25 QUESTIONS
International Digital Visual Arts Academy

1. What is International Digital Visual Arts Academy?
A world-class, Digital Visual Arts Academy for the serious young visual artist, who wishes to train hard and play harder to develop their artistic skills in the pursuit of a future in the fun, creative and growing digital arts fields.

Teaching:
Game Design:
> Offers a practice-oriented approach to the art and science of game making. Emphasizes visual design and programming for video games. Fosters conceptual understanding of the principles of game design for all varieties of games.

2-D and 3-D Animation:
> Learn all aspects of animation, with a particular emphasis on the special requirements of 3-D modeling and animating for the gaming industry. Develop powers of visualization as well as provide a conceptual basis for visual narrative. Graduates will be skilled in the use of industry-standard animation applications. (Software: Smithmicro Poser® & Anime®.

Digital Photography:
> Designed to train students to record, interpret, and process surroundings in a fast changing world. Gain experience in editing, manipulating, and managing high quality still imagery using the latest equipment and various capturing tools, color management plans, and image manipulation plug-ins. Learn it all: studio portraiture, fashion, children/family, wildlife, landscape, sports & high speed action, event, fine arts, product & commercial, architecture, panoramic, black & white. Includes file management principles.(Software: Adobe Photoshop® and illustrator®)

Digital Video:
> Photography-in-motion, Can you say Hollywood! Gain competency in digital production and post-production while exploring various formal, conceptual, & structural strategies. Learn to generate digital video that communicates effectively and inventively, in preparation for positions in the creative industries of gaming, design, and media production. For example: Commercial, Informative, Webinar, Podcast, public service announcement (PSAs), Culture, Testimonials and Animation. (Software: Adobe Premier® and AfterEffects®)

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Print Making:

Learn the qualities of print making with many of today's paper media like canvas, metallic vinyl, wall decor, silk and more. Learn how to calibrate and use ICC profiles to match your work to your prints.

Website Design:

Focuses on the dynamics of communication in the digital world. Learn to communicate effectively in website medium using tools like Adobe Muse®, Dreamweaver®, Fireworks®, InDesign®, illustrator® in all organizational contexts.

Interactive Design:

Offers an overview of courses in the creative process of storytelling and communicating through visuals and sound. Gain expertise in time-based design, interface, and experience design through a practice-oriented problem solving approach.

Group Communications:

Focuses on the dynamics of communication in complex groups and organizations, for the purpose of learning how individuals within such groups and organizations can become effective communicators.

2. Who is Steve Stennes?

A 30+ year Master professional photographer/videographer and animation/Gaming designer who has won awards at all levels. Steve has been teaching photographic art and digital graphic arts for over 20 years.

3. What is an "International"?

Teaching students from all over the world and competing in competitions worldwide.

4. What professional associations has Steve been a part of?

PPA, Professional Photographers of America
TCPPA, Twin Cities Professional Photographers Association
MNPPA, Minnesota Professional Photographers Association

5. What Awards did Steve receive?

2003 Wedding Photographer of the year.
2007 Minnesota Twin-Cities Portrait Photographer of the year.
2008 Minnesota Twin-Cities Portrait Photographer of the year.
Steve has been awarded Merit awards at all levels from Local, State, Regional and National competitions.
These merits were needed to receive his Master status.

6. What kind of Digital Visual Arts programs does the iDVA academy offer?
A.   A full-time digital visual arts program with boarding and academics
       (9-month program from late August until the end of May)
B.   A full-time non-boarding digital visual arts program with academics
       (9-month program from late August until the end of May)
C.   A full-time, non-boarding, local digital visual arts program without academics
       (9-month program from late August until the end of May)

7. Do you offer a Post-Graduate program?
We offer a 7-month post-grad program for the digital visual art student who needs an extra year of digital arts training and/or academics to expand their college recruitment opportunities. This program offers academic options to meet each individuals needs for college preparation including: SAT/ACT prep course, credit recovery classes and on-line college courses, including college placement strategies.

8. How about camp?
Holiday, summer, individual and camp programs are also offered year round both boarding and non-boarding.

9. Any other additional programs?
The iDVA academy will offer assistance in research for College scholarships and enrollment.

10. What age groups are allowed?
15-19yrs.

11. Are both boys and girls accepted?
Yes, both boys and girls are accepted.

12. What Competition(s) will the Academy students compete in?
Competing in the arts is unique from other venues in life as it is very personal. Putting your art out to be judged by others can be very difficult for many veteran artists let alone budding students. We will take the time needed to build up a student's confidence with their talents and understand that competing is more about learning and advancement then about them personally. We'll help them to separate technical correctness from personal preference. This is a good life lesson in general. The academy will prepare students for competition with in-class competitions based on seeing the positive skills until they are ready to enter in the higher level competitions. We will foster an environment of positive feedback and zero tolerance for negative criticism that can stifle artistic talent.

13. What tournaments and competitions will the teams compete at?
Our plan is to compete in a variety of competitions like National Geographic, Canon, Nikon, Spider Black and White, UK NPA awards, etc. We are looking into other competitions for animation, gaming and video production as well.

14. Will the Digital Visual Arts Academy be involved with local public and commercial commerce?
The Digital Visual Arts Academy is exploring involvement with several local Sarasota companies and public productions to get the student hands-on experience. The students will also be photographing and producing videos for local publications and our own Sports Academies.

15. Who are the Academy Instructors?
Steve Stennes will personally select all the staff educators who will assist him in training all the students. Currently on staff are Nancy Knight and Bud Janney specializing in different aspects of digital visual arts.

16. Are all the Academy educators actively keeping up their skills?
All of the education staff is required to continue their education in the arts and to compete in appropriate competition levels.

17. Will the students be offered evaluations?
Steve is currently working with a company to have evaluations available, every trimester for all the students and parents.

18. Where will the boarding students live and eat?
There are supervised condos available for the boarding students. They will eat their meals at the Elevation Preparatory Academy facilities.

19. Where will the boarding students go to school?
The Elevation Preparatory Academy will serve as the academic school for all the students.

20. Where will the classes take place?
The Art Center Sarasota (www.artsarasota.org) combined with numerous outings around Sarasota and events within the other Academies.

21. How's transportation arranged for these outings?
iDVA Academy will provide transportation for any events outside Elevation Academy.

22. What equipment is necessary to attend the iDVA academy?
A complete list of equipment is outlined on the website.
(www.iDVAacademy.org/About Us/Equipment/)

23. How many days per week are Digital Visual Art classes held?
Classes are held 5 days per week for 3 hours each day.

24. What special opportunities are available for my child in Sarasota?
Sarasota offers a unique environment for studying in the Digital Visual Arts. We will be working closely with Ringling School of Art & Design to custom tailor our program giving our students exactly what the premier Art and Design colleges are looking for, greatly increasing their opportunities to further their education and careers.

25. What measures are taken to ensure my child is safe?
All students will be monitored 24/7. At Elevation Academy by their teachers; to and from classes and errands, and in their housing by our chaperones; and by our iDVA academy instructors while in class and on outings. Safety is our #1 priority!