

School of Art & Art History

Contact Information:

Campus Location: 106 Jefferson Hall
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artandarthistory.uic.edu

Administration:

Director, Jennifer Reeder
Department of Art: Head, Sabrina Raaf
Department of Art History: Chairperson, Catherine Becker

The School of Art & Art History unites the theory, practice, and history of the visual arts into an interwoven curriculum designed to produce practitioners who have a strong knowledge of the historical and theoretical underpinnings of their art, alongside historians, theorists, and museum professionals who have an equally strong understanding of visual culture and the creative practice that produces significant work.

Department of Art

The Department of Art offers the BFA in Art, the BFA in Art Education, and the Minor in Art.

The Department of Art BFA and Minor focus on contemporary art practice and theory, which increasingly require transdisciplinary modes of thinking and discourse. Contemporary art practice has been steadily becoming more interdisciplinary since the 1960s. The Department of Art, with its BFA in Art degree, enables students to push the boundaries of their chosen medium and to reach across disciplines. The BFA in Art program allows the interweaving of theory, practice, and historical/cultural context. The transdisciplinary curriculum enables students to prepare a professional portfolio upon completion of the degree.

Department of Art History

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

Our 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.

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](#)