

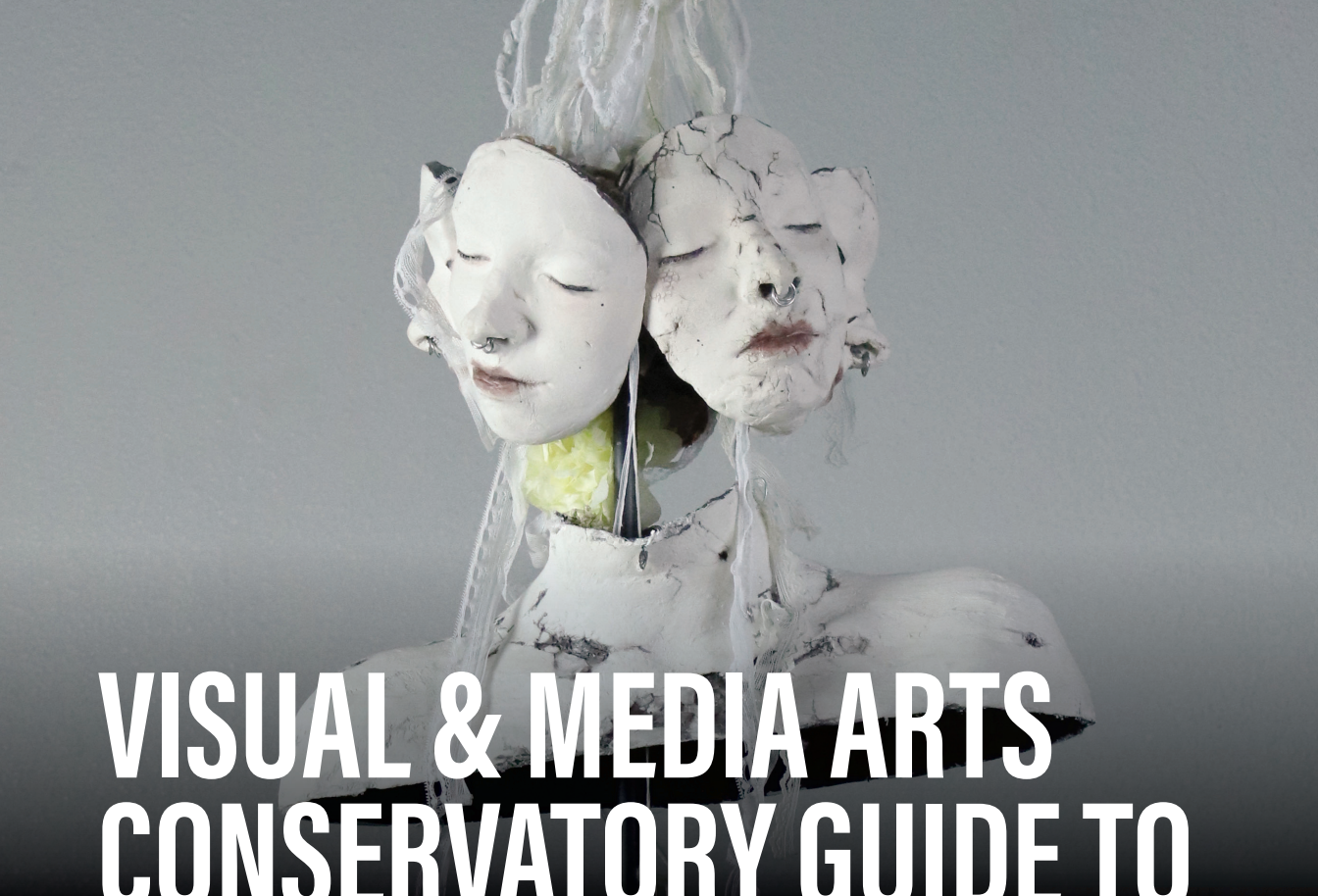


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lasvegasacademy.net/visual-arts



VISUAL & MEDIA ARTS CONSERVATORY GUIDE TO PORTFOLIO PREPARATION & AUDITIONS

2025 - 2026

Welcome to the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts

The Las Vegas Academy of the Arts (LVA) is one of the premier arts magnet schools in the nation. LVA provides students the opportunity to pursue a conservatory major in the areas of Dance, Music, Theatre, or Visual Arts.

LVA offers students intellectually challenging learning experiences and empowers them with the 21st-century skills and knowledge to successfully compete in the international workplace. LVA is a FIVE-STAR school according to the Nevada School Accountability System and boasts a 100% graduation rate.

LVA Art Majors are visual hunters and seekers who see their world in unique ways. LVA students are not just thinkers, they are makers and creators. Visual Arts Majors are expressive, obsessive, and progressive individuals who take risks to visually convey their emotions, ideas, and stories. LVA students are as unique as the artworks they produce. While individually diverse through their different personalities and cultures, they stand together in humanity, integrity, empathy, and their passion for creativity. Every student's unique background adds to the special environment of tolerance and acceptance fostered at LVA. Each student adds a special thread to the ever evolving tapestry that is the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts.



3D Visual Design Portfolio Examples

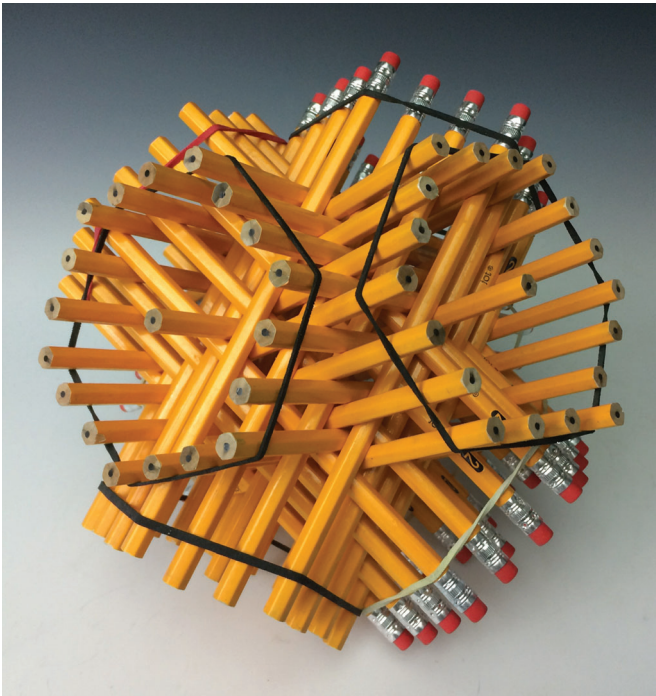


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Welcome

to The Las Vegas Academy of the Arts Audition Guidebook for the Visual & Media Arts Conservatory.

This booklet will walk students through the process of auditioning for each of the 5 majors offered by the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts Visual & Media Arts Conservatory. These majors are:

- Film & Video Production
- Media Arts Communications
- Photography
- 2D Visual Design
- 3D Visual Design

This booklet contains audition information for all 5 majors so **make sure that you are in the right section for your chosen major.**

Once in your major's section, you will be introduced to the process and preparations needed for a successful audition. While each of the 5 major audition processes vary in content, they all follow the same two step process: **Portfolio and Skills Demonstration Test.**

Portfolio - Students prepare items **prior** to the audition and present them to the adjudicators upon arrival at the audition.

Skills Demonstration Test - Students are assigned a task to complete under the supervision of the audition adjudicators.

This booklet teaches you how to prepare for these two steps and gives example images of past auditionee's work. Carefully read the information presented in this booklet and pay extra attention to all information highlighted in **red**.

Label all portfolio entries with your **MAGNET #** on the back/bottom of each artwork. **DO NOT INCLUDE** any copyright characters or cartoons, anime styled works, wet artwork, or photocopies of art (unless large artworks/ murals)

SKILLS DEMONSTRATION TEST

Students will have 30 minutes to draw a still life arrangement. The still life drawing will be evaluated by the following rubric:

- Composition: format, arrangement of space, use of picture plane.
- Technique and Use of Media: application of graphite using contour line, value, and shading techniques according to the directional light source.
- Realism and Rendering: accurate size, accurate placement of objects, and use of correct proportion.

Remember to:

- Fill the page with your drawing, draw big.
- Focus on dynamic composition.
- Strive for realistic representation of still life.
- Attention to detail and high quality mark making (include thick, thin, light, and dark lines).
- Shade according to the light source.

AUDITION PROCESS

- After checking in at the cafeteria, students will be escorted in small groups to the portfolio room where they will lay out their works with their magnet numbers visible.
- Students will be escorted to the drawing room where a still life and drawing materials will be provided. Students have 30 minutes in which to draw a still life arrangement.
- Staff will evaluate portfolios while students complete the skills demonstration portion of the audition. All portfolios will be returned at the end of audition.
- Upon completion of the skills demonstration portion, students return to the portfolio room to gather their work and are dismissed to their parents.

3D Visual Design Audition

PORTFOLIO

The portfolio submission must include artwork with the specific imagery and use of media listed below:

(more examples on following pages)

1. Your hand holding an object completed in any color medium of your choice



2. Self Portrait Drawn in graphite pencil



3. Contour line drawing of shoe
Drawn in pen and/or marker



4. 3 sculptures of your choice, made from media of your choice such as ceramic, wood, wire, plaster, jewelry, or glass.

- Artwork must have been completed by the student in the last three years.
- Sculptures can be from a school class, workshop, completed on their own, or with a tutor.

Continue reading through the book and come back to complete this checklist to ensure you are fully prepared for your audition.

- ☐ I have chosen what major I want to audition for. It is _____
- ☐ I have Registered for my Audition. The date of the Audition is ____/____ and the time I need to be there is ____:____
- ☐ I know my Magnet #. It is _____
- ☐ I have completed the required items in my portfolio and am ready to bring them to the audition with my Magnet # attached to the portfolio.
- ☐ I have all my digital media (if any) uploaded to a USB flash drive and will not be using my phone or tablet to present portfolio pieces
- ☐ My portfolio does not contain any copywritten ideas, imagery, or characters in my work.
- ☐ I have labeled all portfolio items with my magnet #
- ☐ I have read and understand to the best of my ability the expectations of the skills demonstration test and am prepared to give it my best shot.
- ☐ I am prepared to demonstrate professionalism on the day of my audition.

Audition Registration

Once you have chosen a major, the first step is to register for your audition. **No students will be accepted into the audition without proof of registration.**

To register, visit the Clark County School District's Magnet School Application website: magnet.ccsd.net

Click Apply now, select the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts, choose a date and time slot, and complete the registration.

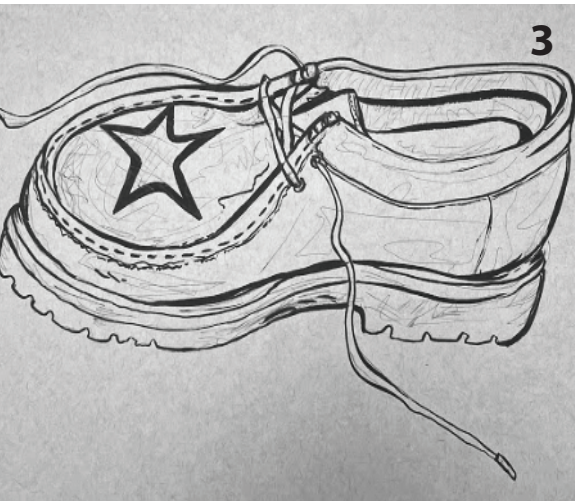
Our upcoming audition dates for the 2026-2027 school year are January 24th, 2026 and February 7th, 2026.

Day of Audition

- Parking is Available in the school's parking garage. The garage entrance is on 8th Street and Clark Avenue.
- On the date of your audition, report to the Cafeteria 15 minutes before your scheduled audition time. Check in with the secretary and receive your audition paperwork.
- Students will be called from the cafeteria into the appropriate rooms for their major's audition. Parents may wait in the cafeteria or outdoors. Restrooms are available. Auditions take approximately 1 hour.
- Students will be dismissed with all original materials and artwork they arrived with.
- Notification emails detailing students' acceptance will be sent by the Magnet Office first week of March.



2D Visual Design Portfolio Examples



Film / Video Production Audition

The audition will be judged on three components. The first two are prepared in advance and must be brought to the audition. The third is completed in person on the day of the audition.

PART 1 – Writing Sample (Prepared in Advance)

- Submit a written synopsis representing the beginning, middle, and end of an original story. This may be in the form of a treatment, screenplay excerpt, or short story.
- The writing sample should clearly establish characters, setting, and conflict.
- Focus will be placed on story structure, clarity, and creativity rather than strict formatting.

PART 2 – Storyboard Sample (Prepared in Advance)

- Create a minimum of 6 frames (or one complete sequence) visually representing part of your story.
- Drawing skill is not being judged — storyboards are used to demonstrate a filmmaker's ability to visualize compositions, shot sizes, angles, and framing choices.
- Storyboards may be hand-drawn, photographed, or digitally created.
- Students are encouraged to label shots with type, angle, and any movement or notes that help communicate their vision.

PART 3 - Presentation of Work

- During the audition, you will be expected to present your submitted work. Be prepared to discuss your writing and storyboard samples, including your story's characters, setting, and conflict, as well as your creative choices in structure and visual storytelling. You should be able to explain how your storyboard represents key moments in your story and how your shot choices help communicate your vision.

Label all portfolio entries with your MAGNET # on the back of each artwork. DO NOT INCLUDE any copyright characters or cartoons, anime styled works, wet artwork, or photocopies of art (unless large artworks/murals)

SKILLS DEMONSTRATION TEST

Students will have 30 minutes to draw a still life arrangement. The still life drawing will be evaluated by the following rubric:

- Composition: format, arrangement of space, use of picture plane.
- Technique and Use of Media: application of graphite using contour line, value, and shading techniques according to the directional light source.
- Realism and Rendering: accurate size, accurate placement of objects, and use of correct proportion.

Remember to:

- Fill the page with your drawing, draw big.
- Focus on dynamic composition.
- Strive for realistic representation of still life.
- Attention to detail and high quality mark making (include thick, thin, light, and dark lines).
- Shade according to the light source.

AUDITION PROCESS

- After checking in at the cafeteria, students will be escorted in small groups to the portfolio room where they will lay out their works with their magnet numbers visible.
- Students will be escorted to the drawing room where a still life and drawing materials will be provided. Students have 30 minutes in which to draw a still life arrangement.
- Staff will evaluate portfolios while students complete the skills demonstration portion of the audition. All portfolios will be returned at the end of audition.
- Upon completion of the skills demonstration portion, students return to the portfolio room to gather their work and are dismissed to their parents.

2D Visual Design Audition

PORTFOLIO

The portfolio submission must include artwork with the specific imagery and use of media listed below:

(more examples on following pages)

1. Your hand holding an object completed in any color medium of your choice



2. Self Portrait Drawn in graphite pencil



3. Contour line drawing of shoe
Drawn in pen and/or marker



4. 3 Drawings and/or paintings of your choice, created by observing people, places, and objects using any drawing/painting media of your choice.

- Artwork must have been completed by the student in the last three years.
- Drawings/paintings can be from a school class, workshop, completed on their own, or with a tutor.

AUDITION PROCESS

- After checking in at the cafeteria, students will be escorted in small groups to the film room where they will lay out their writing sample and storyboard sample with their magnet numbers visible.
- Staff will evaluate portfolios while students complete the presentation of work. All portfolio materials will be returned at the end of the audition.
- Upon completion of the presentation of work portion, students will gather their portfolios and are dismissed to their parents.



Storyboard sample example

Media Arts And Communications Audition

PORTFOLIO

For this portfolio, students are promoting a fictional business, organization, or event. Students are to submit **SIX** pieces, **TWO** from each category: Written, Visual, and Photo/Video.

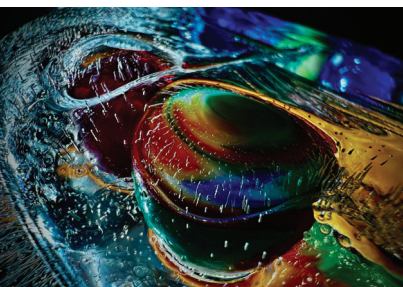
WRITTEN	VISUAL	PHOTO/VIDEO
• Press release • Interview questions (5-10) • Announcement • Script for a commercial • Event Review • Script for a news broadcast	• Banner ad • Logo • Social media post • Poster • T-shirt or pin (design for, not product) • Storyboard for a commercial • Full-page magazine ad • Postcard	• Commercial • Interview (staged) • Photo essay with captions • Promotional photos • 60 - 90 second clip of broadcast production

Students may consider their submissions as part of a unified media package, meaning overlap is not only permitted but encouraged. For example, the interview questions for the written requirement can and should be used for the staged interview; the storyboard and logo can and should be included in the commercial, etc. Students may bring digital files on a USB flash drive. **No phones, tablets, or other devices will be used to view artworks.** (labeled examples are on the following pages)

SEQUENCE



5 - PERSONAL CHOICE



Photography Portfolio Examples

LANDSCAPE



STILL LIFE



ACTUAL SELF PORTRAIT



5 - PERSONAL CHOICE



SKILLS DEMONSTRATION TEST

Students will be provided with a client brief. The brief will describe the client and the client's needs. Based upon that brief, students will have 15 minutes to complete the following:

- Design a logo (color optional).
- Prepare an elevator pitch.
- Work will be completed by hand. Drawing materials will be provided but students may bring their own art supplies if wanted.
- Each student will deliver a 5-minute elevator pitch outlining their vision for the client, the objectives of a full marketing package, and the rationale behind their logo design.

AUDITION PROCESS

- After checking in at the cafeteria, students will be escorted in small groups to the media arts communications room where they will lay out their 6 portfolio works with their magnet numbers visible OR set their USB flashdrive. Files on the drive must be in docx, jpg, png, pdf, mp3, and/or mp4.
- Students will begin the skills demonstration test. Students will have 15 minutes to complete the test with 5 minutes allotted for the elevator pitch.
- Staff will evaluate portfolios while students complete the skills demonstration test. All portfolio materials will be returned at the end of the audition.
- Upon completion of the skills demonstration portion, students will gather their portfolios and are dismissed to their parents.

Media Arts & Communications Portfolio Examples

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Questions:

1. How do you feel about your business
2. What made you want to open your business?
3. Was starting your business tough?
4. What products do you sell?
5. Who has helped you along your journey?
6. Do you regret anything from your business?

EVENT REVIEW

Creativity can be cute, but it's often overlooked. Crochet work is usually stereotyped as old grandma knitting work, but Yarn Fluffies brings out a side of crochet that is usually overlooked in the crochet community. Stuffed animals!

I discovered Yarn Fluffies by watching an interview with the founder, Joslyn Rakes, who crochets stuffed animals to be sold online. She started crocheting as a kid and seems to know what she's doing.

Being particular about my stuffed animals, I checked their website to find the products. The website was easy to navigate, well-organized, and accessible to all the products.

I bought the cuddle bundle, which included a crocheted dog, bunny, and cat with adorable names like Doodle, Mochi, and Cottontail. When they arrived, they were the exact colors as indicated on the website. What caught my eye was that Yarn Fluffies animals are nice and round, so they aren't as bulky and have more stability. The yarn was soft, so it was perfect for cuddling. The fluffing inside is what gave Yarn Fluffies its name. The eyes on the stuffies were plastic, but you can order them embroidered on their website.

The bundle cost around \$35, but separately, they were around \$15. Shipping wasn't free, but they offered free shipping for orders above \$50. My package came a day later because I live close to the business retailer. When I opened the box, they were all safely packaged and as adorable as ever.

I examined the objects and they were so cute! I immediately placed them on the pillow beside me. They also came in handy when calming my younger cousins. They were all upset over something that happened, but they stopped crying after seeing the animals.

Yarn Fluffies are perfect gifts for anyone, although preferably humans, as pets could probably rip the product apart. They're a bit pricey, but you get the full product and don't have to learn to crochet like other products that are just the kits.

Overall, Yarn Fluffies are great products. I'd get these for any of my friend's children and recommend viewing their website and maybe purchasing any cute yarn fluffies that you find to your liking.

5. Additional 3 photographs of your choice that focus on specific photographic elements and principles of design. For example: pattern, symmetry, depth of field, and texture. (examples on following pages)

Print your photos 4"x6" or 8"x10" and Label all portfolio entries with your MAGNET # on the back of each artwork.

SKILLS DEMONSTRATION TEST

You will choose 3 objects provided to you at LVA. Using the school campus as your background, photograph the 3 objects using the camera on your phone. These photographs should address lighting and the photographic elements and principles of design (pattern, symmetry, texture, depth of field, line, etc). Be sure to demonstrate dynamic backgrounds and developed lighting. You will email your final photographs to the instructor at the close of the 30 minute test session. Email must be sent directly from your phone, no editing permitted.

AUDITION PROCESS

- After checking in at the cafeteria, students will be escorted in small groups to the photo room where they lay out their portfolio works with their magnet numbers visible.
- Staff will evaluate portfolios while students complete the skills demonstration portion of the audition. All portfolios will be returned at the end of audition.
- Students will be escorted to begin the skills demonstration test. Students will have 30 minutes to complete the test.
- Upon completion of the skills demonstration portion, students return to the portfolio room to gather their work and are dismissed to their parents.

Photography Audition

PORTFOLIO

Prior to the audition, students are to create a portfolio that will be submitted for review at the start of the audition.

Required photographs:

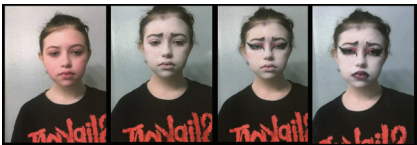
1. Landscape - Urban or rural, night or day, demonstrate a vast depth of field.



2. Representational Still Life - Arrange objects to represent your interests and personality.



3. Sequence/Series of 4 to 6 frames - Show a series of the same object or person completing an action.



4. Actual Self Portrait - Use appropriate lighting, dress, pose for a clear and accurate photographic portrait.



PRESS RELEASE

A Local Teenager Starts a “Hike-A-Thon” to Help Feed People Across the Las Vegas Valley

On October 12th, 2024, Clark County students will be climbing various mountains around Las Vegas for charity with the new “When Students Climb” organization. Students can gather sponsors, like family or businesses, to pledge money for a successful climb. Half of the money raised is kept on completion, the rest donated to feed the hungry at non-profit food pantries.

Olivia Hernquist, a local teenager, realized she could help the people in Las Vegas cope with rising food costs by having students climb mountains, with multiple sponsors leaving money raised at hundreds per hiker.

“I’m thrilled ‘When Students Climb’ is getting so much attention,” Olivia Hernquist says. “Students are going to make a real change in this valley. Students



can register now at www.whenstudentsclimb.com or call 702-555-5555 for more information.”

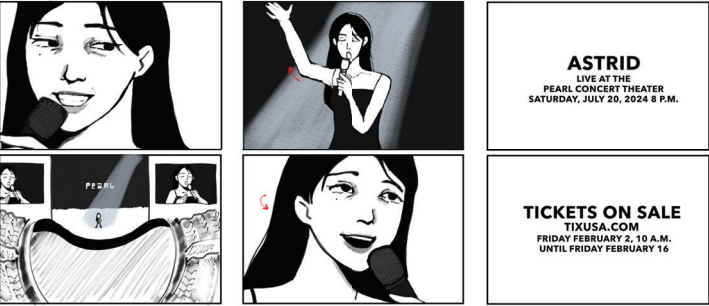
Several mountains are available, all with different difficulty levels; those mountains being Frenchman and Black Mountain, as well as, Griffith and Charleston Peak. High elevation and steep trails will make your hike more difficult. These climbs will require training. The “When Students Climb” foundation suggests hiking smaller mountains after the winter passes, then advancing to more challenging trails.

Josie Llomeii, an excited future participant, said, “I’ve already started training and convinced my aunt to sponsor me. I want to help people, as many as I can, so I am going to hike up Mt. Charleston on the 12th.”



Media Arts & Communications Portfolio Examples

COMMERCIAL STORYBOARD



PROMOTIONAL PHOTOS



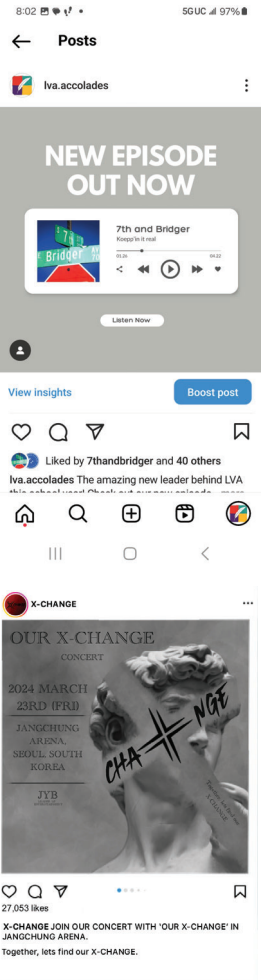
T SHIRT



POSTER



SOCIAL MEDIA POST



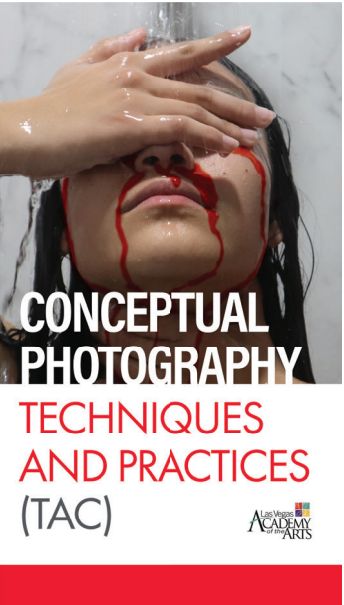
POSTCARD



PIN



BROCHURE COVER



LOGO



FULL PAGE PRINT AD

