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## Why Bother With Art Colleges?

By Linda Emerson

If you are pretty talented at art you might not even consider going to Art College. Why should you, anyway? You can draw like the masters: Boticelli, Michaelangeo, Da Vinci. There wasn't a landscape scene your brushes didn't like, and there wasn't any portrait you couldn't draw. You can sketch anything that exists!

But as with any talent, you must have realized that this is one big world we live in. There is always room for improvement, and although your work might speak for itself, a degree behind you may be just what employers are looking for. Therefore, you muster all your reserves; you pack your easel, your brushes, and your palette and head north to the nearest art college.

### 1. Good choice?

Art school will definitely benefit you as an artist. Your innate talent will benefit from the proven concepts and techniques you can learn here. It may be that you already know the basics and the techniques of your art. Rest assured that there are always things the art school can teach you that you won't already know.

Art school also develops in its students a love and appreciation for the different forms of art. It opens to the student new vistas of learning and expressing. Even if only for that reason, Art school would be worth every penny.

### 2. Who Is Art School Suited For?

Artists are a rare kind. They seem to be able to create masterpieces without complicated theories and computations. It's as if they are moved by instinct to draw, paint, and create visually pleasing artworks. Some artists, when asked about their artwork, would simply shrug and say they didn't know what motivated them, and they just felt like painting it. Art school should not aim to correct this freewheeling style of artistry. It should, however, provide the basic techniques and theories on art and creativity. Instead of suppressing natural skill, it should develop and enlighten it by explaining the concepts behind art. Unlike what most people think, there truly is a science behind art.

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Artists sometimes just create art. But after Art College, they come to a realization of theories behind what they have done by instinct. Fundamental theories can only improve and supplement the talent students have.

### 3. What to Learn?

When choosing an Arts College, look into the nature of its programs.

– Is it solely a graphic design school or does it offer courses in other specific areas? – Is this school well-known for its emphasis on its programs? – Is the school recognized internationally? – Is the class size large or small? – How many years will the program be in total? – Does the school provide any statistics or downloadable documents outlining the percentage of its graduates that are now working in their chosen field?

### 4. Specialize!

Remember that the subject of art is not just a big blob with the label art. It is composed of numerous subcategories and specializations. You need to choose a specialization because if you don't, your skills will be diffused trying to learn the many branches of art. Try to improve the most at the area of your interest. It could be painting, sculpture, digital arts or others.

### 5. Be The Best

Also, look into whether the school participates in any graphical arts competitions or has accomplished anything of renown in the industry. This is a sure sign of their commitment to the arts and the education of its students. One of the best things one can get out of Art College is exposure to competition and industry standards. Such competition pushes one from being complacent. If you are to be a better artist, you should never be satisfied with what you already know. You should grab the opportunity to learn new and exciting things.

### 6. Conclusion

Your education might be the most important investment you make in your life. Without proper training, your chances at success are greatly diminished. A proper Art college will certainly train you and equip you with the tools needed to make it big in your profession.

For more great art education related articles and resources check out

<http://www.theartschoolsite.com>

**Find More Than Just A Degree Of Success At California Community Colleges**

**By Luke T. Axton**

## Why Bother With Art Colleges?

It's a great pleasure and honor studying, working as well as teaching at some of the prestigious California community colleges. I moved in 1977 across from back east of the country with two suitcases and 300 dollars, to take advantage of the educational system in California in general and of California community colleges—for starters—in particular. Besides being unbelievably affordable at that time it was also extremely reputable as fine preparatory, or transitional, institutions of higher education. During my first semester at College of Marin, for instance, besides buying my texts, I paid only \$3.00 for the whole semester. That was for the Health Fee.

California community colleges are not quite so low-priced—though they are still affordable—in recent times, but they are still brilliant first- and second-year colleges and trade/occupational training sites. Those graduating either from the neighboring high schools or returning to college after years away attend courses and programs in almost all of the major disciplines and/or take up vocational courses for example those in the Automotive Mechanics or Cosmetology divisions at almost all of the 72 regions' California community colleges.

As the Chancellor of the California community colleges reveals in the mission statement (at

[http://www.cccco.edu/faq\\_cccco.htm#mission](http://www.cccco.edu/faq_cccco.htm#mission)

), basic aims of all of the California community colleges

are to offer "essential and important functions" such as basic skills instruction, English as a second language (ESL, or, English for speakers of other languages, ESOL) education and practice, adult non-credit instruction, and student and community support services.

While funding is the contingency (and often the bane), some California community colleges engage in outreach, research, and other related projects and programs. They often present a small degree of health services, offer social and academic guidance and support (for honors charters, for instance) and extracurricular access (as, for example, student associations and clubs as well as sports teams).

Despite the fact that I taught and worked at and am thus partial to select California community colleges in the Bay Area (in Northern California), they are some of the best kept secrets all over the state. Below is the list with individual colleges where you can find additional information online by either typing in the name of the college and dot net, or dot cc dot ca, or dot edu:

American River College, Sacramento Butte College, Oroville College of San Mateo, San Mateo Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill East Los Angeles College, Monterey Park Feather River College, Quincy Grossmont College, El Cajon Hartmon College, Salinas Imperial Valley College, Imperial Valley Laney College, Oakland College of Marin, Kentfield Ohlone College, Fremont Palomar College, San Marcos College of the Redwoods, Eureka Skyline College, San Bruno Taft College, Taft Ventura College, Ventura West Hills College, Coalinga Yuba College, Marysville

Luke T. Axton provides readers with up-to-date commentaries,

<http://www.resources-on-education.com>

, and reviews for

<http://www.education-magazine-portal.com>

and other related issues.



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