

Program Overview: Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art History Concentration



About This Major . . .

The BFA degree in Art with a concentration in Art History combines strong curriculum requirements in both studio and art history courses. Students in this major will develop advanced skills in particular studio techniques and will engage in in-depth study of historic and contemporary artists, and art movements and styles. Art history courses are focused on the histories and theories of art, with a focus on the art and architecture of Europe and America from the Renaissance to the present.

A senior-level capstone course, Criticism and Research: Theory and Method (ARTH 400), focuses on Art History as a discipline. This includes the evaluation and interpretation of complex issues regarding style, form, concept, and theory. Students investigate seminal Art History theories and interpretative methodologies while developing writing components for their portfolio.

The degree can lead to professional employment in art museums and galleries, art publishing houses, and other areas of art services. The degree will also prepare students who want to pursue graduate-level art history studies.

All CMU baccalaureate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, quantitative fluency, and specialized knowledge/applied learning.

In addition to these campus-wide student-learning outcomes, graduates of this major will be able to:

1. interpret and apply formal elements and principles of design. (Critical Thinking)
2. demonstrate application of tools, materials, techniques, and proper use and care for equipment through quality craftsmanship. (Applied Learning)
3. generate individual response through concept and theory beyond formal elements to create personal content. (Communication Fluency)
4. communicate clearly regarding the critical analysis of art and design, both historical and contemporary. (Specialized Knowledge/ Communication Fluency)
5. demonstrate an array of critical approaches to the study of historic art and visual culture in written or oral presentations. (Specialized Knowledge)
6. execute research projects involving visual analysis, reading research, critical thinking, writing, and standard methods of documentation. (Critical Thinking)

Program Highlights:

Follow Their Lead

Land a job in an art gallery, art museum, art center, as a teacher, and more.

Get Smarter

Consider graduate studies and earning an MA or PhD.

Travel

Join a trip to see the art in person on a trip within the continental US or abroad.

Get Experience

Apply your expertise in a real-world setting by working in the CMU Art Gallery.

Program Requirements

A student must follow CMU graduation requirements by completing 120 semester credit hours, including 40 credits of coursework at the 300+ level. See the “Undergraduate Graduation Requirements” in the catalog for additional graduation information. Students should work closely with a faculty advisor when selecting and scheduling courses prior to registration. In general, CMU’s programs of study are based on two curriculum groups:

1. Essential Learning

CMU’s Essential Learning program provides the foundation of skills and information that cuts across all fields of study and the support for advanced concepts that students will later encounter in their majors. Before moving into work at the 300+ level, students complete the Maverick Milestone and its co-requirement, Essential Speech. This pair of courses is a capstone experience where students integrate what they have learned from their foundation courses by making connections among diverse areas of knowledge. The capstone is also an opportunity for students to work with disparate ideas, a critical skill expected of all CMU graduates that will aid them in solving the complex and unscripted problems they will encounter in their personal, professional, and civic lives.

2. What You Will Study in This Major. . .

Foundational Courses

These courses provide a general background in art theory and application including vocabulary, art methods/practice and a broad overview of 40,000 years of art history to prepare you for more intensive study.

- ARTE 101 Two-Dimensional Design
- ARTE 102 Three-Dimensional Design
- ARTE 118 History of Art, Prehistory to Renaissance
- ARTE 119 History of Art, Renaissance to Present
- ARTS 151 Foundation Drawing I

Art History Core

All students need to take advanced courses which focus on an in-depth study of Art History while allowing students to explore different studio art areas for a fundamental understanding of how art is made. Studies in Foreign Language prepare students for graduate studies. A senior capstone course, ARTH 400, allows students to explore the current theory and methodologies for research.

- 6 Credits in Foreign Language
- 24 Credits in Art History Studies
- 18 Credits of Art Studio 200 & 300 Level
- 21 Credits of Art Studio 300 Level
- 3 Credits in Criticism and Theory

Concentration Electives

These courses allow you to study art historical periods and courses that fit your personal interests while at the same time providing you with a deeper, more nuanced understanding of art history and its historical movements.

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| • History of Modern Art | • Gothic and Northern Renaissance Art and Architecture | • Medieval Art: Early Christian to Romanesque |
| • 19th Century Art | • Expressionism in 20th Century Art | • History of Western Architecture |
| • 20th Century Art to 1950 | • History of Modern Architecture | • History of World Ceramics |
| • American Art History | • History of Graphic Design | • Mayan Architecture and Ceramics |
| • Development of Contemporary Art | • Italian Renaissance Art History | |
| • Art of the American West | | |
| • Symbolism to Surrealism | | |

Electives

We want you to have breadth as well as depth, and these electives allow you to supplement or complement your choices in Art History. A strategic selection of electives can help you “cross-pollinate” what and how you think.

- Ceramics
- Drawing
- Painting
- Printmaking
- Sculpture
- Bronze Casting
- Life Drawing
- Figure Painting
- Screen Printing
- Book Binding
- Animation
- Graphic Design
- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Illustrator
- Digital Photography
- Typography
- Illustration
- Sketchbook

For more information about this major, go to: <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/art/index.html> or contact the Academic Department Head for Art, 313A Fine Arts, 970.248.1444.