Art Department

Members of the Art Department use visual examples of architecture, ceramics, drawings, photography, paintings, printmaking, sculptures and other art forms from the present and the history of art, as well as images and works from the Lamont Gallery and other gallery and museum exhibition, to support instruction in their studios and classrooms. There are times when these and other artistic references may inspire a student to create a work that reflects the influence of an artist, technique, style or artistic movement.

The vast majority of art works created within the PEA Art Department are unique, original creations by studio students. However, referencing the work of an artist can be an appropriate choice for some students (as well as an assignment in many studio classes), and there is a long history of students copying works of art created by other artists. As indicated earlier, the vast majority of art in Academy studios is not copy-driven but reflects observational, hands-on exercises, but direct copying may occasionally be used in master artwork studies. These works are clearly titled as a reproduction, and reflect the student’s intent to learn a particular technique or style. When submitting such works, students are expected to include an image of the original work copied, along with their own created work.

While the Art Department expects that plagiarism rarely takes place in art courses, it can occur when a student:
- Uses someone else’s idea, visual image or technique by borrowing, appropriating, copying or including part or all of a specific or group of art works;
- Does not indicate that she/he has used another artist’s work, and;
- Has not provided the name of the artist and the name, date and medium of the art work(s) that inspired the student’s work.

To avoid issues of plagiarism, an art student should:
- Provide a written credit, including the name of the artist, title, date and medium of the original art work that inspired or informed the student’s work;
- Attach this information to the piece, as well as the image or copy of the image(s) used;
- Include an image from any of her/his own original art work, if it has been used in a final work, and;
- Provide a credit for any published source.
  - If the source is unpublished, i.e., the source is another student’s photograph, credit must also be given. The student must have permission from the artist to use such an image.

Using another’s image as a point of reference within a newly created artwork is not considered plagiarism. Consideration is given to how much of the original work is copied and how much is original, reflecting the student’s personal voice. An example of appropriating another person’s creative work is using a magazine ad as a visual source for a painting or collage. When appropriating an image, the student artist takes the original visual idea, gives it a different visual interpretation, redefines its use, and gives it a different meaning.

Finally, in art, it is considered acceptable if the student artist:
- Creates an art work that is labeled as a study or masterwork copy;
- Incorporates another artist’s creative ideas in her/his own art work,
- Manipulates an art work that is inspired or informed by another artist’s work to reflect the student’s personal vision;
- Clearly credits the artist and source, and references are cited, and;
- Speaks with an Art Department faculty member with any questions regarding Art Studio Plagiarism and other guidelines articulated within this document.