Assessment Specifications

Scholarship Visual Arts 2026

Published October 2025

General information

Performance Standard: 93306 (Painting)
93307 (Design)
93308 (Sculpture)
93309 (Printmaking)
93310 (Photography)

Assessment method: Body of work / portfolio

Assessment medium: Digital or physical submission

Final date of submission: 5 November 2026

Visual Arts subject page

National secondary examinations timetable

Format of the assessment

Standards 93306, 93307, 93309, and 93310

Candidates are to produce a portfolio and workbook extracts for assessment. The portfolio can be EITHER a three-panel portfolio (folio board) OR a moving image portfolio, representing the requirements of the standard.

The workbook and the submitted portfolio must be prepared together, in parallel, in the same year.

Physical portfolio specifications:

- THREE-panel, hinged portfolio. See Submission requirements on page 3.
- Three-dimensional or large-scale work should be represented by good quality photographs and, where appropriate, accompanied by work details, sketches or diagrams.
- With photographs of artworks, candidates should provide typed labels with contextual information about the work. For example, descriptive information about materials, media, processes, and scale, as well as durational and participatory aspects attached to performance, time-based, or social art practice.
- Work that is not securely attached, or is bulky, wet, fragile, or includes sharp objects or materials that might cause injury during handling, will not be assessed.

Digital portfolio (moving image) specifications:

- The body of work for a moving image portfolio should be equivalent to the body of work required for a still image portfolio

- The portfolio should show evidence of actual time-based work and / or documentation of time-based art or design practice

- The portfolio will be submitted as one video file no more than 180 seconds in total length (see permitted file types). The portfolio may comprise several individually edited video files or a combination of moving and still images

- Sound included in a moving image portfolio must be either original field recordings, composition(s), or music for which copyright has been obtained, and must be referenced in credits at the end of the submission.

- Candidates must include contextual information about artworks where appropriate. For example: descriptive information about materials, scale, site as well as durational and participatory aspects attached to performance, time-based, or social art practice.

- Expected modes within moving image include:
  - performance
  - kinetic
  - animation
  - interactive design
  - motion graphics
  - time-based documentation.

See Submission requirements on page 3 for permitted file types.

Scholarship workbook specifications:

A workbook must accompany all Visual Arts Scholarship entries.

- The workbook and the submitted portfolio must be prepared together, in parallel, in the same year.

- Workbook material must be submitted in an A3 clearfile folder and is limited to 8 single-sided A3 pages plus one title page.

- The workbook must start with a title page that references the portfolio as a whole. The title page is for the marker's reference and will not count in the candidate's allocated 8 pages.

- Workbook material may be displayed as either portrait or landscape orientation.

- The title page of the workbook for a three-panel portfolio should provide a series of photographs of the three panels, in the order in which they are presented.

- The title page of the workbook for a moving image portfolio should include a series of screenshots of up to a maximum of 12 frames, in the order in which they appear in the video.

Standard 93308 (Sculpture)

93308 (Sculpture) is a **digitally submitted portfolio ONLY**. See specific information for the individual standard on page 5.

Conditions of assessment

Candidate's work should be developed between January and November of the year of submission.

Candidates will be required to disclose the use of generative AI. This requires a clear and detailed description of how AI has been integrated in the visual arts practice including the tools, the role, and specific tasks performed by AI, and the extent to which AI has contributed to the final artwork. Candidates must:

- identify the specific AI software used in the creation of the artwork
- describe the functions performed by AI, whether in generating visual elements, assisting with composition, or enhancing existing artwork.

Candidates will use the authenticity disclosure form that accompanies the portfolio to detail AI use.

Authenticity

Teachers must closely supervise the process of evidence collection to ensure that candidates:

- do not copy from another person or source (such as stock imagery) without appropriate acknowledgement
- do not receive guidance, scaffolding, instruction, assistance, or assessment conditions beyond what is specified as permissible in these Assessment Specifications.

Where a teacher cannot verify that the assessment submitted is the authentic work of the candidate, they must notify NZQA of a possible Candidate Breach of External Assessment.

Refer to the Authenticity Declaration resource on the subject page of NZQA website.

Submission requirements for 93306, 93307, 93309, and 93310 ONLY

Note: for 93308, see Submission requirements on page 7.

Physical evidence must be submitted as:

ONE portfolio:	• THREE-panel portfolio (folio board) must be free-standing and consist of three 820 × 610 mm panels of cardboard, joined down the long edge (portrait in orientation). • the three panels must be hinged with adhesive tape or a glued binding cloth, and fold inwards to ensure the artwork is not damaged.
Weight:	no more than 1 kg and should be no more than 15 mm thick when folded.

Digital evidence must be submitted as:

A maximum of TWO files (one being the authenticity statement)	
Permitted file types:	video: AVI, M4V, MP4, MOV, WEBM, MTS
	authenticity statement: PDF
File size:	maximum of 5GB each

Note that only these file types may be submitted, and that other file types may not be able to be marked.

Schools are required to store securely a backup copy (or originals) of all digital submissions.

Candidates should refer to Further Guidance for Submission Responses for further information.

Refer also to other resources on the subject page of NZQA website.

Further submission instructions and authenticity requirements will be provided for schools Term 3 Week 1.

Further information

Scholarships can be awarded in each field (Painting, Design, Sculpture, Printmaking, and Photography), and a candidate may make submissions in more than one field. A candidate who chooses to do this needs to submit a separate portfolio and a separate workbook for each field.

A candidate for New Zealand Scholarship may also enter the portfolio section of their submission for the appropriate Level 3 NCEA standard.

Specific information for 93308 (Sculpture)

Performance Standard: 93308 (Sculpture)

Assessment method: Body of work / portfolio

Assessment medium: Digitally submitted portfolio ONLY

Candidates are to produce a portfolio and edited workbook for assessment. The portfolio can be EITHER a still image portfolio OR a moving image portfolio, representing the requirements of the standard.

The workbook and the submitted portfolio must be prepared together, in parallel, in the same year.

Still image portfolio specifications (93308)

- The still image portfolio must be a landscape format, high-resolution PDF file that replicates the work of a physical three-panel portfolio board.
- The PDF must show the entire body of work as a single-landscape format, high-resolution image 1850 mm x 610 mm. Along with photographs of artworks, the candidate should provide contextual information about the work where appropriate. For example: descriptive information about media, processes, and scale, as well as durational and participatory aspects attached to performance, time-based, or social art practice.

Moving image portfolio specifications (93308)

- The body of work for a moving image portfolio should be equivalent to the body of work required for a still image portfolio.
- The portfolio should show evidence of actual time-based work and / or documentation of time-based sculptural practice.
- The portfolio will be submitted as ONE video file no more than 180 seconds in total length (see Permitted file types). The portfolio may comprise several individually edited video files or a combination of moving and still images.
- Sound included in a moving image portfolio must be either original field recordings, composition(s), or music for which copyright has been obtained, and must be referenced in credits at the end of the submission.
- Candidates must include contextual information about artworks where appropriate. For example: descriptive information about materials, scale, site as well as durational and participatory aspects attached to performance, time-based, or social art practice.
- Expected modes within moving image include:
  - performance
  - kinetic
  - video documentation of durational work.

Scholarship workbook specifications (93308)

A workbook must accompany all Visual Arts Scholarship entries.

- The workbook and the submitted portfolio must be prepared together, in parallel, in the same year.
- The workbook pages must be in landscape format
- Workbook material may be either scanned physical edited workbook pages or digitally created landscape format pages.
- Workbook material must be submitted as a multi-page pdf file and is limited to 9 pages.
- For the still image portfolio the first workbook page must be the full still image portfolio image. The subsequent 8 pages should be landscape format edited workbook pages.
- For the moving image folio the first page must include a series of thumbnail sizes images that relate to the phases of work in the submission. This contents page should contain up to a maximum of 15 frames. The subsequent 8 pages should be landscape format edited workbook pages.

Conditions of assessment (93308)

Candidate's work should be developed between January and November of the year of submission.

Candidates will be required to disclose the use of generative AI. This requires a clear and detailed description of how AI has been integrated in the visual arts practice including the tools, the role, and specific tasks performed by AI, and the extent to which AI has contributed to the final artwork. Candidates must:

- identify the specific AI software used in the creation of the artwork
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Authenticity (93308)

Teachers must closely supervise the process of evidence collection to ensure that candidates:

- do not copy from another person or source (such as stock imagery) without appropriate acknowledgement
- do not receive guidance, scaffolding, instruction, assistance, or assessment conditions beyond what is specified as permissible in these Assessment Specifications.

Where a teacher cannot verify that the assessment submitted is the authentic work of the candidate, they must notify NZQA of a possible Candidate Breach of External Assessment.

Submission requirements (93308)

Digital portfolios must be submitted as:

A maximum of THREE files (one being the authenticity statement)	
Permitted file types:	video: AVI, M4V, MP4, MOV, WEBM, MTS
	workbook: PDF
	authenticity statement: PDF
File size:	maximum of 5GB each

Schools are required to store securely a backup copy (or originals) of all digital submissions.

Candidates should refer to Further Guidance for Submission Responses for further information.

Refer also to other resources on the subject page of NZQA website.

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A candidate for New Zealand Scholarship may also enter the portfolio section of their submission for the appropriate Level 3 NCEA standard.