Art and Art History

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Daniel Guernsey, Associate Professor
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Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts

The MFA in Visual Arts is an intense, production-oriented studio art program directed toward individual development. The curriculum is designed for maximum flexibility to accommodate both those seeking advanced training in a particular studio area and those whose interests may involve more media cross-over. Graduates of the program will be prepared for careers as professional artists. The MFA is the terminal degree in Studio Art.

Graduate Admission Requirements

1. Successful completion of the Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Arts, or an equivalent degree;
2. A written statement of intent, which should enhance the Graduate Admissions Committee’s understanding of the applicant’s creative work and outlined plan for its development in the program;
3. Twenty (20) images (300 dpi, jpeg format) of the applicant’s creative work;
4. Three (3) letters of recommendation from persons who are in a position to evaluate the applicant’s previous professional, academic and personal performance and his or her potential for success in the graduate program;
5. International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the iBT TOEFL or 6.5 overall on the IELTS is required and a minimum score of 50 on a Test of Spoken English (TSE).

Applicants must submit all of the above to the Graduate Secretary, Department of Art and Art History, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Miami, Florida 33199.

For a copy of the University Graduate Admission application that can be submitted online to the University Graduate Admissions Office, visit http://gradschool.fiu.edu.

The deadline application date for Fall admission is February 1st.

Degree Requirements

The MFA requires 60 semester hours of course work at the graduate level to be distributed as follows:

- Tutorial Instruction in Studio Area Concentration 18
- Tutorial Instruction in Studio Electives 17
- ART 5930 Studio Pedagogy 1
- ART 5939 Graduate Art Seminar I 3
- ART 5796 Critical Studies in the Visual Arts 3
- (3) Art History electives 9
- ART 6971 Graduate Prospectus & Exhibition Preparation 3
- ART 5907C Directed Study 3
- Elective(s) 3

Note: The catalog descriptions for the following courses are for MFA students as well as MS Art Education students.

ART 5930C Drawing, ART 5391C Figure Drawing, ART 5408C Printmaking, ART 5580C Painting, ART 5740C Sculpture, ART 5792C Figure Sculpture, PGY 5116C Color Photography, PGY 5425C Photography

Research for the written account of the work will be directed by a faculty committee composed of the candidate’s major professor, a member of the studio faculty, and an art historian. The committee will be formed during the second semester of enrollment and will meet periodically to supervise the candidate’s progress during the entire period of study.

Upon completion of twenty hours of course work and prior to the completion of thirty hours, the candidate must submit his/her work to the faculty committee, which will determine the student’s progress and capability for continued enrollment in the MFA program. This review will focus on issues such as growth of the student’s work, the consistency of production at the graduate level, and the demonstrated ability to fulfill the expectations of a graduate degree. All of the student’s work completed by this time will be assembled and reviewed and the student will be questioned about specific issues related to his/her work. Successful completion of this examination is prerequisite for continuing as a candidate for the degree.

In the last semester of enrollment, the candidate will present a graduate exhibition to be displayed in the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum at FIU or at an appropriate alternative space. The exhibition will be curated by the MFA candidate and the members of his/her committee. At the same time, the committee will conduct an oral examination with the candidate. This will take place in the exhibition space during the display of the candidate’s graduate exhibition. It will focus on the exhibition and the development of the candidate’s work. This examination must be completed successfully in order for the candidate to be awarded his/her degree.

Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies

Annette B. Fromm, Coordinator, Museum Studies

Advisory Committee:

Regina Bailey, Wolfsonian
Bill Burke, Art and Art History
David Chang, Education
Fernando Figueredo, School of Journalism and Mass Communication
Howard Frank, Public Administration
Joe Patrouch, History
Linda Powers, The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum
David Rifkind, Architecture
The Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies is an 18-credit program intended to prepare students for professional employment in museums and historic sites. The program offers graduate level courses appropriate for museum work as well as some cross-listed courses from associated academic disciplines. Courses are most appropriate for people interested in museum careers and are designed to give a broad overview of museum history as well as a solid grounding in museological theory and practice. In accordance with the mission of FIU, attention is given to issues of diversity and multiculturalism, and the relationship of museums to changing populations and interdisciplinary trends in a variety of different collecting environments ranging from the arts to history, anthropology, archaeology, and the sciences.

Two core courses and an internship are required. Students are encouraged to pursue a variety of courses of study to address diverse museum situations. Internships for 6 credits may be completed at approved institutions.

Graduate credits may be applied to an MA in Museum Studies and/or Art History.

Program Requirements: (18 credits)

Required Courses: (6 credits)
- ARH 5851 Introduction to Museum Ethics, Policies, and Procedures 3
- ARH 5850 Introduction to Museum Studies: History and Philosophy of Museums 3

Required Internship: (6 credits)
- ARH 5940 Internship 3-6

Electives: (6 credits)
- ARH 5xxx Collection and Conservation Management and Practices 3
- ARH 5xxx Non-Profit Business Practices 3
- ARH 5797 Museum Education 3
- ARH 5xxx Curatorial Methods and Practices 3
- ARH 5xxx Museum Exhibitions: Theory and Practice 3
- ARH 5xxx Special Topics in Museum Studies 3
- ARH 5xxx Managing Museum Technology 3
- HIS 5067 Public History Theoretical and Practical Issues 3
- HIS 5084 Museum History 3
- HIS 5xxx Archaeology and Museum Practices 3
- MUM 5808 Grant Writing for the Arts 3
- MUM 5946 Performance Arts Internship 3
- MUM 5715 Performing Arts Production 3
- MUM 5705 Advanced Business of Music 3
- ACG 5507 Issues and Problems in Accounting for Non-Profit Entities 3

On occasion, the Chair may grant students permission to include courses from associated Departments of History, Environmental Science, Art History; Biology, Architecture, Anthropology.

Course Descriptions

Definition of Prefixes
- ARH-Art History; ART-Art; PGY-Photography.

ARH 5325 Graduate Art in Renaissance Florence (3).
- For study in Florence. Course examines art of Renaissance from its beginnings in Florence with on-site classes. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

ARH 5362 Baroque Art (3).
- Baroque art and architecture of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in Europe. Slide lectures and discussions, advanced research required.

ARH 5440 Graduate Nineteenth Century Art (3).
- An advanced survey of 19th-century art in its social, political, and historical context. Includes French, English, Spanish artists. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

ARH 5465 Modern Art (3).
- Offers a history of modern art from ca 1880 to 1940. It concentrates on the study of European and American Avant-garde visual art movements with emphasis on art and modern society.

ARH 5482 Graduate Contemporary Art (3).
- Course examines the visual arts in Europe and the U.S. from the 1960’s to the present with focus on major art movements, artists, and artwork. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

ARH 5663 Graduate Art of Spain and Her Colonies (3).
- Course explores art of Spain from 1492 through early 19th century, the encounter between Spain and the Americas after the conquest, and the art of the colonies. Graduate level readings.

ARH 5671 Seminar in 20th Century Latin American Art (3).
- This course will examine the art of the 20th century in Latin America in a seminar focusing on painting and sculpture from the end of the 19th century to the present.

ARH 5675 Graduate History of Cuban Art (3).
- A study of visual arts of Cuba in the 20th century, within historical, social, and cultural context. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

ARH 5677 Caribbean Art: Myth and Reality (3).
- A survey of the contemporary art of the Caribbean with a brief introduction to its early history and a discussion of its complex social structures from country to country.

ARH 5715 History of Photography (3).
- A chronological examination of the work of the world’s most significant photographers from photographic works and ideas from invention to the 1940s.

ARH 5716 History of Photography Since 1945 (3).
- An examination of the most significant photographic works, critical concepts, and new trends which have arisen since WWII. Prerequisite: ARH 4710.

ARH 5717 History of Photography of Architecture (3).
- The history of photography from 1839 to now with strong emphasis on the photography of architecture.

ARH 5797 Museum Education (3).
- Course examines educational functions of a museum including interpretive principles and techniques, program design and community outreach.

ARH 5805 Critical Studies in the Visual Arts (3).
- Introduction to the methods and concerns of recent art history. Discussion of students’ work in context of the contemporary art world. Prerequisites: ARH 4450 and ARH 4470 or graduate level equivalents. Required for MFA Students.

ARH 5837 Exhibition Development (3).
- This course will examine the history, theory, and practical aspects of museum exhibitions, including exhibition planning, design, and interpretation.
ARH 5845 Graduate Spanish Art (3). Explores the Art of Spain from 1492 through the early 20th century. Painting, sculpture and architecture covered in slide lectures.

ARH 5850 Introduction to Museum Studies: History and Philosophy of Museums (3). Introduces the wide range of topics and issues associated with different types of American museums. Museums are examined as cultural, political, and educational institutions. Prerequisites: Graduate Standing or permission of Director of Museum Studies.

ARH 5851 Museum Ethics, Policies, and Procedures (3). The legal, ethical status of museums and the obligation to the public regarding their governance, policymaking and financial planning. Includes theoretical and practical discussions with attention to museums. Prerequisites: Graduate Standing or permission of Director of Museum Studies.

ARH 5852 Museum Registration Methods (3). A course in Museum Registration is designed to provide Museum Studies students with competency in all areas of object care, registration and information management. Prerequisites: Graduate Standing or permission of Director of Museum Studies.

ARH 5853 Visual Arts Marketing (3). Students seeking a degree in studio art will be able to appraise and present a portfolio to an appropriate organization. Prerequisite: Graduate Standing.

ARH 5855 Curatorial Methods and Practices (3). This course examines museum history and theory; exhibit planning, design, and interpretation. Emphasis on contemporary art practices with room for the discussion of other disciplines.

ARH 5872 History of Women Artists (3). Surveys the history of women artists with some discussion of the history of images of women.

ARH 5874C Women in Latin American Art (3). Introduces women in Latin American art from its Pre-Columbian beginnings through the twentieth century. Emphasis will be on painting and sculpture of the twentieth century.

ARH 5896 Seminar in the History and Criticism of Art (3). Examines particular periods or subject areas in the history of art. Course content varies from semester to semester, and with a change in theme, the course may be repeated. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

ARH 5897 Special Topics in Art History (3). Rotating special topics on the graduate level in art history. May be repeated with change of topic. Prerequisites: ARH 4450 and ARH 4470 or graduate level equivalents.

ARH 5907 Directed Studies (1-6). A group of students, with the approval of the art faculty, may select a master teacher of theory, research or criticism in selected areas as film, painting, sculpture, architecture, crafts, art history, multimedia art, etc. Arrangements must be made at least a semester before course is offered. May be repeated.

ARH 5913 Research (1-6). Art history, criticism, and theory in areas not covered by the present program and which the student wishes to study. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. May be repeated.

ARH 5940 Internship Experience (3-6). Supervised work experience in approved institution. Prerequisite: Permission of Director of Museum Studies. May be repeated.

ART 5135C Graduate Fibers (3). Graduate level studio course, explores issues of the fiber medium and its context in contemporary art practice. Prerequisite: Fiber Based Painting ART 5565C.

ART 5159C Jewelry and Metals (3). Advanced jewelry and metalwork. May be repeated. Prerequisites: ART 4156C or equivalent or permission of the instructor.

ART 5390C Drawing (3). Advanced drawing. May be repeated. Prerequisites: ART 4315C or permission of the instructor.

ART 5391C Figure Drawing (3). Advanced figure drawing. May be repeated. Prerequisites: ART 4333C or equivalent, or permission of the instructor.

ART 5408C Printmaking (3). Advanced printmaking. May be repeated. Prerequisites: ART 4404C or permission of instructor.

ART 5580C Painting (3). Advanced painting. May be repeated. Prerequisites: ART 4524 or permission of instructor.

ART 5685C Advanced Time Art (3). Advanced course to refine students' skills in electronic and digital media production. Students are required to produce a multidisciplinary project. Prerequisites: ART 3681C or permission of the instructor.

ART 5740C Sculpture (3). Advanced sculpture. May be repeated. Prerequisites: ART 4742C or equivalent, or permission of the instructor.

ART 5790C Ceramics (3). The advanced student will explore all aspects of expression in clay and glaze. Students will be expected to be mostly self-directed. Prerequisites: ART 4785C or permission of the instructor. May be repeated.

ART 5792C Figure Sculpture (3). Advanced Figure Sculpture. May be repeated. Prerequisites: ART 4716C or permission of instructor.

ART 5815C Graduate Seminar: Body and Art (3). Focuses on the relationship between the body, materials and space as used in art and exhibitions and examines the social conventions that order our understanding of these issues. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

ART 5844C Installation Art (3). Explores the genre of installation art and site-specific art through history and provides a context for collaboration with the Wolfsonian Museum as both site and subject for art specific installation by students. Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor.

ART 5855 Graduate FIU in New York (3). A study of New York’s art world and contemporary artists in New York City.

ART 5907C Directed Study (VAR). A course of study in a selected area under the supervision of an appropriate faculty member. Mandatory for MFA students in semester of graduation. Advance approval by faculty and graduate advisory required (3cr). May be repeated.
ART 5910C Research (1-6). Students may study or research an individual art project with an art faculty member. Complexity and amount of work will determine the number of credit hours granted. May be repeated.

ART 5930C Special Topics in Studio Art (3). Rotating special topics in Studio Arts. May be repeated with change of content.

ART 5938C Studio Art Pedagogy (1). Instruction in the principles and methods of teaching in the area of visual arts; specifically the application of these principles to the studio situation. Required for MFA students. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

ART 5939C Graduate Art Seminar I (3). Students will locate and discuss their own work within the context of the contemporary art world. Also, issues and practical concerns for the professional artist will be addressed, such as dealing with guidelines, grant writing and business procedures. Required for MFA students. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

ART 5939 Graduate Art Seminar II (3). Discussion of students work within the context of the contemporary art world. Issues and practical concerns for the professional artist will be addressed, such as dealing with galleries, grant writing and business procedures. Mandatory for MFA students. Prerequisites: Graduate standing and ART 5939C.

ART 6971 Graduate Prospectus and Exhibition Preparation (3). Offers students the opportunity to complete the research and preparation of written components required for graduation, including thesis and artist statement. Prerequisites: Completion of graduate program courses other than ART 5907C.

PGY 5425C Photography (3). Advanced photography. May be repeated. Prerequisites: PGY 4155C, or equivalent, or permission of the instructor. For graduate students.

PGY 5530C Color Photography (3). Advanced color photography. Prerequisites: PGY 4154C or permission of the instructor. For graduate students.

PGY 5649C Advanced Digital Photography II (3). Advanced documentary digital photography, requiring highly evolved technical skill and aesthetic direction. May be repeated. For graduate students who have completed prerequisites. Prerequisites: PGY 4823C or permission of the instructor.