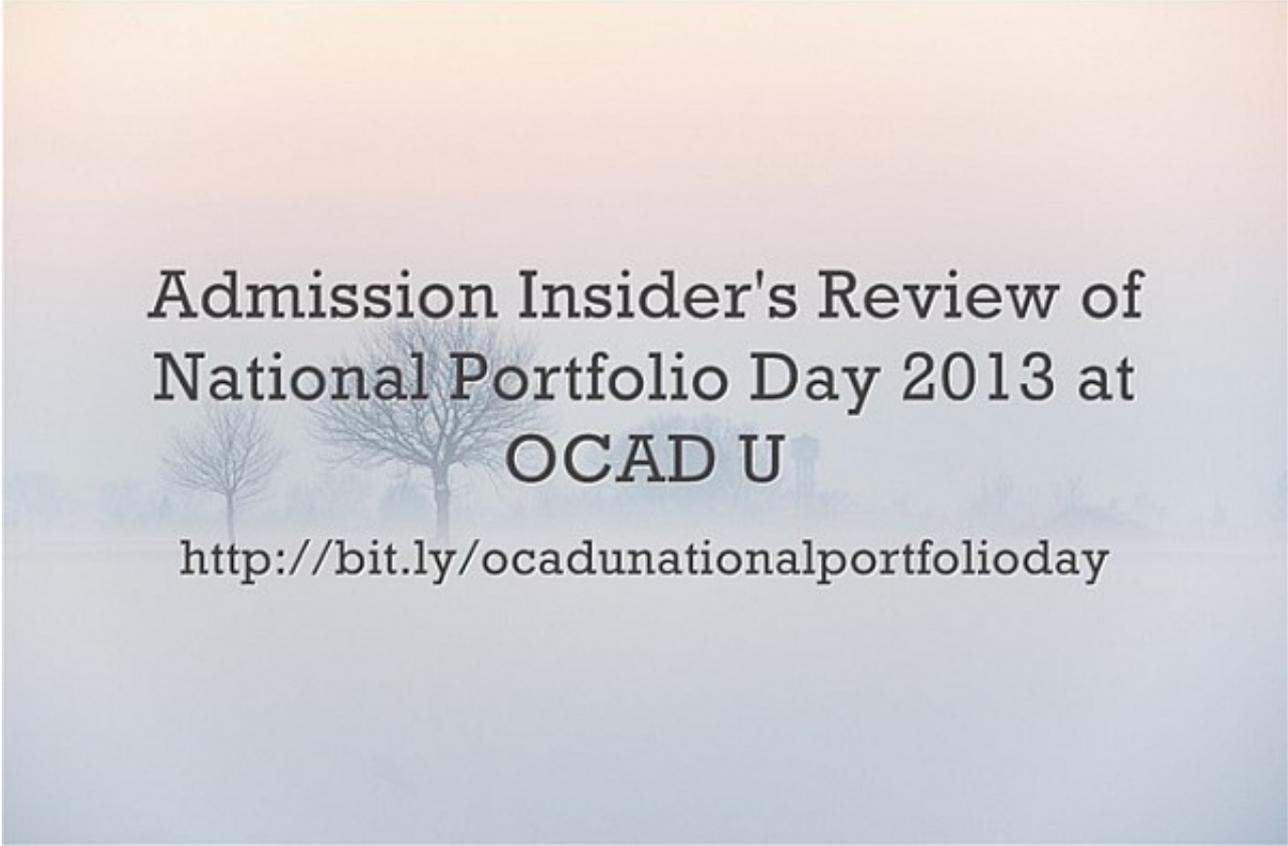


## Admission Insider's Review of National Portfolio Day 2013 at OCAD U

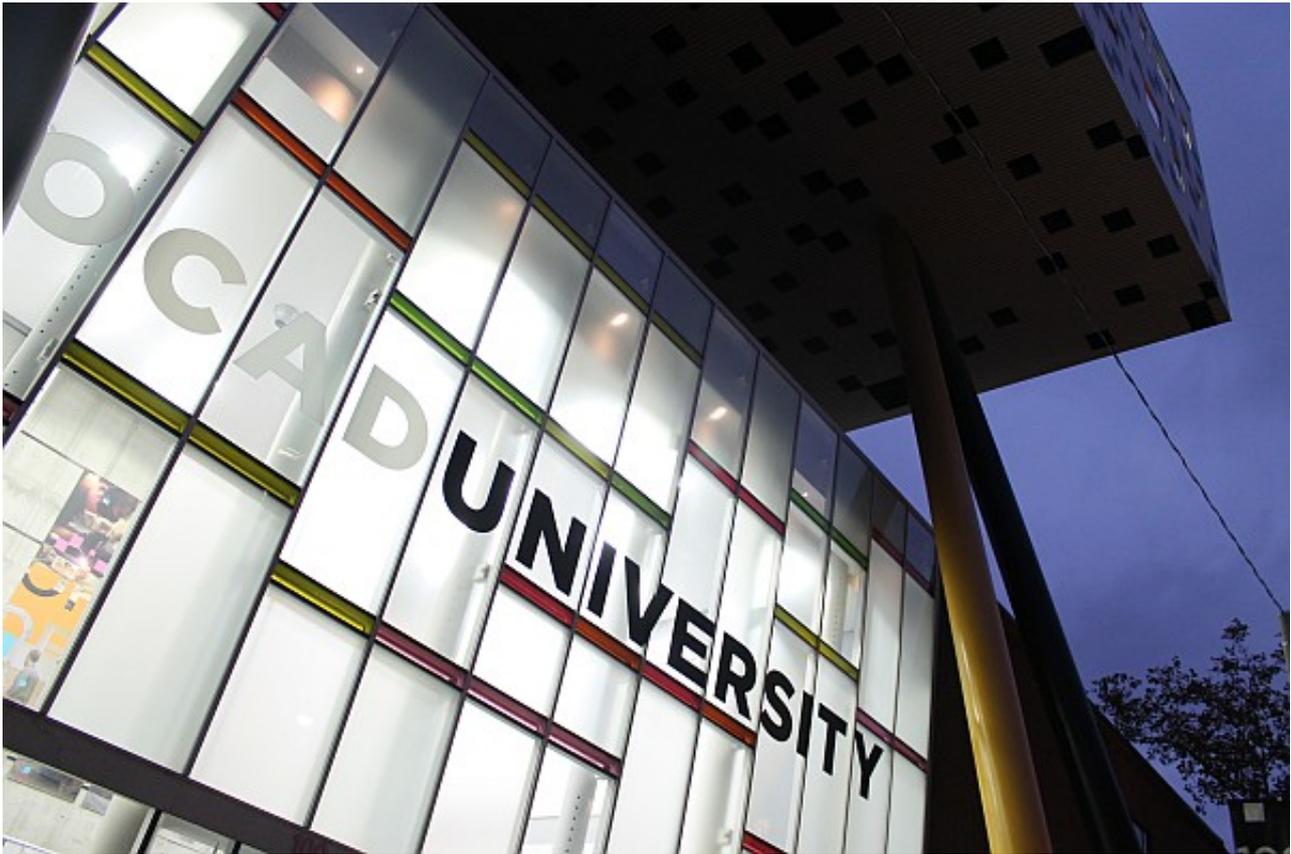


### Admission Insider's Review of National Portfolio Day 2013 at OCAD U

<http://bit.ly/ocadunationalportfolioday>

*This past November 9, 2013, [OCAD U](#) held its National Portfolio Day, where aspiring students can get their art portfolios reviewed for free by professors from different colleges. On the same day, Admission Insider, a.k.a. **Karen Kesteloot**, was present near the event to [host her own FREE portfolio review at Karine's Vegan Restaurant](#).*

*The day has come and pass, and here's Karen to report everything that happened during the event.*



Hi Karen Kesteloot here, aka, the Admissions Insider, reporting to you about the OCADU 2013 National Portfolio Day:

My co-op student and I were awe-struck by the length of the line along the sidewalk starting at OCADU's main doors. It turned the corner around the school and snaked in between Above Ground Art Supplies and deep into the park behind the college.

Students huddled together with their parents in the cold Toronto morning weather toting huge portfolios and bags full of their prized artworks anxiously awaiting the skilled appraisal of the schools of their dreams representatives.

I stopped to talk to the shivering students. Some near the front of the line said they had been waiting since 8 am—the doors weren't slated to open until 11:45 am. Many wished they had dressed warmer. But their spirits were high with exhilaration to be meeting up with the schools of their dreams... many had their sights set on OCADU but several mentioned [CalArts](#) to me too as their school of choice.

Students reported goals of applying for graphic design, industrial design, fashion and drawing and painting. Plenty were dedicated to studying character design and animation. I saw a few of my students there eager to get more input—they waved proudly and I am looking forward to following up with them to help them implement the advice they were given once inside. One I had met at a high school portfolio workshop. He introduced me to his father and I wished him

well.

Another student of mine met me at an architectural drawing class in Cambridge. He has some brilliant ideas and he and I have come up with a strategy on how to highlight his ideas in his portfolio while we embark on his goal to learn how to draw well enough between now and when the portfolios are due. He knows to trust me with his education because I happen to have taught his mom! She and I had shared a special bond. It is so gratifying to be working with him so that he can bring his brilliant ideas to the world. I think he might be the next Steve Jobs—only with a whole lot nicer personality!

[caption id="attachment\_1486" align="alignright" width="300"]



"[The line] turned the corner around the school and snaked in between Above Ground Art Supplies and deep into the park behind the college."[/caption] **I was impressed by how many students came with their parents.** I loved how truly supportive the parents were of their kids and obviously proud of their accomplishments they were—some of them I think were there as much for moral support and they were for lugging their heavy loads around through the long line up.

One set of parents I spoke with felt it was important to be there to witness what the portfolio reviewer told the daughter they had adopted from Korea... they knew she was really talented but they wanted to be sure they completely supported her and that they made the best investment possible in her future. They were really grateful to know that I'm there to give advice to students and their parents since it is such a huge financial commitment and they really want to see their daughter succeed.

They proudly showed me some of her work they had stored in their cell phones. Her work was exceptional and I told them she is certainly likely to get accepted. They were shocked by the tough odds of acceptance however of 30:1 for many of the best schools. They were worried that the school they were applying to only take 60 students per year.

I advised them that for the school they wanted, which was Concordia that they needed to read carefully what the requirements stated on the university website are because that school is very philosophical about how students approach what drawing and image making are. They were grateful for the input and expressed that they could see why my services would be a great investment or insurance on their investment of 100 thousand or more in her education. So even though I told them their daughter would get in given the quality of the work they still seemed concerned and interested in my services as insurance.

They were pleased to take my brochure so that their daughter would be able to consult my videos on [YouTube](#) and Vimeo so that she would know how to implement the reviewer's advice.

Lots of parents eagerly took my pamphlets when they heard that 100% of my students get accepted into their top choice colleges. Students looked relieved to know that if they weren't sure what to do after their portfolio reviews that day that they had a reliable resource to consult that is more readily accessible than the colleges themselves.

[caption id="attachment\_1487" align="aligncenter" width="563"]

**Karen Kesteloot**  
**The Admissions Insider**

Students have sought me out for years because they heard that I know the secrets of how to get accepted into even the most competitive schools with 30:1 odds—that's as tough as getting into Harvard!

Now you can learn the secrets too and have the power to follow your creative dreams with confidence.

You will be able to show the evaluating professor just how talented you truly are once you learn what is really needed.

Karen Kesteloot, the Admissions Insider

Let me help you follow your creative goals and get into the best art or design college. Join the ranks of my happy students, 100% of have been accepted.

**You Can be One Too!**

**PortPrep's First Star Student: Tony Linka**

Tony got accepted into Sheridan's famous Illustration Program And won the Silver Award in his graduating year 2007

Tony applied out of high school was rejected and gave up. Studied something else, worked and was miserable. He sought my help in 2004 but assumed he wasn't good enough for illustration and would need to study Art Fundamentals first. I saved him a whole year of education costs by helping him gain the skills he needed and make an outstanding portfolio that got him accepted straight into illustration. He continued at Sheridan in the celebrated OC Animation Program and works in the field today, happy!

Illustration by Tony Linka. via [www.tonylinka.com](http://www.tonylinka.com)

"I got my letter of acceptance from Sheridan Illustration! I couldn't have done it without you. Your "Portfolio Preparation" course is probably the most valuable course a student could take coming out of high school. I recommend it to anyone. My progress is unbelievable!!!" Tony

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Your Gateway Into the Best Arts College

Are you applying to an art or design program in college or university?  
And you need to make a portfolio?  
Not sure how?

I'm the Admissions Insider and I can help!

Karen Kesteloot, the Admissions Insider

"I just got accepted to Ryerson! I couldn't be happier and I couldn't have done it without you. Your 100% record lives on!"

Blake Nicholson, Erin, ON, 2013  
Accepted to Architectural Science at Ryerson University

**JOIN THE 100% ACCEPTANCE RATE!**

PortPrep brochure sent out to students lined up for the National Portfolio Day at [OCAD University](#) this past weekend.[/caption]

My co-op student Quinton Rodrigues talked to hundreds of students too and handed out lots of

info to his fellow students and shared his zeal for Animation, CalArts, OCADU and [Sheridan College](#). He found his good friend who had come with her parents to see CalArts with her very fine examples of character designs.

The four of them learned a great deal from their sessions with the CalArts representative and were so impressed by how patient and positive she was despite the long lines.

Quinton reported that it was really well organized this year and that it was easy to find the room where CalArts was and that the whole process ran really smoothly how they brought the students through the process. He felt really excited and encouraged to continue to work towards his goal.



He was one of a few students that attended that was not a senior and was there to learn how to be prepared for the following year. I met a daughter and father duo in the Grange food court in front of my meeting place at Karine's Vegan Restaurant. The talented girl was only in grade 10! They were both so grateful to talk about her future and how to prepare a proper portfolio. Her father really seemed interested in my stories of how parental support makes so much difference in successful art and design careers. He was 100% behind his daughter and they planned to look up my [interviews with Mike L Murphy](#) and his website [Successful Animator](#). She had great work already in grade ten as a character designer.

Another family a spoke to were so grateful to receive advice on how to select the right college and how to go through the selection process—I met some many truly talented students that were assured spots in the programs they were interested in. The mother of one very talented young lady found my insights and advice about why in-depth [college campus tours](#) is so important to be uniquely helpful—she hadn't thought much about some of the points I was raising about not just being evaluated by the school for acceptance but judging if the school passes her own assessment of what was right for her daughter and her family. I directed them to some of my YouTube video interviews and blog entries that would help them assess this big decision and

investment.

**Go to the next page to learn more about Karen's FREE portfolio assessment over at PortPrep!**

**Many students were excited to hear that I offer a [free portfolio assessment](#).**

They felt well-armed after the input they received from the school reps but still felt rather uncertain on how to actually achieve the end result they had been advised on.

Many breathed a sigh a relief to know that after they had implemented the actions steps they were given that they could follow up with using PortPrep's Free Assessment service and double check if what they had done would be sufficient.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVTv35aI7Yw>

***P.S. If you went to a National Portfolio Day event somewhere across North America and you feel a little uncertain if you were able to do everything they advised adequately well, please do take advantage of our free assessment. Why gamble with your future when you can be sure by using our proven track record of **100% acceptance rates** for all of PortPrep's students?***

Get the insurance you're going to want—why risk rejection and having to spend an entire year redoing your portfolio and reapplying the following year? Or worse **[get rejected](#)**, **depressed**, and **give up!**

Hear about [Tony Linka's story](#) on Youtube and read [Puneet Jagwani's guest post on dogged determination](#) on our blog!

**Don't give up!**

Listen to the interview between Mike and I to feel encouraged and armed with the amount of passion and dedication it takes to apply to the best colleges that give you the training and the credentials you need for a successful career in the arts.

**The art and design fields are already competitive enough**—you don't want to disadvantage yourself by going to a second rate school. I have discovered that there is a reliable formula to [how to make a great art portfolio](#) and *how to choose the career and school that is best for you and your abilities!*

If you are not sure what you are best to go into you can use the free assessment to discuss this. I often consult with both the young artist and their parents to discover what the best strategy for a successful art and design career is and a education strategy that will work.

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Parents want to know that they are investing wisely and that their child will be happy and successful. If you at all uncertain about the findings from your National Portfolio Day Review, *please* do call me to talk about it. **You don't need to go through this alone.**

## Get a non-biased opinion from me!



I do not have any affiliations with any of the schools.

I receive no kick back whatsoever.

I am solely here to advise students and their families what is best for their education and successful career.

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I am here to advocate for the students, instruct them in the skills they need, build their confidence, push them to create their absolute best and unique work, and arm them with a portfolio they can feel confident will get them into the college of their dreams.

That's why it's been called the [Proven ARTS Answer](#).

# Karen Kesteloot

info(at)portprep.com

## Related articles



• [A Firsthand Account of National Portfolio Day 2012](#)

