



Visual Arts Presentation

Guidelines & Information

OVERVIEW

Students can submit abstracts to present their art and design works including drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, jewelry, mixed media, and film.

Visual Arts Presentation Guidelines

Art and design work will be on display in the Fine Arts Gallery during the Undergraduate Research Symposium. Students will be present during the scheduled one-hour Visual Art session to discuss their creative research process and answer questions viewers may have.

This category includes:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Printmaking
- Photography
- Jewelry
- Mixed Media



Visual Arts Abstract Guidelines

Your abstract is a short summary (150 words maximum) that explains the concept, context, process, and significance of your creative work. Even though you are submitting an artwork, your abstract should help readers and reviewers understand your project as a form of research — meaning it investigates ideas, explores materials, and contributes new insights or perspectives.

1. **Purpose of the Abstract.** The abstract should:
 - Summarize the main ideas behind your artwork.
 - Explain the research question, theme, or issue you explored.
 - Describe the creative process and methods you used.
 - Identify the materials, media, and techniques involved.
 - Convey the meaning, message, or impact you hope to achieve.
 - Discuss how your work relates to broader artistic, cultural, or social contexts.

2. **Structure and Content.** Use the following structure as a guide. You don't have to label the sections — they should flow naturally as a short, cohesive paragraph.
 - A. **Title:** Choose a clear, concise, and engaging title for your project.
Example: “Resilient Threads: Exploring Identity Through Textile and Memory”
 - B. **Introduction / Research Focus:** Briefly introduce the central idea, theme, or question your work explores. Ask yourself:
 - What am I investigating or expressing through this piece?
 - What inspired me to explore this idea?
 - What larger issue, emotion, or experience does this work address?
 - **Example:** This project explores the tension between personal and cultural identity through the reinterpretation of traditional textile patterns. It asks how fabric and stitching can carry memory, resilience, and belonging.
 - C. **Context / Influence:** Explain how your project connects to existing ideas or influences — this could include:
 - Artistic movements or styles
 - Cultural, historical, or social issues
 - Other artists, theorists, or artworks that inspired you
 - **Example:** Influenced by the work of Faith Ringgold and the Gee's Bend quilters, this piece draws on the narrative power of fabric to comment on the continuity of women's stories across generations.
 - D. **Methods / Creative Process:** Describe how you made the work — what materials, processes, and techniques you used, and why you chose them. Mention any experimentation or problem-solving you did along the way.

Example: Using repurposed cotton and silk fabrics, I hand-stitched and layered patterns from family garments, combining traditional quilting methods with contemporary collage to create a visual dialogue between past and present.

E. **Outcome / Interpretation:** Discuss the final work and what you want viewers to understand or feel. What did you discover or learn through this process?

Example: The resulting work embodies resilience and adaptation, inviting viewers to consider how personal artifacts can serve as vessels for shared cultural identity.

F. **Significance / Contribution:** Explain why this work matters — to you, to viewers, or to the discipline of art. You might highlight how your work:

- Offers a new perspective
- Engages with a social issue
- Pushes the boundaries of technique or material
- Encourages reflection or dialogue
- **Example:** By merging personal memory with collective tradition, this project contributes to ongoing conversations about cultural preservation, gender, and identity within contemporary fiber art.

3. **Tone and Style:** Write in clear, concise, professional language.

- Avoid overly technical art jargon unless you explain it.
- Use the first person (“I”) — that’s appropriate for artist statements and abstracts in creative fields.
- Focus on ideas, process, and meaning, not just materials.
- Proofread carefully for grammar, clarity, and flow.

4. **Example of a Complete Abstract**

Title: Still Breathing: A Ceramic Study of Fragility and Endurance

Abstract: This project explores the relationship between fragility and endurance through the medium of porcelain. Inspired by the natural process of erosion, I investigated how delicate materials can embody strength through imperfection. My work was informed by the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi, which embraces the beauty of impermanence. Using hand-built porcelain forms, I intentionally allowed cracks and fissures to emerge during firing, then reinforced them with metal staples as a metaphor for healing and persistence. The resulting sculptures challenge conventional notions of flawlessness by revealing that damage can become a site of resilience. This project contributes to contemporary ceramic discourse by reframing fragility as a form of power and inviting viewers to reflect on vulnerability as a universal human experience.

5. Quick Checklist Before You Submit

- Does your abstract explain what your project is about?
- Does it describe how you made it and why?
- Does it connect to larger ideas or contexts?
- Is it clear, concise, and within 150–250 words?
- Is the tone professional yet authentic to your artistic voice?