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, 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. A 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

Creative practices of MFA Faculty Members run the gamut from the traditional to the experimental.

- **Matt Ballou**, associate teaching professor
- **Nathan Boyer**, associate professor
- **Jean M. Brueggenjohann**, professor
- **Alexis Callender**, assistant teaching professor
- **James H. Calvin**, associate professor
- **R. Bede Clarke**, professor
- **Chris Daniggelis**, assistant professor
- **J Brett Grill**, associate professor
- **William A. Hawk**, associate professor emeriti
- **Deborah L. Huelsbergen**, director of undergraduate studies, curators teaching professor
- **Joe Johnson**, director of graduate studies, associate professor
- **Mark Langeneckert**, assistant teaching professor
- **Lampo Leong**, professor
- **C. Pazia Mannella**, assistant teaching professor
- **Joseph Pintz**, assistant professor
- **Cheryl Sampson**, associate professor
- **Travis Shaffer**, assistant teaching professor
- **Josephine M. Stealey**, professor
- **Jessica Thornton**, assistant professor
- **Richard A. Wilson**, associate professor
- **MFA, University of Missouri-Columbia (graphic design)**
DEGREE MEDIA AREAS
Ceramics, Drawing, Fibers, Graphic Design, New Media, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, and Sculpture.

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 Office of Graduate Studies’ standard of a grade point average of 3.0 or better on the last 60 hours of undergraduate work.

Special note: Graphic Design applicants are required to have 2 years professional experience before applying to that program.

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 the Art Department are 550 (paper-based test), 213 (computer-based test) or 80 (Internet-based test).

The minimum total academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score for graduate admission to the Art Department is 6.5.

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 Office of Graduate Studies. Applications must include:

1. **Supporting Text Documents**
   a. Application Online Form
   b. Three (3) letters of recommendation
   c. Unofficial 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 Office of Graduate Studies’ online application system:

   [http://gradstudies.missouri.edu](http://gradstudies.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](http://art.missouri.edu/grad) pdf document available online at:

   [http://art.missouri.edu/grad](http://art.missouri.edu/grad)

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 semesters, if additional positions are available. Be sure to carefully follow admissions instructions if you wish to be considered for these opportunities.

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 Wulkekamper Graduate Student Fellowship
Recipient must be an MFA candidate majoring in fibers.

Other scholarships and fellowships are available through the Office of Graduate Studies:

http://gradstudies.missouri.edu/financials/assistantships-fellowships/

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.

CAMPUS TOURS
Graduate applicants wishing to visit the campus can arrange for a general campus tour through:

Office of Visitor Relations
104 Jesse Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
573-882-6333
800-856-2181
visitus@missouri.edu

For more visitor information, including a link to a virtual tour of the campus, go to:

http://www.missouri.edu/visitors/

For tours of the Department of Art, contact our office directly. Please allow two (2) weeks notice prior to your planned visit, if possible. This will ensure appropriate persons will be available to meet with you to discuss the graduate program.

CONTACTS
For further information about the MFA degree program:

Director of Graduate Studies
Joseph Johnson
Department of Art
A126 Fine Arts Building
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211-6090, USA
Telephone: (573) 882-9437
johnsonjoe@missouri.edu

Graduate Student Coordinator
Brenda J. Warren
Telephone: 573-882-4037
warrenb@missouri.edu

MFA RELATED WEB LINKS
http://gradstudies.missouri.edu/information-for/prospective-students.php

http://paint.missouri.edu

http://art.missouri.edu