

# IB Visual Arts at Harrison Trimble High School

**Teacher:** Hannah Howard

**Course Duration:** September 2025 – May 2026



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## Welcome to IB Visual Arts

IB Visual Arts is a creative and intellectually challenging course that explores art-making, critical analysis, and the role of art in society. This course encourages students to experiment with various media, investigate artistic traditions, and reflect on their artistic journey through a process portfolio, comparative study, and curated exhibition.

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## Course Overview

The course is divided into three main components: the Process Portfolio (PP), Comparative Study (CS), and Exhibition. Each component is designed to help students develop as creators, thinkers, and reflective practitioners.

### Semester 1: September 2025 – January 2026

#### 1. Exploring Formal Elements and Techniques

- **Topics:** Color theory, visual analysis, art movements, and technical workshops.
- **Activities:**
  - Compare and contrast artworks.
  - Reflect on art-making processes in journals.
  - Participate in guided workshops on painting, printmaking, and sculpture.
- **Outcome:** Students begin their Process Portfolio with experiments and reflections.

#### 2. Art and Cultural Identity

- **Topics:** Symbols in cultural art, global perspectives on identity, and colonialism in art.
- **Activities:**
  - Analyze Indigenous and global art forms.
  - Create works inspired by cultural research.

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- **Outcome:** Initial development of Comparative Study with selected artists and themes.
  - 3. **Studio Work and Self-Expression**
    - **Topics:** Developing independent studio projects and curatorial skills.
    - **Activities:**
      - Draft self-portrait projects.
      - Explore personal themes through mixed media and experimental approaches.
    - **Outcome:** Document early stages of exhibition work in journals.
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## Semester 2: February 2026 – May 2027

1. **Comparative Study and Art Theory**
  - **Topics:** In-depth research on chosen artists, formal and contextual analysis.
  - **Activities:**
    - Complete and refine the Comparative Study.
    - Link analysis to Theory of Knowledge (TOK) themes, such as "Art and Society."
  - **Outcome:** Submit the Comparative Study for IB evaluation.
2. **Curating and Exhibition Preparation**
  - **Topics:** Planning an art exhibition, writing curatorial rationales, and hanging styles.
  - **Activities:**
    - Visit local galleries and reflect on curatorial methods.
    - Finalize and display a cohesive body of work.
  - **Outcome:** Submit the final exhibition with rationale and photographs.
3. **Finalizing the Process Portfolio**
  - **Topics:** Documenting artistic processes, refining portfolio slides, and peer critiques.
  - **Activities:**

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- Create detailed slides showing creative experimentation and development.
  - Use IB rubrics to ensure all criteria are addressed.
  - **Outcome:** Submit the Process Portfolio for IB assessment.
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### Assessments

#### 1. Process Portfolio (PP):

- A collection of journal reflections, visual experiments, and creative development.
- **Deadline:** May 2027.

#### 2. Comparative Study (CS):

- A critical analysis of at least three artworks from different contexts.
- **Deadline:** March 2027.

#### 3. Exhibition:

- A curated display of 8–11 artworks with a written curatorial rationale.
  - **Deadline:** April 2027.
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### Skill Development

- **Artistic Techniques:** Experiment with various media and methods.
  - **Critical Analysis:** Compare and interpret artworks from diverse cultural perspectives.
  - **Curatorial Skills:** Plan and present a professional-quality exhibition.
  - **Communication:** Articulate artistic intentions and processes through writing and presentations.
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### Resources

- **Primary Materials:**
  - Studio tools for painting, sculpture, and digital media.

## **IB Visual Arts at Harrison Trimble High School**

- Sketchbooks for Process Portfolio documentation.
  - **Digital Tools:**
    - Adobe Creative Cloud, Procreate, and video analysis software.
  - **External Resources:**
    - Field trips to local art galleries, artist workshops, and guest lectures.
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### **Why Study IB Visual Arts?**

This course fosters creativity, critical thinking, and a global perspective, preparing students for further study in the arts or creative industries. IB Visual Arts challenges students to express themselves authentically while building technical and analytical skills.