

# Creative Response Art Journal Assignment

**Due Date:** Early June 2014 (specific day will be determined by end of May)

**Value:** 200 points

▲ 11 entries/15 points each, 20 points journal covers, 15 points overall assembly, effort and completion of project. (Learning is an individual thing and your journal will reflect and record your learning. Points will not be taken off for poor spelling, mentioning problems/concepts you're struggling with in class or asking "silly" questions.)

**Purpose:** Simply stated, this journal assignment would ideally help you make sense of what you're learning and increase active involvement in the learning process.

A more detailed purpose for the journal is:

- to record experience/learning --- and then go back and read your journal (harvest ideas)
- to develop learning in ways that enhance other learning and deepen the quality of learning in the form of critical thinking or developing a questioning attitude - inquiry
- to enable you to understand your own learning process
- to explore the self and understand your view of the world
- to slow down learning and give time for ideas to "marinate"
- to enhance creativity
- to give an alternative "voice" or means of expression
- to help you take responsibility for your learning, self-assess, and REFLECT
- to see changes and development over time

## **Requirements:**

- Your journal needs to have a minimum of 11 entries.
- Each entry needs layers of writing and visuals. In your exploration of your entry topic, you are expected to use ALL of the space on the paper and fill in with writing, sketches, doodles, images, etc.
- A good measurement of a "successful" journal entry is a 50/50 check – 50% writing and 50% visuals.
- Each journal entry needs to have the date it was completed on the bottom right corner of the page.
- Throughout the journal you will explore a variety of art techniques. The following 10 techniques are required:

Drawing	Collaging
Printing/Stamping	Painting
Stenciling	Relief Printing
Image Transferring	Colored Pencil
Photo Altering	Page Altering

(Don't worry – I will provide the supplies and instructions for these techniques.)

*Good luck journaling and most of all, have fun with it. Play and don't worry about how it turns out. You will have pages you like better than others and some pages turn into one giant mess...but you learn from these things. Sometimes, the "bad" pages turn into your favorites, because you put extra effort into them trying to turn them into pages that "work".*

# Art Journal Assignment Reflections

*"What you create in your visual journal may end up being artistic – or not. It doesn't matter. The ultimate work of art is you and the ideas you are bringing to life. It's the intention behind your process that is important..." – Lisa Sonora*

*"VISUAL JOURNALING HELPS US GO BEYOND WHAT WE KNOW IN OUR RATIONAL MIND, SO WE CAN ACCESS OTHER WAYS OF KNOWING – THE KIND OF KNOWING THAT RESULTS IN TRULY ORIGINAL THINKING, IDEAS, AND CREATIVE BREAKTHROUGHS."*

*"Art journaling combines the written language and the visual language to give a greater breadth of expression and understanding. In essence art journaling is the combination of art making and journaling with the intention to create greater insight and understanding of the self and others. Art journaling is about expression, both written and visual, of emotions and thoughts; it is a space for questions that may not have answers, a place for thoughts that may otherwise not have a home, a safe container for emotions so that they do not have to be loose in the world."*

*"Many people get caught up in making these finished works of art for each page with deep themes and related imagery, and that's fine. Each person works in the journal his or her own way, but we approach the journal as a catchall – a place to dump ourselves, store memories, and process life. It is a special place simply because there is the freedom to include all of life – a scrap of envelope, a meaningful quote, a photo, or a random thought. And like life, the journal isn't always polished, complete, deep, and extraordinary. It can be messy, random, and unfinished."*

*"A journal is a tool for self-discovery, an aid to concentration, a mirror for the soul, a place to generate and capture ideas, a safety valve for the emotions, a training ground for the writer, and a good friend and confidant."*

*"It isn't just that writing a journal stimulates thought – it allows us to look at ourselves, our feelings, and our actions in a different way. By writing things down in a journal the words are now 'outside' of us. They are there in black and white on the paper or on the screen. We can almost come to look at them as strangers – 'Did I really think that?' 'How does this fit with that?' In other words, our words may become more concrete – and in this way we can play with them, look at them in another light."*

*"WRITING THINGS DOWN IN A JOURNAL ALSO ALLOWS US TO 'CLEAR OUR MINDS'. HAVING MADE A NOTE OF SOMETHING WE CAN PUT THEM ON ONE SIDE FOR CONSIDERATION OR ACTION AT A LATER POINT. WE CAN ONLY HANDLE SO MUCH AT ANY ONE MOMENT. TRYING TO REMEMBER THIS OR THAT, AND DEAL WITH CURRENT SITUATIONS, CAN SOMETIMES MEAN THAT WE ARE NOT FOCUSING ON WHAT WE NEED TO."*

*"Exploring our own thought process through visual journaling is essential in a world that is in a state of continuous change. Just as there are many ways to express oneself artistically, there are many ways to create visual journals. By committing to the visual journaling process, one can learn how to access his/her inner language of imagery and express it both visually and verbally, while exploring the connection between image and word."*

*"Visual journaling has existed throughout history as a process of reflective thinking, and as a record of image making. Throughout history great thinkers recorded and reflected on their ideas using a variety of visual journaling techniques. From Thomas Edison's light bulb sketches to Leonardo DaVinci's visual journals of flying machines to Stephen Hawking's space-time diagrams, this record of image making also served as a record of the thought process. Exploring the thought process through visual journaling is essential in a world that is in continuous change. Da Vinci (1452-1519) carried a visual journal with him at all times so that he could record ideas, impressions, and observations as they occurred. His journals, of which seven thousand pages exist, contained observations and thoughts of scholars he admired, personal financial records, letters, reflections on domestic problems, philosophical musings and prophecies, plans for inventions, and treatises on anatomy, botany, geology, flight, water, drawings and paintings."*