from Foundations and Graphic Design, but do not represent all possible media or a complete portfolio. How you format your final 10 slides is up to you.

Please note that the included works were created UNC Charlotte freshmen, so you should view them as aspirational examples. The work in your portfolio will not be compared to these for entry into the program.

Email any questions to: aahadmissions@uncc.edu

Other Helpful Tips…

• Title first slide with your name, student ID and major (just like this one)
• Format the slides to be viewed on a computer screen (just like this one)
• Keep the background design simple (neutral and solid colors are recommended)
• Make the text easy to read and the images big (size 12 or 14 text and classic fonts)
• Write your statements before you put them on a slide (use a word processor like word or google docs)
• Save final file with Last name_First name_Major (Smith_Jane_Graphic Design_portfolio.pptx)

This Slide Size is the Widescreen (16:9) proportion, but you can also use the Standard (4:3) proportion.
I created these pieces for an assignment in my 2D Design class. The project was to create two compositions that showed the difference between symmetrical and asymmetrical balance using only black and white and positive/negative space. The theme of the assignment was to explore the environment and be inspired by objects in nature.

I found the trees for the symmetrical composition in the woods behind my house where I walk all the time. It was fall, so I could lay on the leaf covered ground and look up to take the photo. I took the photo of the asymmetrical flowers in the greenhouse on campus during my first visit there.

We used our photos for reference as we made 10 thumbnail sketches for each composition in our sketchbook. After a critique, we picked the best ones and drew them more carefully on bristol board. We then used micron pens and gouache to fill in the flat shapes. I enjoyed making the flowers more than the trees, because filling the spaces between the branches was difficult.
This 3D assignment required us to take pictures of architecture on campus, make paper prototypes, and then construct a final planer composition out of wood. I didn’t want to be limited to more obvious areas where my classmates were going to get inspiration. So, I took detail shots of smaller explicit planes that stuck out, unique furniture such as an irregular bench, and a curved cluster of hanging light bulbs.

It was challenge for me to create different paper sculptures, but I had one that captured these unique qualities. It included curves that created open spaces, the protruding elements, and the disconnect in the center. A problem that I needed to tackle was how to recreate the paper curves with geometric pieces of wood, which I accomplished by using smaller pieces connected at angles. Together, they capture open spaces that create balance and unity and make the object look lighter.

I wanted to take something that was structured, like the pictures of architecture, and create something completely abstract and unrecognizable. There were qualities that I didn’t intend to make, but those ‘mistakes’ became what was most central. Being flexible as an artist was really important for me during this process.
I have always loved to draw, especially people. I created this self-portrait in my figure drawing class last year, which was a challenge. The assignment was to draw while looking in the mirror, and we could not use a photograph. This was hard for me because I am not used to staring at myself for that long, and my cheeks hurt from smiling. We could use any media we wanted, and I chose charcoal and conté pencils so I could draw details.

I wanted to show myself looking happy and confident. So, I emphasized my raised dark eyebrows and dimples, and drew my eyes staring straight at the viewer. I don't like to smudge and blend charcoal because it can be too messy. So, I used contour lines to create the soft and round shapes in my face with bright white highlights to show volume. Since my hair is very dark brown and almost black, I drew it as a flat shape first, then added light brown lines to create depth. Drawing the reflections in my eyeglasses was a challenge, but I am happy with the result.
I created these in my Graphic Design 1 class during my freshman year. The assignment was to create two signs that represent a place that has meaning for me. I chose to represent Arcelia, a small town in Mexico where my grandmother lives. The first one is an icon of a scorpion, which I remember seeing in the dry desert when I visited. The drawing style was influenced by patterns found in woven Mexican blankets. The second is an abstract symbol that represents the way I felt while visiting my family there, happy but hot. I combined shapes that were based on an agave plant, a heart, and rays of the sun. Both signs were first drawn by hand in pencil, and then inked with micron pens. I then scanned and traced them in Adobe Illustrator. For reference, I used photos from Wiki-commons for the scorpion and some others that my parents took on our trip.
During the spring semester of 2020, we had to move all of our classes online because of COVID-19. In response, our Graphic Design 1 class was given an assignment to create a series of pop-up display ads in one week to get a message out quickly.

We had to design several compositions that used the actual dimensions of ads placed in google. One challenge was that they had to work equally well in both a horizontal and vertical format.

I was feeling frustrated that some college students were not taking the pandemic seriously. I wanted to create an ad that they could relate to, so I took photos of my roommate who sleeps a lot. My goal was to make something that was simple and funny, but also showed the reality of the pandemic. In the first photo, he looks like he might be sleeping or he might be dead. In the second, his eyes pop open in a comical way. I had him wear a black shirt so I could contrast the red and white type on top, and wrote the text to make a visual pun.