School of Art

The School of Art offers 2 Master degrees, a Master of Art (M.A.) in Art History and a Master of Fine Art (MFA) in the studio area. The MFA degree is designed for the professional artist including those who plan to teach art at the college level while the M.A. degree prepares students for graduate work leading to careers as academic instructors, museum curators, or art critics and in allied fields such as art administration, historic preservation and gallery work.

The Master of Fine Arts is a project based, non-media specific curriculum that focuses on individual artistic development and creative leadership. The program brings together talented individuals from a variety of different media building a community that fosters exploration, professionalism, and creative success. Each semester students develop, propose, and execute projects; the development and iteration of these projects is a creative act in itself and a core concept of the program. The goal is twofold, to center the graduate experience in the conceptual and production processes of sophisticated art making, and to graduate individuals who are capable of successfully developing, organizing and executing complex artistic/entrepreneurial endeavors. Projects based in all traditional fine art media along with environmental art, new media and installation can be accommodated. The program is housed at the Melvin Graduate Studios and exhibition space. The faculty are leading experts in their field as artists, art historians and designers. Art History faculty have extensive experience in the field of museum, archival research and are published on a range of topics. Studio faculty are leading creative practitioners of national and international recognition.

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School of Art, continued

The M.A. program is supported by a visual resources collection, a historic press collection and the Helen E. Copeland Gallery. MA graduate teaching assistants engaged in apprentice teaching have access to digital imaging resources for PowerPoint lectures and office space suitable for tutorials and grading. Additionally, students may reserve a conference room for discussion of graduate issues and planning of special events such as exhibitions and symposia.

ADMISSION

Students applying to the MFA program should be prepared to upload a portfolio of 20 jpg images during the online application process, as well as an artist statement, a current resume and requesting three letters of recommendation (the request will be made during the online application process). In addition, you will have the opportunity to upload unofficial transcripts for initial review; however, we will still require official transcripts to be submitted. Completed application for the following academic year must be received by February 15.

The M.A. Program welcomes applications from all those interested in seeking an advanced degree in Art History. The MA degree is a thirty-two unit program that emphasizes focused study of cultural production from ancient times to the present and interdisciplinary connections with collateral departments in the Colleges of Arts & Architecture and Letters & Sciences. Art History faculty meet twice a year to read and assess applications, with particular sensitivity to the students’ work and professional goals. All materials must be uploaded by March 15 (Fall deadline) and October 15 (Spring deadline) for full consideration. In addition to completing the online application, candidates for admission to the Art History M.A. Program must upload a letter of intent, one writing sample, undergraduate transcripts, GRE scores (official scores should be sent to MSU), and three letters of recommendation (the request will be made during the online application process).

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Limited numbers of graduate teaching assistantships and tuition waivers are usually available within the School of Art and are awarded on a competitive basis to formally admitted graduate students in the second and third year of the program.

FACULTY

Director
V. Judge

Professors
J. Conger
S. Newman

Associate Professors
G. Janzen
T. Larkin
S. Mast
R. Gee
R. Beamish
D. Adams
J. DeWeese
M. Newhouse

Assistant Professors
J. Hatch
M. Ragain
J. Zimpel

Continuing Adjuncts
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