

Why Fine Arts at Brandeis?

The Department of Fine Arts offers programs in studio art and in art history for undergraduate students who wish to study the visual arts as a creative artist or as a scholar of the history of artistic achievement. Art is the visual record of human history and its finest aspirations. The history of art is the discipline that critically examines that legacy in the broadest cultural and intellectual context. In the studio, students explore art as an expressive language of its own making and are educated in visual thinking and creativity through the fundamental process of direct experience.

Curriculum Overview

Students have the option of majoring in either studio art or art history. Some choose the demanding, but fulfilling, option of majoring in both areas. The studio art program offers diverse approaches in painting, sculpture, printmaking, design, and drawing at beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. In the art history program, students are able to choose from a wide array of courses, covering many time periods and different media, in both the Western and non-Western traditions. Students can minor in art history but not in combination with the studio art major.

Requirements for the studio art major:

- Two semesters of drawing or printmaking
- Four semesters of beginning and intermediate courses in painting or sculpture
- Two semesters of Senior Studio in painting or sculpture
- Four semesters of art history

Requirements for the art history major:

- Six courses in the history of art, covering periods from ancient to modern, including one course in Asian art
- Two courses in studio art
- The seminar in Methods and Approaches in the History of Art
- One additional research seminar or independent study
- Two electives in art history or in related fields in other disciplines, such as history, literature, and philosophy

Requirements for the art history minor:

- Six courses in the history of art, one of which must be in either pre-Renaissance or Asian art

Opportunities beyond the Classroom

Study abroad. Art history majors and minors are encouraged, though not required, to study abroad. Brandeis students may choose from 250 programs in more than sixty countries. Fine arts majors are additionally eligible to apply for travel grants for research or study abroad during the summer.

Internships. Fine arts students are eligible to apply for internships at the Rose Art Museum of Brandeis University, which houses the largest collection of modern and contemporary art in New England. Positions are awarded on a competitive basis to assist with curatorial, educational, or installation responsibilities. Some of these internships are stipend bearing while others receive course credit. With departmental permission, students may also receive course credit for internships in museums, galleries, and historical societies in the Boston area or elsewhere during the regular academic year or over the summer.

Field trips. The fine arts curriculum takes full advantage of the artistic riches of the Boston area with regular visits to the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and many other great collections. Trips are also organized to visit important museums and galleries in New York City and Washington, D.C.

Career and Education Opportunities

Students in the fine arts program have a variety of options. Art history majors are well prepared for graduate study in pursuit of careers in academe and museums. Some prefer to pursue more commercially oriented positions in galleries, auction houses, publishing, and the media. Similarly, studio art majors often go on to MFA graduate programs, or careers in design and new media, among others. Moreover, the abilities students have developed in written and oral communication, as well as analytical research, provide excellent and marketable skills for a wide range of careers. Above all, the fine arts curriculum exemplifies the explorative spirit of a liberal arts education.

Faculty

Following is a list of department faculty members and their areas of specialization:

- **Charles McClendon, chair**
Medieval art and architecture
- **Markus Baenziger**
Sculpture
- **Claudia Bucher**
Sculpture and media
- **Graham Campbell, director of studio art**
Painting
- **Sean Downey, postbaccalaureate coordinator**
Drawing and painting
- **Tory Fair, undergraduate advising head (studio art)**
Sculpture
- **Alfredo Gisholt**
Printmaking
- **Peter Kalb**
Twentieth century/contemporary art
- **Susan Lichtman, director of studio art**
Painting
- **Robert Maeda**
Asian art
- **Timothy Orwig**
Modern/contemporary architecture
- **Nancy Scott**
Nineteenth- and early twentieth-century European and American art
- **Jonathan Unglaub, undergraduate advising head (art history) chair, medieval and Renaissance studies**
Renaissance and Baroque art
- **Joseph Wardwell**
Drawing and painting
- **Aida Yuen Wong**
Asian art