



School of Visual Studies Art History

What Is an Art History Major?

Art history combines the study of artifacts and spaces with the study of culture. As you pursue your [bachelor's degree in art history \(BA\)](#), you develop skills in visual literacy, critical thinking and writing, and historical research by learning to situate objects and structures within their cultural contexts. You explore how artifacts create and preserve beliefs and values but also challenge them. And you become aware of how the images and objects that surround you shape your interpretations of, and participation in, our shared cultural environment. The discipline of art history offers a unique perspective on the past, since you study the places in which history was made as well as the images and objects that recorded it.

Art history's attention to the lives of objects—their production, use, and reception—makes it inherently cross-cultural and interdisciplinary. You are encouraged to draw on other subjects of study,

Life After MU for Alumni

- Director of strategic development, WORK Architecture Company
- Operations assistant, Margo Morrison New York (fine jewelry company)
- Associate conservator, Modern Art Conservation
- Assistant registrar, Australian Centre for the Moving Image
- Project manager and architectural designer, Valerio Dewalt Train Associates, Inc.
- Senior editor, Human Capital Media
- Assistant professor of art history, University of Colorado Denver

including archaeology, anthropology, business, gender studies, literature, music, religion, science, and technology, and to transfer that knowledge to your



School of Visual Studies
University of Missouri



SVS Art History

understanding of images and spaces.

The [School of Visual Studies](#) (SVS)

offers a bachelor's degree in art history, with particular

strengths in medieval, early modern and modern European art, and the art of the Americas. Our curriculum combines traditional classroom courses; discussion-based seminars; and experiential, object-based learning opportunities. As an art history major, you will work closely with faculty advisers to individualize your program of study.

Careers & Jobs

The wide range of skills you acquire as an art history student prepares you for a variety of employment opportunities in the creative economy. Recent graduates are employed by museums, galleries, non-profit arts organizations, government agencies, libraries, schools, and businesses across the nation and around the world. They curate exhibitions, edit publications, develop educational programming, manage community outreach projects, teach students of all ages, and work to preserve the nation's architectural and cultural heritage. They also participate in strategic development, human resource and operations management, and long-term planning for private and public companies. Finally, many of our students continue their studies at the graduate level in art and architectural history, education, law, library science, and museum studies.

Get Involved

As an art history major, you are part of the School of Visual Studies, and you can participate in the Art History and Archaeology undergraduate student groups. You can also join the Missouri Museum Advisory Council of Students (MACS), associated

with MU's [Museum of Art and Archaeology](#), which regularly hosts Art After Dark, a juried art show of work created by college students. We encourage you to hold internships and research assistantships at local and national museums, galleries, and arts organizations. Previous students have worked at the Museum of Art and Archaeology; the State Historical Society of Missouri; the Columbia Art League (a local, non-profit fine arts gallery); the Saint Louis Art Museum; the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City; the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. You can also take advantage of MU's extensive study-abroad and travel programs to study in Italy, France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and around the world.

The small size of the art history program allows you to work closely with faculty on a variety of professional projects. You have the opportunity to curate exhibitions in various spaces around campus as well as through Art on the Move, the SVS outreach program. You can participate in the editing, design, and production of *Object Lessons*, a series of zines published by SVS that explores the cultural and historical implications of the vernacular. And you can pursue independent research projects through the school's honors program as well as the Office of Undergraduate Research.

For More Info



visualstudies.missouri.edu



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Complete undergraduate course listing:

visualstudies.missouri.edu/aha/courses

MU Admissions: admissions.missouri.edu



[MizzouArtArch](#)