



Animation
Portfolio
Workshop

Discover APW





Why Animation Portfolio Workshop?

To get into a top animation school you need to submit a portfolio of your drawings that demonstrate skills in the areas of observational drawing, perspective, character design, life drawing and more.

We've designed our animation portfolio preparation course to cover exactly what you need to know in order to draw your best portfolio and perhaps more importantly, to be able to meet the challenges of learning animation.



The rest of the world would do well to recognize the importance of this school.

Animation Career Review



Our History

Founded in 1999 by two highly skilled, experienced artists Gerard Sternik and Vince Peets, Animation Portfolio Workshop has set the standard for pre-art college training in drawing.

We are a social yet disciplined environment for budding animators to build a strong portfolio by cultivating proper technique and learning how to measure their progress.

Your Portfolio Matters

If your dream is to get into animation school, you need to know how to draw. No “short cuts” or “tips on portfolio-making” can ever substitute for doing the work. The last 20 years of teaching have shown us that learning how to draw will prepare you to take on the challenges of animation school and beyond.

Every top animation school requires you to submit a portfolio of drawings. Competition for spots is fierce. It's not enough to simply meet the requirements, you need to distinguish yourself with outstanding drawings.





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**APW Grads have
been admitted
to top animation
schools around
the world.**

Sheridan

Seneca

CaLARTS



Moving into films and working digitally, even building these crazy video game worlds all came from an understanding of drawing and design that I learned at Animation Portfolio Workshop which changed the way I look at the world and taught me how to express my creative ideas.

Patrick O'Keefe

ART DIRECTOR, SONY PICTURES ANIMATION



APW has done an excellent job helping to educate students with learning how to draw and become prepared for their future lives as animation students and professional animators. I've seen this demonstrated in the APW grads who have been my first year Figure Drawing students at Sheridan College Animation.

Mark Thurman

FIGURE/ANATOMY INSTRUCTOR, SHERIDAN COLLEGE



Our Curriculum

A successful animation portfolio requires a demonstration of skill in observational drawing and illustrative drawing or what is referred to in our curriculum as Life Drawing for Animation and Drawing for Animation.

Life Drawing for Animation

This module is made up of a series of drawing exercises that help to develop the skill set needed to create all the observational drawings that comprise an animation portfolio. Gesture drawing, contour drawing, constructive drawing, basic shape and mass analysis, as well as basic anatomical drawing are all practiced relentlessly by our students to enable them to complete the life drawings, hand drawings, and object drawings required for the observational component of their portfolio.



Drawing for Animation

This module introduces and covers solid, structural object drawing, perspective and layout basics, character body construction, character design, storyboarding and animation basics. APW Students focus on and develop each of these areas through carefully designed drawing exercises. The goal is to learn the fundamentals and then produce completed assignments to use as portfolio pieces. After the halfway point of the workshop, students apply the drawing skills they have been developing to the process of creating drawings for their animation portfolios.





Our Course

228 hours of live, comprehensive, and interactive curriculum from our highly successful animation portfolio preparation program. Learn character design, life drawing, perspective, layout, storyboards and more while building your animation school portfolio.

We offer three options to best suit your schedule. Choose between online (EST) or in-person.

Session 1

Spring 2023

Online

April 15 or 16, 2023 to
February 4, 2024
Sat or Sun | 10AM - 5PM

In-Person

April 15 to August 27, 2023
Sat and Sun | 10AM - 5PM

Our most popular class!
Spread our intensive
228 hour curriculum over
38 weekly classes and be
finished in time to submit
your portfolio.

\$4,700 - \$5,000 CAD

Session 2

Fall 2023

In-Person

September 9, 2023 to
January 28, 2024

Sat and Sun | 10AM - 5PM

Complete our 228 hour
curriculum with classes
twice a week for 19 weeks.
Be finished in time to
submit your portfolio.

\$5,000 CAD

Intensive

Summer 2023

Online

July 4 to August 24, 2023
Mon to Thur | 10AM - 5PM

Sept 12 to Nov 28, 2023
Tues | 6:00 – 9:00 PM EST

Our 228 hour curriculum
condensed into 38 days
This class offers a smaller
class size to a focus on the
needs of each individual.

\$10,000 CAD



My son expressed an interest in studying animation. Having a top notch portfolio is extremely important and job prospects are greatly enhanced by attending top-notch schools. APW honed my son's talents and helped him gain admission into his school of choice. Your dedication to ensuring that your students achieve their highest potential is proven and exemplary. Thank you for helping our son achieve his goal.

Mr. Justice Kofi Barnes & Mrs. Beverley Thomas-Barnes
PARENTS



Live. Comprehensive. Interactive.

Whether you study with us online or in-person, our students receive a high quality, synchronous learning experience featuring live instruction, one-on-one feedback and plenty of live demonstrations.

We emphasize delivering an experiential learning environment regardless of your learning format.



Find Your People

At APW, not only are we focused on delivering a rigorous and high quality drawing education, but we also foster a supportive atmosphere where our students walk away with new friends and a network of artists in the industry and peers they will carry throughout their career.



APW not only changed the way I draw, it made me much more confident and passionate about my art. The structure of the course allowed me to stay on top of my work while preparing my portfolio. It still surprises me how fast my work began to improve (and continues to!) once I had a grasp of the exercises taught in the course. I'm was utterly thrilled to start at SVA (School of Visual Arts) in New York.

Sophie Alberdingk-Thijm

LEAD REVISIONIST, YOWZA ANIMATION CORP.



Our Directors



Gerard Sternik AOCA

Gerard is a graduate of the Drawing and Painting Department at Ontario College of Art. He spent two years studying drawing and sculpture in Florence, Italy, and four years studying anatomy in conjunction with the University of Toronto Department of Gross Anatomy. He taught Life Drawing and Anatomy at Sheridan College.



Vince Peets

In addition to years of experience as a visual artist and educator (character design, storyboarding, illustration, and drawing for animation), Vince Peets' professional experience has covered cartooning, illustration, animation, visual development and storyboarding on animated TV series, feature films and TV spots in both Toronto and Los Angeles. He taught drawing for animation, storyboarding and visual language at Sheridan College.



Joshua Miller

Joshua is a graduate of APW (2011) and of Seneca@York Animation Arts (2016). His rich experience as a visual artist centres on drawing and includes illustration, character design, storyboarding, as well as extensive study of the human figure. As an instructor, Joshua continues to inspire students by teaching Life Drawing and Drawing for Animation as well as conducting animation portfolio assembly critiques and individual mentorship.



Bernadette Peets AOCA

A graduate of the Ontario College of Art, Bernadette majored in Drawing, Painting and Art History. She taught these subjects at Sheridan College in the Department of Continuing Education, Art Fundamentals and Visual and Creative Arts from 1996 - 2008. She has been developing her own art practice over the past 25 years in her Toronto studio.



The instructors at APW are dedicated and attentive. Not only did I learn to draw, they also taught me how to see form, structure, and think and draw in 3D space. The skills I learned at APW have been extremely helpful through all four years in animation at Sheridan College.

Lisa Wang, Animation Supervisor at GOLDTOOTH





Frequently Asked Questions

Is APW online?

Yes, our full comprehensive program is available online. It's interactive and engaging with plenty of one-on-one attention. Not just a bunch of videos to watch. Whether you choose online or in-person, you will receive the same high quality curriculum standard for Animation Portfolio Workshop.

Do I need to show my drawings to someone in order to get into APW?

No, we are all about starting at the beginning and building up a solid understanding of drawing fundamentals. If you are an absolute beginner, we recommend that you start your artist's journey by taking our Drawing Basics for Animation. This course will give you the confidence and foundation you will need to keep pace with the rigorous curriculum of our regular portfolio building program.

Does APW assist students with the college application process?

No. A session of APW focuses from start to finish on drawing. All paperwork involved in the application process is handled by the student or by the parent or guardian of the student – APW does not contact schools on behalf of individual students. Our focus is on the development of foundational drawing skills and on helping each student assemble the strongest portfolio they can.

Is APW an animation school?

No. Our focus is on the fundamentals of observational drawing. Our goal is to enable each student to put together a strong entrance animation portfolio and then to be prepared for the challenges of animation school.

Why do some classes end in February?

Many of the top animation schools set their portfolio deadlines between mid-January and March. Since the final portfolio reviews at the end of our workshop coincide with the deadlines for portfolio submission, APW students receive one-on-one guidance and input from their instructors and from APW directors at a time when it matters most – when they submit their portfolios.

Are supplies included in the price of tuition?

No, supplies are not included due to our students being all over the globe. A full supply list will be provided upon enrolment.

Does the Intensive have the same number of classes as Session 1 and 2?

Just like a normal APW session, the Intensive has 38 days of classes. The classes take place Tuesday to Friday during 8 weeks. Each day of classes has one 3 hour Life Drawing class followed by 1 hour lunch followed by one 3 hour Drawing for Animation class.



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Want to get into animation school?

Take the first step with
Animation Portfolio Workshop.

For the past 23 years, APW has
prepared students to apply to
top tier animation schools.

[Register Now](#)

Have some more questions?
Speak with our Administrative Director.

[Schedule a call](#)

