Art and Art History

Interim Director

• Downing A. Thomas

Undergraduate majors: art (BA, BFA); art history (BA)
Undergraduate minors: art; art history
Graduate degrees: MA in art; MA in art history; MFA in art; PhD in art history
Faculty: https://art.uiowa.edu/people/faculty
Website: https://art.uiowa.edu/

Reference Collections

Focusing on the creation and study of the visual arts, the Art Library has over 150,000 books, journals, and DVDs. It also provides access to digital resources and the major online research databases.

The Office of Visual Materials is the school’s collection management service and it manages digital and physical collections. These collections include 650,000 digital images for teaching, the Thesis Rental Gallery, the Iowa Print Archive, and the DeCaso Visual Archive.

Museum of Art

The University of Iowa Museum of Art has a significant permanent collection that includes major holdings of 20th-century and contemporary art, African and pre-Columbian art, English and American silver, European and American prints, drawings and photographs, and Etruscan, Iranian, and contemporary American ceramics. As well as serving as a resource for research in a wide variety of art history areas, the museum offers a program of exhibitions, lectures, and recitals.

Learn about current exhibitions and events by visiting the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art website.

Art Buildings

The school’s administrative center, Art Building West, is home to the school’s main office as well as the Office of Visual Materials, the Art Library, an auditorium, art history classrooms, a gallery, a café, and studios for graphic design, painting, animation, and digital photography. Designed by architect Steven Holl, Art Building West has won numerous awards for its innovative design.

The Visual Arts Building has been identified by a number of publications as one of the top new buildings in the world. It also was designed by architect Steven Holl and sits adjacent to Art Building West.