Art (ARTS)

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School of Art Website (http://art.uark.edu)

Degree Conferred:
M.F.A. (ART)

Program Description: The objective of the program of study leading to the degree of Master of Fine Arts in art shall be professional achievement of high order, a knowledge of art history and criticism, the development of a fundamental grasp and understanding of the professional field of art and its relationship to supporting fields of knowledge, as well as the satisfactory completion of course work and other degree requirements. The program of study will vary depending upon the art medium areas selected for the creative work and the goals of the individual graduate student. The Master of Fine Arts degree in art is considered to be the terminal degree in studio art and is awarded in recognition of professional development in the visual arts as evidenced by a period of successful post-bachelor’s degree study. The M.F.A. degree is recognized as preparatory to studio art teaching positions at institutions of higher education.

Areas of Study: Major areas of study include drawing, painting, sculpture, design, printmaking, ceramics, and photography.

M.F.A. in Art

Prerequisites to Degree Programs: An earned bachelor’s degree with an art major concentration or its equivalent. Consideration will be given to applicants without an art major concentration who present evidence of proficiency in creative work in the visual arts.

Acceptance to the M.F.A. degree program requires a two-semester art history survey or its equivalent. Failing to meet this requirement, the M.F.A. student is required to complete the appropriate semesters of survey of art history for non-graduate credit.

In addition to the requirements for admission to the Graduate School, the applicant must also submit the following materials to the School of Art: transcripts of college level work; at least three letters of reference concerning art work, work habits, and potential for graduate study in art; a portfolio of art works; a personal statement concerning background, conceptual and technical development, and goals for graduate study in visual art; and an application form obtained from the School of Art on request.

Requirements for the Master of Fine Arts Degree: Completion of a minimum of 60 semester credit hours and a minimum of six regular semesters in residence (not to include summer terms).

1. A minimum of 42 credit hours in studio courses:
   a. A minimum focused study area of a total of 24 credit hours. For each semester in residence, excluding summers and the final semester, M.F.A. candidates must enroll in a minimum of three hours in their focused study area as advised by their media area adviser.
   b. One semester of ARTS 5923 MFA First Year Seminar, to be taken in the fall semester of the first year of study, and one semester of ARTS 5933 MFA Second Year Seminar, to be taken in the fall semester of the second year of study (total of 6 credit hours).
   c. A minimum of 12 Studio Art Elective credit hours. These may include 3 credit hours in excess of the required 12 hours of Art History and/or criticism. Up to 6 credit hours in graduate courses taken outside the School of Art may be included, with prior approval. Students elected to take only 9 hours of Art History will complete 15 hours of electives.

2. Art History requirement: While in the M.F.A. program, the student is required to complete a minimum of 12 hours of art history. Students admitted to the program with 12 or more hours of prior college level art history courses may elect to take only 9 hours of Art History. Requirements include:
   a. Six hours of elected art history courses. (Three hours for students with 12 or more hours of prior college level art history)
   b. ARHS 5933 Contemporary Art
   c. ARHS 5763 Seminar in Critical Theory

3. In the final year prior to graduation, the M.F.A. candidate must demonstrate satisfactory progress toward the M.F.A. exhibition thesis by meeting regularly with the thesis chair and committee, as well as faculty and peers in the M.F.A. candidate’s media area.

4. The required final semester in the M.F.A. program is to be devoted to work on the M.F.A. exhibition, ARTS 601V (6 credit hours), the production and presentation, under the direction of a graduate committee, of a one-person exhibition of art work. The M.F.A. candidate will be responsible for making one acceptable digital presentation of the exhibition and exhibition statements, which will be retained by the School of Art and the University Library.

The final semester must be completed during a regular school year. During this final semester, the M.F.A. candidate may enroll for three additional credit hours in electives if the candidate does not hold a graduate assistantship. The M.F.A. candidate holding an assistantship may not take additional credits in the final semester.

In addition to the requirements listed above, the M.F.A. program in Art also requires:

1. Graduate Critiques: All M.F.A. students are required to participate in regular reviews critiquing their artworks. These reviews involve both a mid-term critique conducted by several faculty members and a final critique attended by a selected group of School of Art Graduate faculty and M.F.A. students. After M.F.A. students receive Candidacy, their participation is still required although they will no longer need to present their artwork for review.

2. Candidacy Application and Review: After completion of four semesters in the M.F.A. degree program, the student will make application to be a candidate for completion of the M.F.A. degree. A committee of graduate faculty members will conduct a formal review of the applicant’s work and progress in the program. The awarding of candidacy will be dependent upon a three-fourths majority vote by the student’s graduate faculty committee based on the following criteria: 1) a demonstrated formal and technical proficiency in the applicant’s major studio area; 2) conceptual development as demonstrated
by growth in ideas supporting the applicant’s creative research; 3) an ability to locate their research in the context of issues and practices within contemporary and historical art issues; and 4) the ability to communicate the intention and basis of their research in coherent written and verbal form. At least two regular semesters of residence must be completed after acceptance as a degree candidate. Students who do not pass the Candidacy Review will be allowed one additional Candidacy Review, held during the following regular semester. Students failing to pass Candidacy the second time will be dismissed from the program.

3. Graduate Committee and Major Adviser: When the student has been accepted as a degree candidate, the student will select a major adviser from the graduate art faculty. The major adviser will serve as adviser to the student in planning the completion of the program of study. At least one semester before graduation, a four- or five-member committee of graduate art faculty will be selected. The student’s major adviser will be chairperson of this committee, and one member of the graduate committee will represent the art history area. The degree candidate may select one additional committee member from a discipline outside the School of Art.

Graduate Faculty

Andree, David, M.F.A. (State University of New York), B.F.A. (Minneapolis College of Art and Design), Visiting Assistant Professor, 2015.


Callander, Adrienne, M.F.A. (Rutgers University), B.A. (Reed College), Visiting Assistant Professor, 2017.


Chioffi, David Charles, M.A. (Wesleyan University), B.F.A. (The Rochester Institute of Technology), Associate Professor, 2013.


DeWitt, Dylan, M.F.A. (Yale University), Assistant Professor, 2014.

Drolen, Rebecca, M.F.A., B.A. (Indiana University, Bloomington), Visiting Assistant Professor, 2015.


Grant, Alphonso W., Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University), Assistant Professor, 2005.

Hanson, Alexander J., M.F.A. (University of Iowa), Instructor, 2015.

Hapgood, Thomas Layley, M.F.A., B.A. (University of Arizona), Associate Professor, 2005.

Helen, Jeannie, M.F.A. (Louisiana State University), B.F.A. (Kansas City Art Institute), Associate Professor, 2002.


King, Sam, M.F.A. (Indiana University at Bloomington), B.F.A. (University of Tulsa), Assistant Professor, 2011.


Lo, Angela M., Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University), M.A. (Arizona State University), B.S. (La Roche College), Professor, 1998.


Levenson, Abra, Ph.D., M.A. (Princeton), B.A. (University of California, Berkeley), Assistant Professor, 2018.


Maizels, Michael, Ph.D. (University of Virginia), M.A. (University of Chicago), B.A. (University of Southern California), Assistant Professor, 2016.

McConnell, Mathew S., M.F.A. (University of Colorado-Boulder), B.F.A. (Valdosta State University), Associate Professor, 2011.

Mitchell, Marc E., M.F.A. (Boston University), Assistant Professor, 2014.

Morrissy, Sean P., M.F.A. (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), B.F.A. (Bowling Green State University), Assistant Professor, 2014.


Pulido Rull, Ana, Ph.D., M.A. (Harvard University), B.A. (National Autonomous University of Mexico), Assistant Professor, 2012.


Sprinnger, Bethany Lynn, M.F.A. (University of Georgia), B.A. (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University), Associate Professor, 2006.

Sytsma, Janine A., Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin-Madison), M.A. (University of Denver), B.A. (Arizona State University), Assistant Professor, 2016.


Yoon, InJeong, Ph.D. (University of Arizona), Assistant Professor, 2017.

Art History Courses

ARHS 5563. Pre-Columbian Art. 3 Hours.
An introduction to pre-Columbian art from Mexico (3000 BC-1521 AD) through a survey of works of art from different media: sculpture, architecture, and mural painting. Topics examined include: sacred images, political uses of art, architecture and cosmogony, as well as the relationship between the material and content.

ARHS 5573. Artists of New Spain. 3 Hours.
An overview of colonial art in colonial New Spain. Focused on native agency, social function of art, and cross-cultural communication. Topics include indigenous materials and techniques, the use of images in legal contexts, and ritual liturgy. Some consideration will be given to artworks from the viceroyalty of Peru.

ARHS 5763. Seminar in Critical Theory. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4763.) Study of critical theory as it relates to problems in modern and contemporary art. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4763 and ARHS 5763. Prerequisite: Nine credit hours of ARHS coursework.

ARHS 5773. History of New Media Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4773.) Examines the history of "new media" art in relation to larger shifts in technology, philosophy and politics. Beginning in the 19th century, the course explores the development of photography, film, video, performance, sound and digital art through the 20th century. Culminates with an examination of contemporary practice. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4773 and ARHS 5773. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923 and 3 hours of 3000 level and above art history coursework.

ARHS 5793. Making the Museum: History, Theory and Practice. 3 Hours.
Presents a broad overview of the institutional history and the contemporary professional practice of the museum world. Features numerous visiting lectures from a working professionals from the local area and nationwide institutions.

ARHS 5813. The History of Photography. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4813.) Survey of photography from 1685 to present. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4813 and ARHS 5813.

ARHS 5823. History of Graphic Design. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4823.) Survey of graphic design history from 1850 to the present. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4823 and ARHS 5823. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923.
ARHS 5833. Ancient Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4833.) Study of selections from the visual arts of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, or Rome. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4833 and ARHS 5833. Prerequisite: ARHS 2913.

ARHS 5843. Medieval Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4843.) Study of Early Christian, Byzantine, Early Medieval, Romanesque, and Gothic styles. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4843 and ARHS 5843. Prerequisite: ARHS 2913.

ARHS 5853. Italian Renaissance Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4853.) Study of Proto-Renaissance, Early, High Renaissance, and Mannerist styles in Italy. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4853 and ARHS 5853. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923.

ARHS 5863. Northern Renaissance Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4863.) Study of Late Gothic and Renaissance styles in the Netherlands, Germany, and France. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4863 and ARHS 5863. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923.

ARHS 5873. Baroque Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4873.) Study of art styles of the 17th century, primarily in Italy, Spain, France, Flanders, and the Netherlands. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4873 and ARHS 5873. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923.

ARHS 5883. 18th and 19th Century European Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4883.) Study of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century art and architecture in Europe. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4883 and ARHS 5883. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923.

ARHS 5913. American Art to 1860. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4913.) The visual arts in the United States from Colonial times through 1860. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4913 and ARHS 5913. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923.

ARHS 5923. American Art 1860-1960. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4923.) The visual arts in the United States from the onset of the American Civil War through the Cold War Era. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4923 and ARHS 5923. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923.

ARHS 5933. Contemporary Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4933.) Study of styles and major trends in the visual arts since 1960. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4933 and ARHS 5933. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923.

ARHS 5953. Art Museum Studies. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4935.) A survey of the history and function of the art museum and an introduction to museum work. Investigation of collections and collections management, conservation, exhibitions, education and public programs, museum management, and contemporary issues which effect the museum profession. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4935 and ARHS 5953. Prerequisite: ARHS 2913 and ARHS 2923, or graduate Art MFA standing.

ARHS 5973. Seminar in Art History. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4973.) Special studies of periods and styles of art. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4973 and ARHS 5973. Prerequisite: 9 hours of Art History. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

ARHS 5983. Special Topics in Art History. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4983.) Subject matter not covered in regularly offered courses, and relating to the history of art before the nineteenth century. May be repeated for different topics. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4983 and ARHS 5983. Prerequisite: ARHS 2913 or ARHS 2923. May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit.

ARHS 5993. Special Topics in Modern Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4993.) Subject matter not covered in regularly offered courses, and relating to the history of art from the nineteenth century to the present. May be repeated for different topics. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4993 and ARHS 5993. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923. May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit.

ARHS 6413. Greek Art and Archaeology. 3 Hours.
Greek Art and Archaeology focuses on how visual and material culture shaped and were shaped by Greek society (religion, politics, military, economy, gender, etc.) from the Bronze Age through the Hellenistic period. Masterpieces of Greek art are analyzed alongside the material remains of everyday Greeks in civic and domestic spaces.

ARHS 6423. Roman Art and Archaeology. 3 Hours.
Roman Art and Archaeology focuses on how visual and material culture shaped and were shaped by Roman society (religion, politics, economy, gender, ethnicity, etc.) from the Iron Age through the Late Antique period. We encounter famous masterpieces, but also the material remains of everyday Romans in civic and domestic spaces.

ARHS 6933. Graduate Research In Art History. 3 Hours.
Independent study in specific areas of art history and criticism.

ARHS 6943. Seminar: Critical Thought in Art. 3 Hours.
Explore topics of concern to the studio artist involving underlying concepts and purposes of art as well as models and methods for the analysis of art. Course based on discussions of selected readings, prepared papers and seminar reports. Prerequisite: graduate standing. May be repeated for up to 3 hours of degree credit.

Art Courses
ARTS 5013. Graduate Drawing. 3 Hours.
Graduate level study of drawing materials and techniques. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

ARTS 5023. Figure Drawing II. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARTS 4023.) Advanced study of the figure with emphasis on figure structure and its relationship to pictorial form in drawing. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARTS 4023 and ARTS 5023. Prerequisite: ARTS 2013.

ARTS 5513. Technical Ceramics. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARTS 4513.) Advanced study of ceramic materials and processes. Clay composition, clay body formulation and analysis, glaze composition and formulation, firing methods (low, mid, and high-temperature gas, electric and atmospheric firings), and kiln design will be covered in depth. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARTS 4513 and ARTS 5513. Prerequisite: ARTS 4503.

ARTS 5813. Digital Photography. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARTS 4813.) Introduction to digital photography production, techniques and theory. Digital input from scanning (flatbed & slide/negative), digital cameras, video and internet sources. Computer assisted manipulation of imagery for correction and abstraction. Output to a digital printing systems, analog systems (film recorder), servers and Internet. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARTS 4813 and ARTS 5813. Prerequisite: ARTS 3803.

ARTS 5833. Advanced Black and White Photography. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARTS 4833.) Advanced black and white theory, practice and techniques including: Zone System, large format camera and studio lighting. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARTS 4833 and ARTS 5833. Prerequisite: ARTS 3803.
ARTS 584V. Special Problems in Photography. 1-6 Hour.
(Formerly ARTS 484V.) Individual instruction for advanced undergraduates and graduate students. Special projects in photography designated by students in collaboration with faculty. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARTS 484V and ARTS 584V. Prerequisite: ARTS 3803 and (ARTS 3813 or ARTS 4823 or ARTS 4833). May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 5883. Bookmaking. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARTS 5883.) Introduction to the creation of unique, limited edition artist's bookworks -- with emphasis on technical knowledge and conceptual understanding of the book form as a means of artistic expression. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARTS 4883 and ARTS 5883. This course is equivalent to ARTS 4883.

ARTS 5913. Graduate Seminar in Studio Art. 3 Hours.
Special seminars at the graduate level in Studio Art. Subject matter changes depending on student interest and faculty expertise. Prerequisite: Admission to MFA program. May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 5923. MFA First Year Seminar. 3 Hours.
Introduction to graduate level study in art, including pedagogy related to teaching art at the college level. Topics to be covered include: development of research interests, critical thinking within studio practice, situating work in the contemporary context, expectations at the graduate level, and an introduction to techniques and theories of studio art education. Prerequisite: Admission to MFA program.

ARTS 5933. MFA Second Year Seminar. 3 Hours.
Preparation for a professional art practice. Examination of theoretical and practical aspects of career development for contemporary artists. Prerequisite: ARTS 5923.

ARTS 596V. Fine Arts Gallery Internship. 1-3 Hour.
(Formerly ARTS 493V.) Study all aspects of operating the Fine Arts Gallery. Research and preparation for exhibitions, organize and install exhibits, care of art works, create and distribute publicity, arrange interviews with newspapers, and other media. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARTS 493V and ARTS 596V.

ARTS 601V. Master of Fine Arts Exhibition. 1-6 Hour.
Production and presentation of a one person exhibition of art work. The M.F.A. candidate will be responsible for making three acceptable slide sets of the exhibition and exhibition statements. Prerequisite: M.F.A. candidacy.

ARTS 602V. Graduate Drawing. 1-6 Hour.
Individual problems in drawing techniques. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for degree credit.

ARTS 6033. Graduate Drawing Studio. 3 Hours.
Intensive studio practice in drawing combined with reading, writing, and discussion of relevant contemporary issues in the fields of painting and drawing. Includes regular critiques, both with the group and in individual consultations with the instructor. Prerequisite: Admission to MFA program in Studio Art. May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 612V. Graduate Painting. 1-6 Hour.
Individual problems in painting techniques. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for degree credit.

ARTS 6133. Graduate Painting Studio. 3 Hours.
Intensive studio practice in painting combined with reading, writing, and discussion of relevant contemporary issues in the fields of painting and drawing. Includes regular critiques, both with the group and in individual consultations with the instructor. Prerequisite: Admission to MFA program in Studio Art. May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 6233. Graduate Sculpture Studio. 3 Hours.
Intensive studio practice in sculpture combined with reading, writing, and discussion of relevant contemporary issues in the field of sculpture and new media. Includes regular critiques, both with the group and in individual consultations with the instructor. Prerequisite: Admission to MFA program in Studio Art. May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 632V. Graduate Design. 1-6 Hour.
Individual problems in two and three dimensional design. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for degree credit.

ARTS 6333. Graduate Graphic Design Studio. 3 Hours.
Intensive studio practice in graphic design. Prerequisite: Admission to MFA program in Studio Art. May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 6433. Graduate Printmaking Studio. 3 Hours.
Intensive studio practice in printmaking combined with reading, writing, and discussion of relevant contemporary issues in the fields of printmaking. Includes regular critiques, both with the group and in individual consultations with the instructor. Prerequisite: Admission to MFA program in Studio Art. May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 6533. Graduate Ceramics Studio. 3 Hours.
Intensive studio practice in ceramics combined with reading, writing, and discussion of relevant contemporary issues in the field of ceramics. Includes regular critiques, with the class and individually with the instructor. Any ceramic processes may be used. Prerequisite: MFA Studio Art Graduate Standing. May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 662V. Graduate Photography. 1-6 Hour.
Individual problems in photography. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for degree credit.

ARTS 6633. Graduate Photography Studio. 3 Hours.
Intensive studio practice with reading and discussion of contemporary issues in photography for MFA students. Prerequisite: Admission to MFA program in Art. May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 695V. Special Topics. 1-6 Hour.
Subject matter not covered in other courses. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for up to 12 hours of degree credit.