



ART

MERIT BADGE WORKBOOK

Date Started: **09/15/2026**

Scout's Name: **Kory Yan**



Counselor's Name: tristan m. t. dalley

Phone No.: (206) 388-8686

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WHAT IS ART?

Robin Williams portrayed a teacher named John Keating in the 1989 film *Dead Poets Society*-- a character in love with art and poetry. In one of his most famous monologues,

Mr. Keating says, "We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion. And medicine, law, business, engineering, these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty, romance, love, art... THESE are what we stay alive for."

Art is a thread running through life, turning basic survival into meaningful human experience. Without it we simply function, rather than truly live. The act of creating art (music, dance, painting, etc.) and even the act of *appreciating* art influences our neurotransmitters and thus transforms our brains and bodies.

Art transforms survival: we eat to live, but art lets us savor and appreciate the flavors of our food, and informs us about the culture we live in, and the culture we inherit.

Art expresses identity: we wear clothes and build shelters, but art gives those items style, color, cultural symbolism, and personal meaning.

Art connects people: it acts as a shared language that builds empathy, community, and mutual understanding, and acts as a link to the past & the future.

Art nurtures well-being: engaging with creative works lowers stress, supports mental health, and helps us process complex emotions.



Norman Rockwell
"Triple Self Portrait"
Saturday Evening Post cover February 13, 1960.

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Req. 1: Discuss the following subjects with your counselor. (Make your preliminary notes here, prior to our first conversation. It is important to note that there is NO correct answer to ANY of these questions. Opinions matter. Sometimes to fully think something out, we have to say it out loud; we might not know what we think until we hear it from ourselves. We'll come back to these questions again, at the conclusion!)

Req. 1a: What does "art" mean by definition -- and what are some of the different forms of art, or ways art can be encountered?

Req. 1b: What is the importance of art to humankind? (Think about this question both in the short-term, and in the long term!)

Req. 1c: What does art mean TO YOU? How can art make you feel?



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Req. 2: Discuss the following terms and elements of art: **line, value, shape, form, space, color, and texture**. Show examples of each element.

Define "**LINE**":

Give an Example of art featuring **line(s)**:

Describe how **line(s)** can change or add significance to a work:

Define "**VALUE**":

Give an Example of art emphasizing **value**:

Describe how **value** can change or add significance to a work:

Define "**SHAPE**":

Give an Example of art featuring **shape(s)**:

Describe how **shape(s)** can change or add significance to a work:

Define "**FORM**":

Give an Example of art emphasizing **form**:

Describe how **form** can change or add significance to a work:

Define "**SPACE**":

Give an Example of art featuring positive or negative **space**:

Describe how **space** can change or add significance to a work:

Define "**COLOR**":

Give an Example of art featuring **color**:

Describe how **color** can change or add significance to a work:

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE USE OF THIS ELEMENT IN A PIECE TO YOU?

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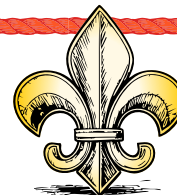
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Req. 2 (contd): ...

Define "TEXTURE":

Give an Example of art
featuring *texture*:

Describe how *texture*
can change or add
significance to a work:

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE
USE OF THIS ELEMENT
IN A PIECE TO YOU?

Req. 3: Discuss with your counselor the six principles of design: **rhythm, balance, proportion, variety, emphasis, and unity**.

Prepare for discussion by writing your initial thoughts about each principal here.

Rhythm:

Balance:

Proportion:

Variety:

Emphasis:

Unity:

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Req. 4: Render a subject of your choice in FOUR of these NINE possible ways. Combining media is always acceptable, as long as the motivation for the combination can be discussed, and FOUR separate ideations have been rendered, even if layered.

a. Pen and ink Date: ___/___/___

d. Pastels Date: ___/___/___

g. Acrylics Date: ___/___/___

b. Watercolors Date: ___/___/___

e. Oil paints Date: ___/___/___

h. Charcoal Date: ___/___/___

c. Pencil Date: ___/___/___

f. Tempera Date: ___/___/___

i. Digital drawing Date: ___/___/___



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Req. 5: Do ONE of the following: (a) Design something useful, and a means to promote it. (b) Tell a story with a picture / pictures OR using a means of sculptural rendering. (c) Design a logo, and apply that logo to Scout equipment, furniture, ceramics, or fabric.

Choose your project with both the end product and the method in mind. Describe why you picked the project you did, and as well as your anticipated method of execution. How is that method is important to the desired result? What motivates you to use this method? What makes this method significant to you?

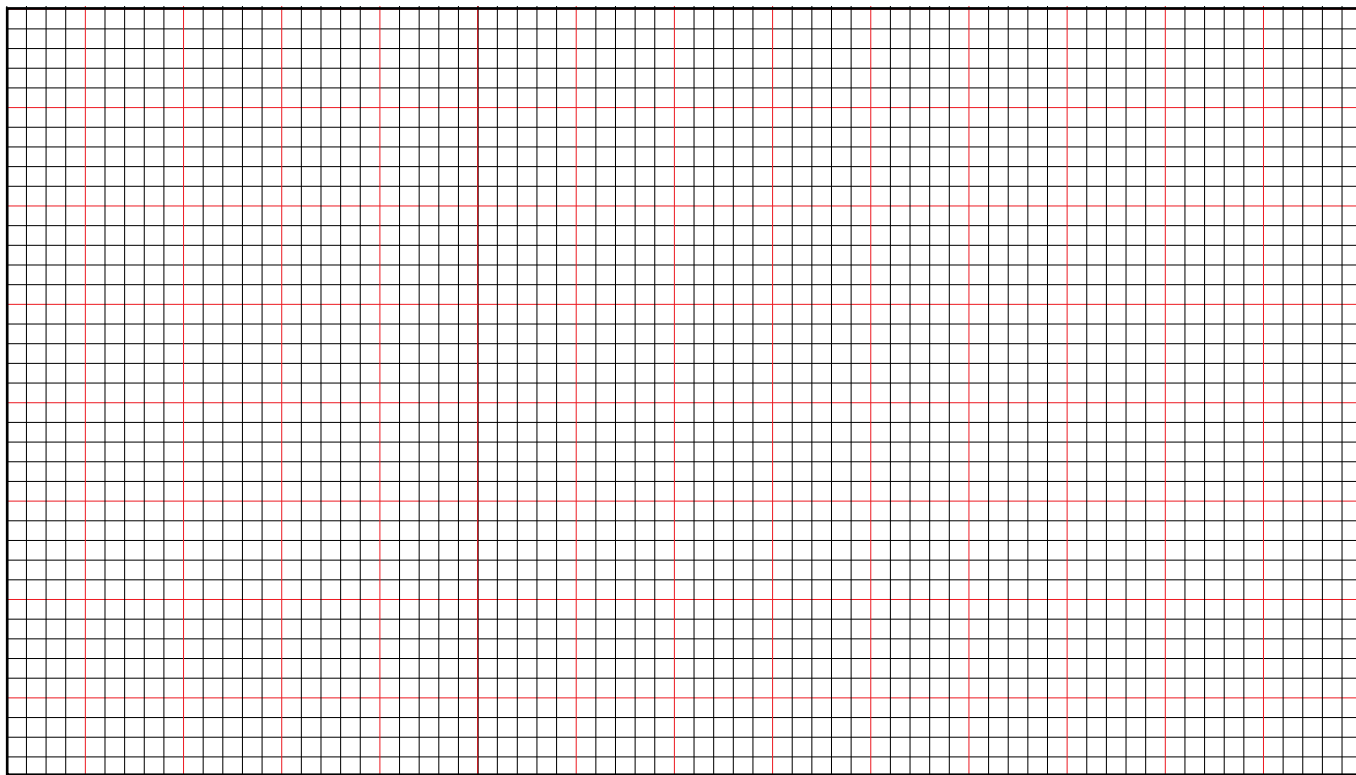
I'll choose 5a ☐ 5b ☐ 5c ☐ , because:

I'll use this method:

I'm using this method, because:

Req. 5a: Design something useful. Make a sketch or model of your design.

Date Approved: ____/____/____



Req. 5a (contd): With your counselor's approval, create a promotional piece for the item by rendering it. Describe how you will promote your item:

Date Approved: ____/____/____

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Req. 5b: Tell a story with a rendered image or images OR by making a sculptural rendering. If your intention is to make a non-sequential, stand-alone render, describe it here, along with your inspiration / narrative:

Date Approved: ____/____/____

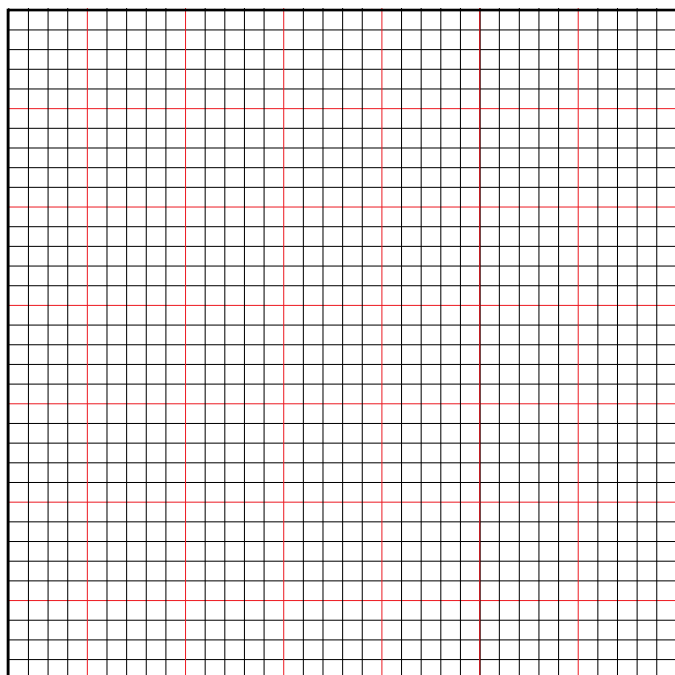
Req. 5b (contd): If your intention is to make a sequential series of renderings, storyboard them here (at least partially):

Date Approved: ____/____/____

01 Notes:	02 Notes:	03 Notes:

Req. 5b (contd): If your intention is to make a sculptural rendering, describe your means of devising it here, along with your inspiration / narrative, and sketch the intended result:

Date Approved: ____/____/____



Means of Devising:

Inspiration / Narrative:

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Req. 5c: Design a logo. Share your design with your counselor and explain the methods you used, and the significance of your logo.

	Method of Design:	Date Approved: ____/____/____
	Significance / Inspiration:	

Req. 5c (contd): Then, with your parent or guardian's permission and your counselor's approval, put your logo on Scout equipment, furniture, ceramics, or fabric. Describe your intended methods here:

	Date Approved: ____/____/____

Req. 6: With your parent or guardian's permission and your counselor's approval, visit a museum, art exhibit, art gallery, artists' co-op, or artist's workshop. Find out about the art displayed or created there. Discuss what you learn with your counselor.

What did you see?
What did you find out about what you saw, after you saw it?
How are you inspired by the visit?

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Req. 7: Find out about three career opportunities in art. If at all possible, please make one of the opportunities you explore "Art Director" for TV.

1. **Production Designer / Art Director**

2.

3.

Pick one, and find out about the education, training, and experience required for this profession.

Career:

Education:

Training:

Experience:

Discuss this career with your counselor. Explain why this profession might interest you.

Even if you do not specifically pursue a career in art, art can (and will) infuse the career you choose, if you allow it. List three professions that seem like they might not involve art-- ideally, professions that seem as far from art as possible.

1.

2.

3.

Now, think about how, when performing the tasks associated with one of those careers, art might become a part of those tasks. Would your ideas apply to all three careers? Are there "universal" ways that art can (and should) become part of our work / day-to-day existence?

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