

Program Goals

Academic Goals for the Major in Art History

Students completing the Art History major (track A or track B) will have encountered major works of art across global traditions, chronological periods, and varying formats and media, as well as have studied the history of art historical scholarship and methodologies. Art History majors will graduate with skills that have real world application acquired through integrative learning via fieldtrips, internships, and research opportunities at area art institutions. Art History majors will be equipped to continue the development of insight into the nature of human creativity and the approaches of different cultures to art-making.

Art History majors will be able to demonstrate aptitude in the following areas:

- **Visual Literacy:** identifying and understanding works of art and stylistic trends in major genres, periods, and cultural traditions of visual expression.
- **Art in Context:** appreciating the social, historical, and cultural contexts for both visual expression and responses to art, and facility in articulating these contexts orally and in writing.
- **Critical and Creative Thinking:** describing, researching, analyzing, and interpreting works of art, including the ability to understand and apply different art historical methods.

Art History majors will also attain the following skills through integrative learning and real world application:

- ability to put academic learning into practice, through internships, research experience outside the classroom, fieldtrips and museum visits.
- ability to show understanding of how contemporary urban settings foster art experiences locally and internationally.
- ability to connect visual art and the art historical scholarship to the theory and practice of fields such as science, architecture and urban planning, design, literature, and philosophy.
- ability to plan and mount art exhibitions through comprehension of the workings of for-profit and non-profit collections and institutions of art, including proficiency in the research and writing of didactic and promotional materials
- ability to perform critical thinking and detailed research with the goal of producing oral and written synthetic analyses of a variety of materials, including visual art, primary historical sources, academic scholarship, and promotional materials, which can be translated to different fields and occupations