

University of Missouri

MFA Graduate Program

OVERVIEW

The Department of Art offers a Master of Fine Art (MFA) program that focuses on the creative vision of the individual. The program is designed to provide superior preparation in the visual arts for those whose goal is professional work in the field of art or who plan to teach at the college level. Traditional media areas are blended with current technological approaches along with contemporary art theory.

The course of study prepares students for advanced professional careers in drawing, ceramics, fibers, graphic design, digital art, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and new media. The faculty members are conscious of current movements and technological changes within the fine arts disciplines and many students combine media areas to visually articulate their creative research.

Upon admission to the program, a candidate is assigned a Graduate Thesis Committee Chair. This person will mentor the student throughout the student's tenure. Later in the year the student will select other committee members from the MFA Faculty Members to serve as the student's primary advisors. In addition, students have access to all the MFA Faculty Members for consultation throughout the duration of their studies.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ART

Special features of the Art Department include traditional and new technologies. Every media area continually updates equipment and curriculum to coincide with technological advancements. Laboratory facilities are available in all media areas and there are individual graduate studios available for graduate students accepted into the program.

Our facilities include a comprehensive slide collection, much of which is also in digital form. All graduate students have access to ArtStor.org, laptops for short-term loan, and three large digital labs equipped with the latest Apple Computers complete with cinematic displays. The labs also feature large-format digital color printers plus video capture and editing equipment.

Additionally, the department houses a fully equipped papermaking facility, anagama kiln and bronze casting facility.

The Department of Art is home to the George Caleb Bingham Gallery. Here monthly exhibitions feature artwork by student, local, regional and national artists. The weekly Wednesday Lecture Series features presentations by various professionals in the arts.

The gallery provides an opportunity for students to experience and relate to a variety of traditional and contemporary approaches to art. Additional on-campus art collections include the Museum of Art and Archaeology, the Museum of Anthropology and the State Historical Society of Missouri. Ellis Library has an extensive and excellent holding of books, periodicals and reference materials on art and art history.

MFA FACULTY MEMBERS

MFA Faculty Members create art within various traditions and innovations: abstract and figurative painting and drawing, traditional and sculptural ceramics, print, web and digital media, traditional and digital photography, photo intaglio printing, surface design, papermaking and book arts, mixed media, bronze cast sculpture, installation and conceptual art.

Nathan Boyer, assistant professor
MFA Yale University School of Art (painting/drawing)

Jean M. Brueggjenjohann, professor
MFA Indiana University (graphic design/digital media)

James H. Calvin, associate professor
MFA Bowling Green University (sculpture)

R. Bede Clarke, professor
MFA University of Iowa (ceramics)

J. Brett Grill, assistant professor
MFA New York Academy of Art (painting/drawing)

William A. Hawk, director of graduate studies, associate professor

MFA Washington University (painting)

Adrienne W. Hoard, professor
MFA, EdD University of Illinois (2-d design/color theory/art education)

Deborah L. Huelsbergen, director of undergraduate studies, associate professor
MFA Iowa State University (graphic design/digital media/2-d design)

Joe Johnson, assistant professor,
MFA Massachusetts College of Art (photography)

Lampo Leong, chair, associate professor
MFA California College of the Arts (painting/drawing)

Cheryl Sampson, assistant professor
MFA University of Iowa (2-d design/3-d design)

Josephine M. Stealey, professor
PhD University of Missouri-Columbia (fibers)

Richard A. Wilson, assistant professor
MFA University of Missouri-Columbia (graphic design/digital media)

DEGREE MEDIA AREAS

Ceramics, Drawing, Fibers, Graphic Design, New Media, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture, and Interdisciplinary Media.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The MFA program consists of 60 credit hours. The degree includes 30 hours in the major area, 9 hours in the minor area, 3 hours of Graduate Studio Seminar and a minimum of 1 hour of MFA Research Hours. The course of study is rounded out with 11 hours of electives and 6 hours of Art History.

All courses must be at the 7000+ graduate levels. The degree will not be granted solely upon the completion of the prescribed number of credit hours, but also upon the student's high level of creative achievement as determined by the student's Graduate Thesis Committee.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The preferred undergraduate degree for admission is the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA). However, applicants holding the BA, BS and other bachelor's degrees are eligible to apply if they have a minimum of 40 hours of undergraduate studio credits or an equivalent commensurate professional experience or other equivalent studio arts achievements.

All applicants are required to meet the Graduate School standard of a grade point average of 3.0 or better on the last 60 hours of undergraduate work.

INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Students from countries where English is not the native language are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The minimum total TOEFL scores for graduate admission to MU are 500 (paper-based test), 173 (computer-based test) or 61 (Internet-based test).

The minimum total academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score for graduate admission to MU is 5.5.

Applicants from the following native English-speaking countries are not required to submit TOEFL or IELTS scores.

- Australia
- New Zealand
- British Caribbean Islands
- Canada (except French-speaking areas)
- Ireland
- United Kingdom
- Kenya

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process has three parts.

Part #1 is to submit your application on line to the Graduate School. Applications must include:

1. **Supporting Text Documents**
 - a. Application Online Form
 - b. Three (3) letters of recommendation
 - c. Official transcripts/mark sheets from each college or school of art attended
 - d. Cover Letter of Intent
 - e. Artistic Statement
 - f. Current Resume
 - g. A Digital Assets Sheet
 - h. Application for Graduate Teaching Assistantship (G.T.A.)

2. **An Application Fee**

All text documents should be submitted within the Graduate School's online application system:

<http://gradschool.missouri.edu>

Part #2 is to mail a digital portfolio representing your recent creative work to the Department of Art. It should include:

3. **An Art Portfolio**
 - a. Digital Images
 - b. Digital Movies
 - c. A Digital Assets Sheet Copy

For complete information see the **MFA Admissions Instructions** pdf document available online at:

<http://art.missouri.edu/grad>

SCHOLARSHIPS

Listed below are scholarships available through the Art Department.

Ann Stevens Hoffman Memorial Scholarship

Recipient must be a female MFA ceramics or photography major with a demonstrated financial need.

The Dorothy L. Rollins Memorial Scholarship in Painting/ Drawing

Awarded annually to the most outstanding MFA graduate student in painting and/or drawing.

Donald L. Bartlett Scholarship

Recipient must be an MFA candidate majoring in sculpture.

Hazel (Pat) Steele Burney Endowment

Graduate and undergraduate students in good academic standing within the college are eligible.

Verna Wulfekammer Graduate Student Fellowship

Recipient must be an MFA candidate majoring in fibers.

Other scholarships and fellowships are available through the Graduate School:

<http://gradschool.missouri.edu/financial>

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Along with admission, to qualified graduate students, a number of teaching assistantships and non-teaching assistantships may be offered. All assistantships include a monetary stipend.

After one term of successful teaching, some qualifying graduates may be awarded two teaching assistantships with stipends in a given semester, if additional positions are available. Be sure to carefully follow admissions instructions if you wish to be considered for these opportunities.

TUITION WAIVERS

Graduate Teaching Assistantships also entitle participating graduates to receive a tuition waiver for the semesters that they have a GTA position; however, others student fees still apply.

CONTACTS

For further information about the MFA degree program:

Director of Graduate Studies

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learn more:

<http://gradschool.missouri.edu/prospective>

<http://paint.missouri.edu>

<http://web.missouri.edu>