

Canadian
Contemporary
School of Art

ART

EDUCATION CURRICULUM



AGES 4-12

INTRODUCTION

CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM (4-12)

The Canadian Contemporary School of Art (CCSA) offers After School Program for students of all age groups by dividing them into four groups: Preschoolers (1-4), Children (4-12), Teens (13-17), Adults (18+) with classes specially designed for each age group. The CCSA takes an innovative approach to art instruction and provides a warm and welcoming environment for students to learn in. By nurturing the artist in everyone, classes at the CCSA help to plant the seeds of lifelong creativity. We believe in creativity as an educational tool, one that builds a child's confidence and the development of their problem-solving skills. Art-led interactions teach children to be imaginative and trust their intuition -there is no wrong way to make an artwork. This type of experiential learning creates opportunities for self-expression and calculated risk-taking -along with the enjoyment of seeing one's creative efforts lead to tangible results.

Our programs at the CCSA encourage every individual's natural ability to be curious when engaging with the world. The school takes an organic approach to learning, encouraging habits of open-minded inquiry that can help anyone be resourceful when faced with life's challenges. The emphasis of classes at the CCSA is not only on results but on what children learn in the process of making art, and the enjoyment they have in the process. In a classroom setting, children will learn from their instructors, but also from their fellow students. This process of finding their own solutions to problems, in consultation with others helps build a child's confidence and provides a special sense of their own place in the world. Each program includes age-appropriate in art history. We use a slide projector to show paintings and other images from art history as well as screen short films and connect these lessons to the day's activity. CCSA's art history lessons are meant to be brief and inspiring introductions to some of the basic ideas that inform art-making. The lessons also teach every student that art is unique -when it comes to making art, all kinds of solutions are possible and celebrated!

This program encourages the development of a creative skillset that has broad application in everyday life. We focus on bringing an imaginative idea to life and in the process, we master the use of materials, creative ingenuity, problem-solving, and resilience in the face of difficulties. Classes are led by practicing artists and the school provides a safe environment for children to experience the personal satisfaction that derives from guided self-expression.

A **complimentary assessment** is arranged as the first-class once registered to determine the position of the student's skills and levels in their preferred program.

Our students will participate in **seasonal exhibitions (Early December and Early June)** of student's work which are open to the public, with works being available for purchase. Once the artwork is purchased, all the money goes straight to the artist themselves.



VISUAL ARTS

PAINTING

The class starts with our students learning the form and lines and soon moving onto drawing shapes. In our program, we always encourage adding a story to this process. An important emphasis of the class will be to clarify just how wide the latitude is for self-expression in painting. There is no standard of perfect verisimilitude students need to work to as is typically found in the mass media. Through the use of paper techniques, students learn that any image can be made perfect in different ways.

BEGINNER I: For age 4 to 5

1. Introduction to Art
2. Concepts of lines, shapes, forms and colours
3. Subject & Meaning I

BEGINNER II: For age 6 to 7

1. Introduction to Art history
2. Colour design
3. Composition design
4. Subject & Meaning II

INTERMEDIATE I: For age 8 to 9

1. Art history II
2. Colour theory I
3. Technique I
4. Introduction to Critique
5. Subject Portrayal & Meaning III

INTERMEDIATE II: For age 11-10

1. Art History III
2. Colour theory II
3. Technique II
3. Critique I
4. Subject portrayal & Meaning Construction IV



VISUAL ARTS

PAINTING CONTINUED

The class starts with our students learning the form and lines and soon moving onto drawing shapes. In our program, we always encourage adding a story to this process. An important emphasis of the class will be to clarify just how wide the latitude is for self-expression in painting. There is no standard of perfect verisimilitude students need to work to as is typically found in the mass media. Through the use of paper techniques, students learn that any image can be made perfect in different ways.

ADVANCED: For age 12-11

1. Art History IV
2. Technique III
3. Introduction to Abstract art
4. Introduction to Expressive art
5. Complex Subject & Meaning
6. Critique II



VISUAL ARTS

SCULPTING

Our sculpture classes emphasize working with an unlimited choice of materials to create a three-dimensional object, a way to help students to expand their imagination. Students learn about sculptural techniques, along with the role that form plays in the construction of objects. We practice carving, modelling and assemblage while studying examples of traditional sculptures which tend to be figurative and comparing them to the modernist sculptural artworks which are often abstract. Occasionally, we invite guest artists to visit the school to teach students how they make a sculpture.

BEGINNER

1. Introduction to Sculpting I
2. Concepts of Shapes and Forms
3. Sculpting History I
4. Sculpting Technique I

INTERMEDIATE

1. Shape & Form Meanings and Statistics
2. Sculpting History II
3. Sculpting Technique II
4. Introduction to Critique

ADVANCED

1. Form & Negative Spaces
2. Sculpting History III
3. Sculpting Technique III
4. Creative Critique
5. Creative Thinking
6. Complex & Minimal Bodies



VISUAL ARTS

DRAWING

Freehand drawing is a foundational skill that applies to all kinds of visual art practice, illustration, animation, painting, architecture, fashion design, etc. In this class, students learn to draw using different instruments such as pencils, pen and ink, inked brushes, charcoal, markers, along with drawing on the computer. Classes focus on the study of human and animal figures and portrait drawing, with studies executed using a range of tools and techniques.

BEGINNER

1. Introduction to Drawing
2. History I
3. Sketching Simple Shapes I
4. Lines, Shapes, Forms I
5. Tools & Technique I

INTERMEDIATE

1. History II
2. Tools & Technique II
3. Introduction to Value & Contrast
4. Design Theory I

ADVANCED

1. History III
2. Tools & Technique III
3. Design Theory II
4. Introduction to Perspective
5. Introduction to Critique



VISUAL ARTS

CARTOONING

This course uses a combination of skills in drawing, painting and illustration. The emphasis will be more on the process of creating a narrative while also refining artistic technique. Students are led by instructors in a process of conceptualizing a story, and then deciding how to break that story down into the building blocks of a narrative. The basic components of the exercise will include learning about scene and location, character and characterization, time and sequence, voices in a story, points of view, and narrative resolution. The course provides hands-on experience that's highly applicable to writing fiction, creating animations and filmmaking, as well as non-fictional pursuits such as news reporting. Classes will use classic works of graphic fiction as examples such as TinTin and Asterix, among others.

BEGINNER

1. Introduction to Picture Books
2. History of Picture Books I
3. Creative Writing I
4. Design & Technique I
5. Introduction to Photoshop
6. Print Process I

INTERMEDIATE

1. History of Picture Books II
2. Creative Writing II
3. Design & Technique II
4. Adobe Creative Cloud I
5. Print Process II
6. Comic Stripes and Cartooning

ADVANCED

1. History of Picture Books III
2. Creative Writing III
3. Design & Technique III
4. Adobe Creative Cloud II
5. Advanced Print Process
6. Introduction to Illustration



VISUAL ARTS

PHOTOGRAPHY

The CCSA provides a digital camera for each student to use during classes. Students are also welcome to bring their camera if they choose. Initially, classes will focus on black and white photography, to allow students to gain a better understanding of composition; later classes will focus on colour photography. Weather permitting field trips in the neighbourhood provide opportunities for children to see their immediate surroundings in a new light, using their cameras as a framing and compositional device. Studio-based classes will focus on portrait, figure studies and still life photography.

BEGINNER

1. Introduction to Photography
2. History of Photography I
3. Composition I
4. Exposure Value
5. Film Speed
6. Lighting & Direction

INTERMEDIATE

1. History of Photography II
2. Composition II
3. Introduction to Lenses
4. Depth of field
5. The Rule of Thirds
6. Portrait and Landscapes

ADVANCED

1. History of Photography III
2. Composition III
3. Creative aesthetic practice
4. Portfolio development



VISUAL ARTS

FASHION DESIGN

The emphasis of this class is to learn the basics of drawing and clothing construction for fashion design, rather than an approach focused on fashion tailoring. Using fabrics, buttons, and simple recycled materials, children will learn how to construct a fashion item, examining the kinds of thinking that go into this process. The focus will be on the role line, silhouette and detailing that play in the conceptualization of a fashion piece -and will also involve the creation of accessories, such as hats and jewelry. Examples from the history of fashion design and style will be studied, along with a discussion about current trends similar to those that can be found in contemporary fashion magazines. The class will conclude with a special "Cat Walk" show of student creations.

BEGINNER

1. Introduction to Clothing
2. Fashion History I
3. Design Principle I
4. Colours and Styles
5. Simple garment construction

INTERMEDIATE

1. Fashion History II
2. Design Principle II
3. Introduction to pattern making
4. Basics of Sewing Machine
5. Portfolio making I

ADVANCED

1. Fashion History III
2. Design Principle III
3. Designing collections
4. Pattern making
5. Trend Forecasting
6. Portfolio making II



VISUAL ARTS

ARCHITECTURE

Architecture is everywhere, no one teaches us how to understand the city and all its complexity. We believe that teaching children how to observe, understand and enjoy the environment will boost their creativity and will prepare them to play an active role as citizens. We aim to lead students toward a sensible observation of the environment, find the problems, and through their creativity solve the problem that they were facing. We want them to focus on the built environment, look at details, and understand their connections - those which exist between spaces and the people living or interacting on those spaces.

BEGINNER

1. Introduction to Architecture
2. History of Architecture I
3. Creative thinking I
4. Model building I
5. Form Technique

INTERMEDIATE

1. History of Architecture II
2. Creative thinking II
3. Model building II
4. Space technique
5. Geometry & Environment of Architecture

ADVANCED

1. History of Architecture III
2. Structure and Perspective
3. Statistics in Forms and Shapes
4. Function technique
5. Planning
6. Sustainability and Architecture



MEDIA ARTS

FILM MAKING

Perhaps more than any other art, filmmaking is a team effort. In this class, students can learn valuable lessons about the collaborative filmmaking process. Students are allowed to be both direct and act in class productions, as each student will make their five-minute film in team collaboration with the help of instructors and fellow students. For each film production, students will write a short script and learn the fundamentals of set and sound design, make-up and costuming, and Avant grade works. The class concludes with a small party for the presentation of the finished film work. When students have completed their films, instructors will help students with the application process for film festivals that accept work by young filmmakers.

BEGINNER

1. Introduction to Filmmaking
2. Film History I
3. Script Writing I
4. Cinematography I
5. Directing I

INTERMEDIATE

1. Film History II
2. Script Development
3. Cinematography II
4. Directing II
5. Producing to Post Production

ADVANCED

1. Film History III
2. Script Collaboration
3. Cinematography III
4. Directing III
5. Film Theory and Production Design



MEDIA ARTS

ANIMATION

Learning to make an animation will be an individual activity that results in a 3 minutes-long film. An instructor will lead students to first write a short storyboard for the film, decide on the type of material used for the animation -collage, plasticine, etc then use stop motion technique to make the film. This class will also teach students how to make a soundtrack for their animation that includes music and the recording of dialogue. Each class will begin with the viewing of famous short animations, from European arthouse to films by the NFB. Our students will learn about storytelling and the detailed-oriented and labour-intensive craft that is required to make a successful animation.

BEGINNER

1. Introduction to Animation Fundamentals
2. Basic equipment overview
3. Storyboarding
4. Flip-book making
5. Character creation I
6. Introduction to Production I

INTERMEDIATE

1. Story creation
2. Character creation II
3. Production II
4. Shooting techniques
5. Sound effects

ADVANCED

1. Complex story making
2. Complex Character creation
3. Production III
4. Special effects and advanced techniques
5. Advanced sound effects



PERFORMING ARTS

DRAMA

The show must go on! In this program, the students will be introduced to theatre skills like improvisation, character-building, creative movement, and vocal work. The first few sessions will involve all the students working collaboratively to build a story and assign characters under the instruction of the drama teacher. Over the following weeks, the students will practice their character, work with the script in a team setting, and be prepared to perform! The performance will be held during our opening reception at our exhibition at the end of the term.

BEGINNER

1. Introduction to Drama
2. History of Drama I
3. Voice & Speech I
4. Acting Style I
5. Storytelling
6. Role Play
7. Freeze Drames Development

INTERMEDIATE

1. History of Drama II
2. Voice & Speech II
3. Acting Style II
4. Role on the Wall
5. Mantle of the Expert
6. Bring Stories Alive through Drama

ADVANCED

1. History of Drama III
2. Voice & Speech III
3. Advanced Acting Style
4. Image Theatre
5. Thought Tracking



PERFORMING ARTS

VOCAL PERFORMANCE

Sing your heart out! This integrated music class allows the students to discover creative movements, singing, voice work, simple choreography, and improvisation. With a touch of an acting component, the students will learn to hone in on their singing in a way that tells a story. Choral work will be part of the program as well as technical rehearsals to prepare the students to perform during our exhibition at the end of the term.

BEGINNER

1. Introduction to Performance
2. Vocal Performance I
3. Voice Projection Techniques I
4. Body Awareness I
5. Breathing Technique I
6. Confidence & Stage Presence
7. Develop Vocal Range

INTERMEDIATE

1. Vocal Performance II
2. Voice Projection Techniques II
3. Body Awareness II
4. Breathing Technique II
5. Repertoire Building

ADVANCED

1. Vocal Performance III
2. Voice Projection Techniques III
3. Body Awareness III
4. Live Performance
5. Solo Rehearsal Style / Masterclass
6. Microphone Technique / Voice Over Technique



PERFORMING ARTS

MUSICAL THEATRE

The world is your stage! Musical Theatre is a combination of dialogue, movement, singing, and acting. This class allows students to become well rounded in their overall performance and style by learning facial expression, showmanship, with an introduction to breathing technique and vocal power. Our students will develop acting technique through musical theatre scores. The class will produce a short on-camera piece at the end of the term and copies will be given to each student to take home, and presented during the CCSA's opening reception for the exhibition.

BEGINNER

1. Introduction to Musical Theatre
2. History of Theatre I
3. Vocal Technique I
4. Control & Confidence I
5. Meisner Technique I
6. Group Performance Harmony

INTERMEDIATE

1. History of Theatre II
2. Vocal Technique II
3. Control & Confidence II
4. Meisner Technique II
5. Introduction to Musical Theatre Genre
6. Musicianship & Dynamics

ADVANCED

1. History of Theatre III
2. Vocal Technique III
3. Control & Confidence III
4. Meisner Technique III
5. Musical Theatre Genre
6. Solo Performance / Masterclass



PERFORMING ARTS

ACTING ON CAMERA

Camera, lights, action! This class is for those who are looking to perform on television, film or enhance your presentation and public speaking skills. The students will learn about creating a character, developing a script, and having a great on-camera presence. Working with scripts and improvisation, each term will offer different skill-building exercises to prepare students for performing and auditioning. The class will produce a short on-camera piece at the end of the term and copies will be given to each student to take home, and presented during the CCSA 's seasonal exhibitions.

BEGINNER

1. Introduction to Screen Acting
2. Voice & Body I
3. Control & Confidence I
4. Screen Rehearsal Technique I
5. Creative Character I
6. Script to Character Technique
7. Audition Etiquette

INTERMEDIATE

1. Voice & Body II
2. Control & Confidence II
3. Screen Rehearsal Technique II
4. Creative Character II
5. Improvisation for Screen
6. Dramatic Improvisation

ADVANCED

1. Voice & Body III
2. Screen Rehearsal Technique III
3. Improvisation for Screen II
4. Collaborate with Actors & Directors
5. Understanding Terminology & Different Shots
6. Rehearse, Viewing, and Analysis
7. Casting Style



PERFORMING ARTS

PUPPETRY

In this class, students learn the different techniques for puppet making, finger and hand puppets, shadow, and marionette puppetry. Students design and create their own puppet and later build a story together. They are leaders in this process, guided by imagination and puppet making technique. Each year, the course will feature special guest artists and their puppets, so students can experience a wide range of styles and types of puppetry. Through the creation of these special characters, students build strong self-esteem in a fun and engaging environment. This class is strongly recommended for kids who are interested in drama and theatre. At the end of the year, we will present a show for parents to enjoy the puppetry created by students.

BEGINNER

1. Introduction to Puppetry
2. Puppetry Technique: Breathing & Movement
3. Creative Puppet I
4. Performing with a Puppet I

INTERMEDIATE

1. Puppetry Technique II
2. Creative Puppet II
3. Performing with a Puppet II
4. Manipulating & Storytelling
5. Creative Thinking, Voice & Movement
6. Production I

ADVANCED

1. Puppetry Technique III
2. Creative Puppet III
3. Performing with a Puppet III
4. Production II
5. Marionettes, Bunraku, Rod Body Puppets
6. Impulse & Movement

