**Sketchbook Prompts**

***These are ideas, questions, prompts and thought provoking inquiries designed to inspire new and creative ideas for your sketchbook. You may use all or none, or make up your own!***

~ Create a one or two page drawing that demonstrates several of your strongest art skills.

~ Find an ordinary or mundane object. Spend at least five minutes carefully observing the details within it. What makes it different than other objects? What colors and patterns are found within it? What is the texture like? Now draw this object. Did the time you spent looking at the object increase your interest within the object and drawing? Do you think you created a better image because of your observations you made? Draw and reflect…

~ Paste a photograph, magazine, newspaper clipping, book page, or printed image in your sketchbook and draw on top of it. Add color, mixed-media, words, other images, patterns, objects, ect. to the picture to increase its visual interest.

~ Look at yourself in a spoon. Draw or paint what you see!

~ Create an abstract design using elements from magazine or newspaper or other mixed media materials. Cut and past the objects or 2-D material onto your sketchbook pages. Go back in to your design and add any other elements that would aid to the composition.

~ Illustrate a dream you have had using only five symbols. Consider what you know about composition, emphasis, contrast ect. as you build the images.

~ Stare at yourself in a mirror. Draw your face without looking at the page. Once drawn, go back into it and add any drawing or painting elements you think would help with the composition and interest of the image. Don’t erase the marks you made!

~Sit in a public place and draw someone without them knowing. See how quickly or long you can draw them without them discovering you.

~ Look through your trash and find four objects that you can transform into something creative! Could you make jewelry out of lids or plastics bottles? Create a portrait with tissues and coffee grounds? Anything goes!

~ Illustrate a daydream you have had before.

~ Look at a rock or another object from nature up close. Draw the spots and details and colors that you see up close, and then stop looking at the object and add to your drawing. See if you can make an abstract drawing out your image!

~ Collect every piece of paper you receive in one week (receipts, throw-away papers, gum wrappers, ect.) and make a collage out of them using multi-media.

~ Choose one of your favorite quotes or song lyrics and illustrate it. This can be abstract or representational.

~If you got a holiday card from one of your favorite artists, what would it look like? Also what would it say, and what would you say back to them?

~ Pop some popcorn. Take a few kernels and look at the shapes and shades created. With pencil and smudge shading, study a few of the kernels and fill the page with them. (This can be done with other food if you desire!)

~ Draw or design a vehicle. This can be a car, spaceship, airplane, boat, motorcycle, bicycle or anything you want.

~ Draw or paint yourself using a strong light source on one side of your face. Use a mirror and try to have some expression. Focus on the strong shadows created by the light.

~ Using color create an Impressionist Landscape drawing. Look up various artists and images impressionism to give you some ideas. Go outside and find a landscape that interests you and paint impressionistically!

~ Draw a series of an animal, object, or human in motion. This could be a bird flying, a person diving, a piece of food falling, ect. This can be in any media and you can use just three views or images in a row.

~ Divide the page into three areas with a ruler. Draw an object of your choice in black and white. Next, in another area, draw the same object using color. In the third section draw it again but this time abstract it however you want!

~ What is a secret you have? Illustrate this secret using collage…

~ What color defines you? Create a self-portrait using mainly this color!

~ Pick one of your favorite pieces of artwork and paint or draw it in your sketchbook! Try and make it as close as possible to the original piece as possible.

~ Practice drawing/painting from your imagination by drawing from the following list:

- What would you see if you grew wings and flew over Fort Collins? The mountains?

- What if your big toe became its own person?

- What if you suddenly became very very small?

- If you were an imaginary creature what would you look like?

- If you were a super hero what would you look like?

- All of a sudden your absolute favorite celebrity walks through your front door. What does your face look like? If your least favorite celebrity walked through your front door what would your face look like?

- If someone wrote a book about you, what would it be called, and what would the cover look like?

See if you can come up with some of your own prompts for yourself too! You can also get more sketchbook ideas from your peers, friends, family, or the internet.

Have fun sketchbooking!