

Program Overview: Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art Studio Art Concentration



About This Major . . .

The BFA degree in Art with a concentration in Studio Art is designed to give students strong technical skills and a art history background while developing an individual focus in their art. Students develop skills and aesthetic judgment in the materials, tools and techniques within drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, or sculpture studio arts. Art history studies engage students in historic and contemporary artists, and art movements and styles. A background in the visual arts can provide a variety of opportunities in the areas of studio art, art galleries, and applied design. The degree culminates in a senior gallery exhibition in the CMU Art Gallery.

Students must participate in and complete a sophomore portfolio review for entry into the program (Sophomore Seminar). A BFA with a concentration in Studio Art prepares the student to pursue a career as an artisan or continue with graduate studies in art.

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. create and sustain a body of work through self-directed research, experimentation, risk-taking, and reflective analysis. (Applied Learning)
6. justify critical analysis of artwork based on material, conceptual, and critical analysis. (Critical Thinking)

Program Highlights:

Display Your Art

Exhibit your artwork in a gallery setting as a professional practicing artist.

Make Connections

See the connections between your personal art making and artists of the past as you learn about art history and develop your own artistic practices.

Transform Your Skills

Hone your creativity and artistic skills as you practice the studio art of your choice.

See the History

Travel and 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.

Get a Job

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

Get Smarter

Consider graduate studies by earning an MA or MFA.



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 you with 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 in the arts.

- 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
- ARTS 152 Foundation Drawing II

Studio Art Core

All students take courses that explore a variety of different media areas within the study of studio art. Study of the materials, tools, and techniques of art making provides a strong base of skills. With this background they can focus their creativity as they develop their own personal art direction. Students study the history of modern art and participate in a Sophomore Seminar, a course designed to help students develop critical thinking skills through the formal analysis of artwork, presentation of artwork, and studio art safety practices, while exploring career options in art.

- 36 Credits in Art Studio Studies
- 12 Credits in Upper-Division Art History
- 6 Credits in Studio Art Professional Practices

Concentration Specialty

Choose courses in these fine art media areas to focus your study an area of art that fits your personal interests as you develop your own personal art direction.

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| • Ceramics: Hand Building | • Acrylic Painting | • Iron Casting |
| • Ceramics: Throwing | • Oil Painting | • Printmaking: Intaglio & Relief |
| • Ceramics: Kiln Construction | • Life Drawing | • Printmaking: Lithography |
| • Ceramics: Sculpture | • Figure Painting | • Printmaking: Screen Printing |
| • Drawing | • Sculpture/Construction | • Mixed Media: Painting |
| • Mixed Media Drawing | • Bronze Casting | |

Electives

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

- Sketchbook
- Artists’ Books
- Animation
- Motion Graphics
- Graphic Design
- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Illustrator
- Computer Illustration
- Digital Painting
- Digital Photography
- Typography
- Illustration
- Visual and Conceptual Thinking
- History of Graphic Design
- Art of the American West
- Gothic and Northern Renaissance Art and Architecture
- Development of Contemporary Art
- Symbolism to Surrealism
- American Art History

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.