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/

The School of Art and Art History provides a creative, multidisciplinary environment for students of the studio arts and the history of art. Established in 1936, the school is firmly grounded in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. It encourages interaction among its diverse faculty as well as collaboration with related disciplines across campus.

Iowa’s art and art history graduates enjoy success as practicing professional artists, professors of art history, teachers, museum directors and curators, theater designers, commercial designers, and art administrators.

The School of Art and Art History’s Visual Arts Building opened in fall 2016 and is identified by architectural publications as one of the best designed new buildings in the world. The Visual Arts Building is adjacent to the second School of Art and Art History building, Art Building West. Visit the School of Art and Art History website and MyUI for information about studio, office, and classroom sites.

Studio Art

The School of Art and Art History is committed to students' professional futures. The studio laboratories, some of the finest facilities nationally, are updated annually with leading-edge production equipment. Students have the opportunity to develop the visual vocabulary and cross-media literacies required by the rapidly changing contemporary world. The visiting artist series introduces students to national and international leaders in the field, while a varied, diverse, and professionally active faculty ensures that the area is contemporary in its approach and pluralistic in its scope.

Undergraduate and graduate students select their major and minor studio art disciplines from ceramics, drawing, graphic design, intermedia, jewelry and metal arts, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, and three-dimensional (3D) design.

Art History

Art history, a broad intellectual discipline, is central to the humanities. Diverse approaches characterize the school’s art history faculty, who have interdisciplinary ties within and beyond the university. Their primary mission is to help students develop skills for exploring issues and problems central to the history of art as a whole as well as to its specialized areas. Because the major in art history stresses the development of critical visual thinking and writing, it prepares students for graduate work in art history and for other professional fields as well.

Student Organizations

The undergraduate Art History Society and the graduate Art History Society sponsor activities for students. The Faculty/