

# School of Art & Art History

## Contact Information:

Campus Location: 106 Jefferson Hall  
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## Administration:

School Administration: Director, Ömür Harman#ah  
Department of Art: Chairperson, Matthew Metzger  
Department of Art History: Chairperson, Cathrine Becker

## Department of Art

[artandarthistory.uic.edu](http://artandarthistory.uic.edu)

The Department of Art is home to world renowned artists who push the boundaries of contemporary art. Degrees in Art encourage problem solving, material exploration, intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, cultivation of the imagination, and communication through art and art education. The aesthetic, critical, and social skills of Art majors are vital for a range of professional careers. Undergraduate Art majors include the Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Education, and Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Education in the Arts (IDEA). Students in Art majors become artists, teachers, museum professionals, authors, place makers, and creative thinkers in industry, government, and non-profit sectors, published authors, and activists.

## Bachelor of Fine Arts

The BFA in Art prepares students to enrich and transform the world through their creativity and vision. BFA students work in art disciplines including drawing, painting, sculpture, new media, film/photo, video and performance. Students are also encouraged to work across disciplines. Students engage in independent and collaborative research. The BFA in Art also includes advanced seminars that examine the practice and theory of contemporary art.

## Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Education

The BFA in Art Education program provides the requirements for Illinois State teacher licensure and the experiences needed for students to become art teachers in Chicago's diverse public schools and communities. The program cultivates the study and making of art in a variety of ways that are rooted in local cultures and histories of activism and democratic participation in the public sphere. BFA in Art Education students will develop their own artistic practice and learn how a rigorous process of art making can be shared with their students. The BFA in Art Education curriculum is grounded in the understanding that an engaged and engaging art education links students' life experiences to traditional and contemporary art, media, and cultural forms.

## Bachelor of Arts in IDEA

The BA in Interdisciplinary Education in the Arts is for students who may or may not have a background in the arts, but who want to cultivate creative and critical skills as artists, makers, designers or arts writers. The emphasis on interdisciplinary methods is carefully designed to promote creative problem solving through the arts, as well as engaged work within

any of the departments in the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts. Designed as a two year major after General Education courses have been completed, IDEA is a useful option for transfers to UIC and from other majors.

## Art Minor

The Minor in Art trains students in a range of material, conceptual, political, and imagination skills useful in virtually all fields of human endeavor.

## Department of Art History

[arthistory.uic.edu](http://arthistory.uic.edu)

The Department of Art History offers the BA in Art History, the Minor in Art History, and the Minor in Museum and Exhibition Studies (MUSE).

UIC's Department of Art History takes advantage of its location at the heart of the country. Chicago, with its vibrant and often turbulent history, its outstanding contributions to art-making and architecture, and its richly endowed museums and libraries, offers an exceptional setting for the study of art and the urban environment. The department is devoted to the interdisciplinary exploration of artworks, artifacts, and architecture from antiquity to the present, across the world. Beyond the chronological and geographical breadth of our fields of study, we are committed to visual and cultural literacy. The department connects the varied creative practices of the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts, and engages the wider humanist educational mandate of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and of the university as a whole. The Department of Art History serves the entire UIC community, with undergraduate students from all over campus choosing to take our classes for major, minor, and General Education credit, and simply because they are excited about art and its history and the distinctive set of skills its study provides.

The faculty is made up of scholars who in some cases are also artists, architects, archaeologists, curators, and university administrators. Our research is published by leading journals and presses, and has been supported by competitive fellowships from prestigious institutions such as the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Getty Research Institute, the Clark Art Institute, the National Gallery of Art, and the Smithsonian. We train art historians, museum professionals, future practitioners of the arts and architecture, as well as students who go on to a wide range of careers that draw on the rapidly growing importance of visual communication and global cultural understanding for the brave new world we find ourselves in today. As a department we help students develop their innate capacities for intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, historical understanding, and eloquent written communication. At the center of the training we offer to students is the capacity to translate visual experience into language, a skill evermore necessary for personal and professional success and for a fully human experience of our increasingly image-saturated and image-dominated daily life.

## BA in Art History

The BA program introduces undergraduate students to the study of the visual arts and the built environment across time and space: architecture, painting, sculpture, design, photography, film, and media arts as well as museum and exhibition studies. The art and architecture of Chicago and the many local museums and galleries are a living part of the general curriculum and are specific components in specialized courses. While some of our majors pursue graduate education and scholarly careers in teaching and museum work, others have established careers in arts advocacy, galleries, cultural foundations, and in architectural and art

publishing. The Art History degree is also useful in a wide variety of fields where visual literacy and cross-cultural sensitivity provide graduates with a professional advantage, such as business, politics, public service, work in journalism, media, and broadcasting, law, library science, and urban planning.

## Minor in Art History

The Minor in Art History program introduces undergraduate students to the study of the visual arts and the built environment across time and space: architecture, painting, sculpture, design, photography, film, and media arts as well as museum and exhibition studies. The art and architecture of Chicago and the many local museums and galleries are a living part of the general curriculum and are specific components in specialized courses. The minor is especially useful as a complement to other majors where visual literacy is an asset. These include all of the humanities disciplines, most of the social sciences, areas that rely in visual communication, such as Business and Communications, as well as areas that rely on close visual analysis, such as the medical fields.

## Minor in Museum and Exhibition Studies (MUSE)

The Minor in Museum and Exhibition Studies (MUSE) program introduces undergraduate students to the history, theory and practices of museums and other exhibition venues.

## Degree Programs

- [BFA in Art](#)
- [BFA in Art Education](#)
- [BA in Art History](#)
- [BA in Interdisciplinary Education in the Arts](#)

## Minors

- [Minor in Art](#)
- [Minor in Art History](#)
- [Minor in Museum and Exhibition Studies](#)