

## Art History

### Bachelor of Arts Degree

#### Contact

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#### Admission Requirements

*(In years as established by the college)*

A high school diploma with the following specific courses:

- 4 English
- 2 Algebra I & II
- 1 Geometry
- 2 Lab Science (including biology)
- 2 History/Social Studies
- 2 Foreign Language  
(same language or two years of American Sign Language)
- Academic electives (to equal at least 17 credits)

*To ensure current mathematical skills, students should take a mathematics course during their senior year of high school.*

#### Did You Know?

Studying history of art at the University of Maine will prepare you for our media-rich world through its emphasis on visual culture. This will open up opportunities for further study in the field as well as related fields, including anthropology, communications, museum studies, arts administration, arts journalism, filmmaking and studio art.

## College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

### Program Description

The Department of Art offers the Bachelor of Arts degree in History of Art. Students begin the program with two introductory courses that survey historically significant objects and monuments — including paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures, pottery, photographs, film and video, and architecture — from ancient times to the present. These introductory courses consider the form, content, role and meaning of these works in terms of their social, political, economic, philosophical and cultural contexts. From its foundation courses through its highest-level seminars, history of art at the University of Maine stands out for its emphasis on theory, diverse methodologies and the epistemology of the discipline. A strong awareness of the historiography of the field is instilled from the introductory course onward. The curriculum stresses research by teaching students in the introductory courses the essential value of primary sources and peer-reviewed secondary sources as they work through their studies. Building on this first-year experience, second-year courses focus on how to collaboratively develop important questions, present research in formal writing assignments and oral presentations, and meet the discipline's professional standards. Upper-level seminars engage students in open discussions of their research as it unfolds, leading to the creation of publishable papers. Two upper-level seminars dedicated to the principal underpinnings of the field — art theory and criticism and critical methodologies — engage students directly in the definitive potentials of the discipline. For their capstone experience, students present a research paper to the public for open commentary, preparing them well for participating in professional conferences.

The program treats history of art within the greater context of visual culture, encouraging students to consider wide classes of objects as valuable windows into culture. In considering the wealth of material culture from any given epoch, students learn how visual language functions as a complement to the written or oral record. The program also emphasizes academic writing skills and interdisciplinary research. In addition to courses in history of art, students take two studio art courses to provide insights into the working methods of artists and the creative processes that foster critical thinking and visual literacy. Students must also take two courses in a foreign language to broaden their research capabilities in the field. The major highly recommends that its students enroll in the Honors College. Throughout their course of study, students can expect a very high degree of individual attention. The department also offers a 21-credit minor in history of art.

### Associated Honor Societies and Student Organizations

History of art students have several opportunities to win Department of Art awards, including the Vincent Hartgen Award, which grants funds for research travel, the University of Maine Museum of Art Internship, which allows students to intern at the university's museum as part of their coursework or capstone project, and the David Shoemaker Award, which grants research funds. Additionally, students may compete to participate in an undergraduate research presentation in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Students are encouraged to join the Art and Design Collective, a student-run organization that organizes lectures and trips to museums and galleries.

## Representative Courses

ARH 251: Classical Art and Architecture  
ARH 252: Mediterranean Medieval Art and Architecture  
ARH 253: Northern Medieval Art and Architecture  
ARH 255: Italian Renaissance Art  
ARH 257: Northern Renaissance Art  
ARH 258: Baroque Art and Architecture  
ARH 260: The Modern Classical Tradition  
ARH 261: The Modern Romantic Tradition  
ARH 262: Early Modern Art  
ARH 263: Late Modern Art  
ARH 264: Themes and Issues in Contemporary Art  
ARH 268: Canadian Art  
ARH 270: Topical Survey in History of Art  
ARH 351: Art Theory and Criticism  
ARH 352: Critical Methods in History of Art  
ARH 361: Topics in Art History

ARH 362: Medieval Art and Architecture Seminar  
ARH 363: Renaissance Art and Architecture Seminar  
ARH 364: Baroque Art and Architecture Seminar  
ARH 366: Twentieth Century Art and Architecture Seminar  
ARH 368: History of Art Gender Studies Seminar  
ARH 369: Film and Video Theory Seminar  
ARH 397: Independent Study in Art History  
ARH 398: Directed Study in Art History  
ARH 493: Medieval Research Seminar  
ARH 494: Renaissance Research Seminar  
ARH 495: Modern/Post-Modern Seminar  
ARH 496: Field Experience in Art History  
ARH 497: Independent Study in Art History  
ARH 498: Directed Study in Art History  
ARH 499: Capstone or HON 498 & 499: Honors Thesis  
ARH 597: Independent Graduate Study

## Specialized Information

There are many internship opportunities for students majoring or minoring in history of art. Our students have worked as interns at the Portland Museum of Art, the University of Maine Museum of Art, the Hudson Museum, and local galleries such as the Aucocisco Gallery in Portland. In addition, history of art students have participated in conferences, including the Maine Medieval and Renaissance Conference and national conferences, such as the Neo-Platonic Studies Conference and the National Honors Colleges Conference. History of Art students also have been active participants in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Awards conference. Some recent undergraduate and graduate research topics include: “Kandinsky and Science”; “Momentary Momentum: A Case Study for Museum Theory”; “Duchamp, Audience, and the Limits of Art”; “Goya’s Black Paintings”; “Chavin Weaving Identities”; “The Road to Campostello: Progressive Pilgrimage Narratives”; and “Divisions of Pleasure: Early Islamic Courts (661–1000CE).”

Our students have access to many academic resources, including JSTOR and ARTstor, as well as other important research databases and resources available through Fogler Library and interlibrary loan. Students also have ample opportunities to work with objects first-hand at the various museums across the state and beyond. They also can participate in travel-study courses as well as both faculty- and student-lead initiatives to major art collections in the United States, Canada and Europe. The program encourages students to spend at least one semester studying abroad, either through foreign universities or the University of Maine’s International Programs Office. Each semester, the Department of Art hosts a Visiting Artist/Guest Lecturer Program that brings scholars from a broad range of disciplines to lecture and work with students.

In fall 2006, the Department of Art moved into the newly renovated Lord Hall. This 1904 brick building is the new home for expanded facilities for art education, history of art (including two digital projection lecture halls, a seminar room, a Visual Resource Library, and a study room) and a gallery. It also serves as the home for design and digital art studios.

## Career and Graduate Opportunities

With its focus on critical thinking in verbal and nonverbal forms, the History of Art Program prepares students for many career options, in addition to continued study at the graduate level. The major prepares students for careers in museums (curator, registrar, educator), art galleries, arts administration, antiquities, communications, historic preservation, art conservation, teaching, arts libraries and arts criticism. Many of our students go on to work in galleries and museums, such as the Farnsworth Gallery in Rockland, Maine. The rigorous academic training of the program also has prepared several students for admission to law school.

## UMaine Graduate Programs

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies  
Interdisciplinary Master of Education  
Interdisciplinary Doctor of Philosophy



## Academic Programs 2011–12

The latest versions of the UMaine fact sheets are online ([factsheets.umaine.edu](http://factsheets.umaine.edu)).  
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