

Portfolio Tips 2022

Submission Guidelines

- One portfolio
- Maximum Size: 18" x 24" closed
- Copies or prints only, *no original art*.
- 10 - 12 images.
- Name: your name and contact information must be on your portfolio.
- WiFi is available for virtual portfolios. To avoid the possibility of technical difficulties, consider downloading your portfolio if you wish to show it on a digital device.

Graphic Novel Art

Guidelines for submitting to Brandon Reese for a review of Graphic Novel art:

- Art with text laid over (if possible), printed on 8.5 x 11 pages. Otherwise, submit text as a companion document to the images.
- Limit 20 pages of art and text combined per submission. This number of pages allows the reviewer to gauge the narrative. Please do not submit fewer than 10 pages.

PRO TIPS

- Make sure your portfolio is simple and professional.
- Print your images at a high resolution on good paper and not smaller than 4".
- Make sure every piece is pertinent to children's books, kidlit, or children's magazines.
- Include images of sequential work (2-3 pages/illustrations from the same project featuring the same characters).
- Include samples of diverse children, animals and indoor/outdoor scenes.
- Place your best image in the beginning and second best at the end of your portfolio.
- Have professional postcards to accompany your portfolio with all your contact information.

Contact Carolinas IC, [Ashley Belote](#) with any questions.

Portfolio Review Tips

What Happens In a Portfolio Review...

How to 'Take' a Portfolio Review

As an illustrator submitting your portfolio for review, it is you, yourself, under the microscope. Your portfolio is you. It defines you. It's a promise to whomever will listen to what you can do if given the chance. It's your i.d. card, your resume, and your autobiography all rolled into one.

Okay, that's the scary part. Here's the warm and fuzzy.

The professionals we bring into the conferences to review your portfolio understand how personal this is. They're rooting for you. THEY are like proud parents hoping to pass on their knowledge to help you become what they know you can be. When an art director says, "Work on your drafting," or "Think about building a world for your characters," he or she is saying they believe you can. Drawing skills can be practiced and polished. A sense of setting can be developed. They know how hard you're trying, and they want to help you focus so that your efforts are productive.

They also know the market, either as buyers or as successful navigators of the children's publishing landscape. Pay attention to what they like about your collection of work: do they compliment you on your characters' interactions? On your use of detail? Often we need someone else to show us where our strengths lie. Finally, it is true that this is a subjective business. Your reviewer will probably offer suggestions about a direction to follow. You may or may not agree. Don't follow any path that doesn't resonate with you, but respect the wisdom that prompted the suggestions. Challenge yourself to see your own work in a different light.

It's not all about print!

Because your printed portfolio is only part of your professional presentation, if you have time during your portfolio review, you may also want to ask questions about your website. We will have wifi set up at the review table. *Contact Ashley Belote at carolinasic@scbwi.org with any questions.*