

# Art History

## Master of Arts in Art History

The Master of Arts in art history program offers a two-year degree that provides a solid foundation in historical and theoretical study of the history of Western Art, from Medieval to Contemporary. The program emphasizes independent exploration and interdisciplinary research.

Art history studies the traditions and techniques of the visual arts. It is an interdisciplinary field, drawing upon philosophy, history, literature, religion, and mythology to examine works of art and their contexts. The history of art provides means to penetrate cultural constructions and their aesthetic and artistic productions. To assist the student in developing skills needed to analyze and understand the object, the course of study includes requirements in academic coursework and research.

The collection of the Art Museum of West Virginia University provides both first-hand experience with works of significant aesthetic and cultural value and introduces students to curatorial and museum practice. The Laura and Paul Mesaros Galleries in the Creative Arts Center and the Visiting Artist and Scholar program form a crucial link in the course of study, presenting installation and curatorial opportunities. Through the School of Art and Design's association with regional institutions, museum and gallery internships are encouraged.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students must matriculate having attained reading proficiency in a language other than English through course credit or to be demonstrated by passing a proficiency exam. If incoming students have not yet acquired reading proficiency in a second language, they should plan to obtain it before completing the M.A. degree.

Completion of the program culminates in the master's thesis, which may take a variety of forms within the context of art's historical and critical practices. The student will select a thesis topic that must be approved by the art history faculty. The thesis consists of a research paper demonstrating critical knowledge of relevant sources, skill in analysis and interpretation, and ability to present the results in a well-organized and intelligent manner. The thesis must be defended in an oral examination.

Applicants for admission to the master's program are expected to demonstrate competence in the history of art, equivalent to an undergraduate major, as well as reading competence of at least one language other than English (four-semester equivalent), and must submit GRE examination scores. The B.A. degree in an area of substantial humanistic research plus a foreign language may also be considered appropriate preparation.

## Degree Requirements

### Art History

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Selected from the following:

ARHS 501	Independent Study
ARHS 507	Native American
ARHS 510	Intro Curatorial Practice
ARHS 520	Greek and Roman
ARHS 531	Medieval
ARHS 533	Medieval Architecture
ARHS 538	History of Stained Glass
ARHS 544	Art Theory
ARHS 545	Modern Art Theory
ARHS 548	Women in Art
ARHS 550	Northern Renaissance
ARHS 554	Italian Renaissance
ARHS 560	Baroque
ARHS 570	American
ARHS 575	Nineteenth Century
ARHS 580	Modern
ARHS 581	Modern Architecture
ARHS 582	GPS-Architect Frank Lloyd Wright
ARHS 585	Print, Propaganda and Art
ARHS 588	The Art of Andy Warhol
ARHS 589	Contemporary
ARHS 591	Advanced Topics

ARHS 592	Directed Study	
ARHS 593	Special Topics	
ARHS 594	Seminar	
ARHS 595	Independent Study	
ARHS 601	Thesis	
ARHS 691	Advanced Topics	
ARHS 692	Directed Study	
ARHS 693	Special Topics	
ARHS 694	Seminar	
Cognate Classes		6
ARHS 601	Thesis	3
Total Hours		30

## Major Learning Goals

### ART HISTORY

- Demonstrate a broad general knowledge of the history of art, as well as specialization in a more limited area.
- Knowledge of historiography and methods of scholarship and be capable of undertaking independent research.
- Demonstrate knowledge of at least one foreign language.