

facts

Art and Art History



An Introduction to the Department of Art and Art History

The Department of Art and Art History at the University of Richmond offers a rich variety of programs in art history, studio arts and, in conjunction with the University's museums, museum studies and exhibitions.

The art history major includes Western and non-Western art courses, museum studies courses and internships. The studio art major offers introductory through advanced training in painting, drawing, design, printmaking, ceramics, photography, digital artmaking and sculpture.

Students are offered a curriculum that allows them to work through advanced levels in their chosen discipline. Art history majors present thesis research projects in their senior year, and selected studio art majors organize senior thesis exhibitions of their work. Senior studio art majors embark on yearlong, self-defined projects, which may include technology-based media rather than traditional modes of expression. This also applies to senior art history majors in terms of presenting their research through current technology. Our digital art lab encourages students to investigate technological possibilities.

In addition to courses in the department, students are encouraged to select courses in related fields that are taught in other departments and will broaden their undergraduate experience. Aesthetics (philosophy department), Greek and Roman art and archaeology (classical studies department), film studies (English department) and study abroad (international studies) are just a few examples. Students also may choose interdisciplinary concentrations in arts management or arts technology. Internship

opportunities are available in both disciplines. Students have interned at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Walters Art Museum, the Martin Agency, MTV and in other museums and businesses.

The Learning Environment

The entire University is devoted to offering students a challenging yet personal academic experience. The art and art history department affords students a very supportive environment in the arts. Art majors generally have small classes that offer close interaction between faculty and students. Students are encouraged to use the studios during the evenings and weekends for their own personal growth and development. Many majors have received generous internal grant support for independent art history and studio projects.

There is also ample opportunity for part-time student employment in the department. Available positions include museum, visual resource and studio assistants. Summer research positions are available in the University museums, including the Harnett Fellow in the Harnett Print Study Center. These opportunities increase the interaction between faculty and students, as well as offer students valuable experience in their areas of interest in the department.

The department and University Museums also sponsor lectures in art and art history that bring to campus diverse scholars, critics and artists who address major issues confronting the discipline of art today in both Western and non-Western art.

The Joel and Lila Harnett Museum of Art is the University art museum,

and is a rich cultural enhancement and an important academic resource for the University community and the general public. Founded in 1968, the museum is both a forum for the visual arts and a catalyst for widely varied issues of artistic expression, research and scholarship within the University and throughout the greater Richmond community and region.

In addition to presenting the visual arts through its exhibitions, the museum actively adds to its diverse permanent collections (ranging from the historical through contemporary art) that are an integral component of the teaching of studio art and art history at the University. The Joel and Lila Harnett Print Study Center has been established to house the University Museums' print collections and to serve as a research center. The Lora Robins Gallery of Design from Nature is the University's natural sciences and decorative arts museum. To help visitors better understand and enjoy the museum experience as well as its collections and exhibitions, the museums organize lectures, openings, gallery talks, workshops, concerts, symposia and other programs during the academic year.

Facilities

The George M. Modlin Center for the Arts dedicates space to the Harnett Museum of Art, Harnett Print Study Center, visual resources library, computer graphics lab, photography darkroom, state-of-the-art lecture and seminar classrooms, and studio space for drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, digital artmaking, photography and printmaking.

An Example of Faculty/Student Collaborative Projects

“Looking at Prints” exhibition and Web site created by studio art and art history students, faculty, University Museums staff and the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology

A Sampling of Schools Accepting Recent Graduates

American University
Art Institute of Chicago
George Washington University
Hunter College
Indiana University
New York University
Northwestern University
Parson’s School of Design
Pratt Institute
Rhode Island School of Design
Syracuse University
Tufts University
University of California at Berkeley
University of Chicago
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Faculty

Stephen Addiss
Tucker-Boatwright Professor of Humanities-Art
Ph.D., University of Michigan
Distinguished Educator Award, 1999
Areas of specialty: humanities, Asian arts

Elena Calvillo
Assistant professor
Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University
Areas of specialty: Renaissance and Baroque art history

Margaret Fields Denton
Associate professor
Ph.D., Institute of Fine Arts, New York University
Distinguished Educator Award, 1994
Areas of specialty: 18th-, 19th- and 20th-century art history

Jeremy Drummond
Assistant professor
M.F.A., Syracuse University
Areas of specialty: new media, video

Olenka Pevny
Assistant professor
Ph.D., Institute of Fine Arts, New York University
Areas of specialty: Medieval and Byzantine art history

Mark Rhodes
Associate professor
M.F.A., Southern Illinois University
Areas of specialty: sculpture, ceramics

Erling Sjovold
Associate professor
M.F.A., School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Areas of specialty: drawing, painting

Tanja Softić
Associate professor
M.F.A., Old Dominion University
Areas of specialty: printmaking, drawing, book arts

Richard Waller
Executive Director of University Museums
M.F.A., Yale University
Outstanding Mentor Award, 2002
Areas of specialty: museum studies, color and design, contemporary art

Support Staff

Lynda Brown
Administrative assistant

Sarah Falls
Visual resources librarian
M.L.S., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill