Art History programs offer a vivid perspective on the course of human history through the study of works of painting, sculpture, architecture, decorative arts, and graphic media. Students will develop global competence and visual literacy: the ability to read material artifacts as expressions of cultural beliefs, values, and practices, both in their original and subsequent contexts.

Programs at Montana State University offer a comprehensive and innovative curriculum that seeks to foster a critical understanding of the production of art and its environment from ancient times to the present. While maintaining a commitment to sound historical research, classes work beyond the traditional boundaries of Art History to explore new perspectives that arise from intercultural exchanges, interdisciplinary approaches, and theoretical inquiries. An additional number of liberal arts and humanities courses are required to expand individual knowledge about self, history, and contemporary society in order to contextualize and better express oneself through art. An internship or summer work in this field will increase your chances of finding work after graduation.

Characteristics associated with success in this major include initiative, a strong work ethic, critical thinking and visual sensitivity to a range of cultures.

Occupations in this field require the ability to:

- Be able to think logically and critically
- Be visually literate
- Have excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Be able to use online image and archival databases
- Be able to design and present exhibits
- Have the ability to gather and analyze large amounts of information
- Have a familiarity with digital imaging, scanning technology, and copyright infringement
- Have knowledge about the current market; trends; ethic and legal protocols related to collecting
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- Have knowledge about the current market; trends; ethic and legal protocols related to collecting

Related occupations include:

- Picture researcher (film or publishing)
- Exhibit designer
- Curator, museum and freelance
- Online archivist
- Design consultant / interior designer
- Arts consultant
- Conservator / restorer
- K-12 teacher
- College instructor
- Museum director
- Archaeologist
- Historic preservation officer
What Can I Do With a Major In...

Art History

MSU graduates (Bachelor’s degree) were hired in the following selected fields:

- Adjunct Instructor – Montana State University
- Designer – Kenyon Noble Lumber & Hardware
- Corporate Social Responsibility – First West Insurance
- Data Entry/Archivist – Wallace Mining Museum

Salary averages of survey respondents: (# of respondents in parentheses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>MT</th>
<th>Out-of-State</th>
<th># of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$26,640 (1)</td>
<td>Insufficient Data*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Insufficient Data*</td>
<td>Insufficient Data*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$22,000 (1)</td>
<td>$25,056 (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$29,000 (1)</td>
<td>Insufficient Data*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the field for “Historian” the lowest 10% of salaries for 2012 (comparable to new college graduate starting salaries) was $27,000 annually. The median wages in the nation in 2012 was estimated at $52,500 annually. In 2012 there were 3,800 positions nationally with an expected growth forecast of +6% through 2022. In 2012 there was not enough data to report salaries for the State of Montana. In 2012 there were 30 positions in Montana with an expected growth forecast of +16% through 2022. Job openings in Montana and nationally are due to both growth and net replacement.

Please remember when reviewing the salary information that it is the “median”, meaning 50% of reported wages fell below and 50% above the reported wage.

Graduates from this program entered programs of further education at these institutions:

- None available at this time*

Other Sources of Information:

- Society of American Archivists: www.archivists.org
- American Alliance of Museums: www.aam-us.org
- College Art Association: www.collegeart.org
- Society of Architectural Historians: www.sah.org
- Montana Historical Society: www.montanahistoricalsociety.org
- Museum Association of Montana: www.montanamuseums.org
- School of Art—Montana State University: www.art.montana.edu

*Insufficient Data: Each year the Career, Internship & Student Employment Services Office at Montana State University conducts a survey to determine placement rates and salary survey information from recent MSU graduates. Graduates were requested to participate in the survey to provide relevant information regarding the transition from college to career/graduate school. At times, there are limited or no respondents. Statistics, therefore, are not always based upon the response of the total sample group and are sometimes listed as “Insufficient Data”.

1 Montana State University School of Art
2 Montana State University Career Services
3 O*Net: online.onetcenter.org
Number of graduates/number of respondents: 2009: 6/1; 2010: 2/2; 2011: 1/1; 2012: 6/4