

# MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

## Visual Arts Recommendation

Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Circle discipline(s): Dance Literary Arts

Media Arts Theatre Visual Arts Vocal Music

**Applicant Directions:** After you and your parent/guardian have signed this form, give it to the visual arts teacher you have selected for a recommendation. You may select a school visual arts teacher or someone else who has instructed you in visual arts. The teacher will complete the recommendation, seal it in an envelope, sign across the flap, tape over the signature and give the envelope to you to include in your application due by **February 1<sup>st</sup>**.

I, the undersigned, hereby waive my right to review any comments or information in this recommendation and any supporting documentation that may be provided to MSA.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Teacher Directions:** The above named student is applying to the Mississippi School of the Arts, a public, residential high school for eleventh and twelfth graders. Your assessment of this student will be very important in the selection process. We appreciate your thoughtful and insightful completion of this form. Incomplete recommendations will be returned to you; therefore, please rate the student in all criteria. All recommendations remain confidential. Please complete the **front and back** of this recommendation, place it in an envelope, sign across the flap, and tape over the signature. Give the envelope to the student to include in the application. Please call the Mississippi School of the Arts admissions office (601-823-1300) if you have any questions. Thank you.

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Visual Arts Teacher's Name (Print)     | Course(s) taught to applicant |
| How long have you known the applicant? | Teacher's Phone               |

Based on your knowledge, do you feel this student would be successful at MSA both in residential and academic (arts and non-arts) settings? Please explain below. (Use another sheet if necessary.)

Is there anything else the admissions committee should know about this student (e.g., personal circumstances, unusual accomplishments, obstacles overcome)? Please feel free to include information pertinent to MSA that is not covered elsewhere in this recommendation.

Teacher's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*With permission from Creative Learning Press, Inc., the Learning Characteristics and Motivation Characteristics Scales were adapted from Scales for Rating the Behavioral Characteristics of Superior Students, Revised Edition.*

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## Visual Arts Recommendation

Name of person completing the form: \_\_\_\_\_

### ARTISTIC CHARACTERISTICS

| The applicant...   | Never | Occasionally | Frequently | Always |
|--|-------|--------------|------------|--------|
| 1. Seeks to express ideas visually; participates in visual arts activities.                  |       |              |            |        |
| 2. Creates unconventional, unique solutions to artistic problems.                            |       |              |            |        |
| 3. Demonstrates sustained focus for long periods of time on art projects.                    |       |              |            |        |
| 4. Is eager to experiment with media, materials, and techniques.                             |       |              |            |        |
| 5. Is unusually attuned to the environment, an astute observer.                              |       |              |            |        |
| 6. Sets high standards for own work, self-critical.  |       |              |            |        |
| 7. Demonstrates interest in artwork of peers; studies and discusses work of others.          |       |              |            |        |
| 8. Uses ideas of others as starting point for elaboration and creation, rather than copying. |       |              |            |        |

### MOTIVATION CHARACTERISTICS

| The applicant demonstrates...   | Never | Occasionally | Frequently | Always |
|---|-------|--------------|------------|--------|
| 1. The ability to maintain focus on a task for an extended period of time.  |       |              |            |        |
| 2. Self-direction (or self-directed behavior).  |       |              |            |        |
| 3. Sustained interest in particular topics or problems.   |       |              |            |        |
| 4. Persistence in researching topics of interest.   |       |              |            |        |
| 5. Tenacity in working even when problems occur.  |       |              |            |        |
| 6. A preference for circumstances in which the student can assume responsibility for the outcome of his or her efforts. |       |              |            |        |
| 7. Readiness to receive and act upon instruction and direction.   |       |              |            |        |
| 8. Commitment to projects of interest over time.  |       |              |            |        |
| 9. Persistence in working toward a goal.  |       |              |            |        |

### CREATIVITY CHARACTERISTICS

| The applicant demonstrates...   | Below Average | Average | Above Average | Superior |
|---|---------------|---------|---------------|----------|
| 1. The ability to think imaginatively.  |               |         |               |          |
| 2. A sense of and an appreciation of humor.                                     |               |         |               |          |
| 3. The ability to generate unusual or unique responses.                         |               |         |               |          |
| 4. Sensitivity to beauty and aesthetic qualities.                               |               |         |               |          |
| 5. Fluency in generating responses, ideas, or solutions.                        |               |         |               |          |
| 6. Courage in risk-taking.  |               |         |               |          |
| 7. A tendency to see humor in circumstances that may not be humorous to others. |               |         |               |          |
| 8. The capacity to modify, adapt, or improve ideas or objects.                  |               |         |               |          |
| 9. An inclination to manipulate ideas and to fantasize.                         |               |         |               |          |