Art and Art History

The School of Humanities

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Degrees Offered: B.A., B.F.A.

This major offers two tracks of study: one in studio art and one in art history, the latter with concentrations in the Western tradition of European and American art. Courses include listings in studio art, film, and photography (ARTS), history of art listings in both art and architecture and film and media studies (HART).

Degree Requirements for B.A. in Art and Art History

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 16–18). Students majoring in art and art history must complete 12 departmental courses (36 to 38 semester hours, depending on certain course options). At least half of these courses must be at the 300 or 400 level, and students must take more than half of them at Rice.

Studio Art Track. Course selection in this track is subject to prerequisites and consultation with the studio faculty adviser. Students in the studio art track must take:
• 10 courses in studio art
• 2 courses in the history of art

Art History Track. The department recommends that course work include HART 390 Theoretical Perspectives on the Visual Arts and that course work taken outside the department include a foreign language. Students in the art history track must take:
• 10 courses in the history of art, with some chronological distribution, including:
  HART 101/102 Introduction to the History of Art I and II
  1 non-western art course
  At least 1 seminar
• 2 courses in studio art
Double Majors. Double majors must also select one track. Those in the studio art track take 8 courses in studio art and 2 courses in the history of art. Those in the art history track take 8 courses in the history of art (including HART 101/102 Introduction to the History of Art and a non-Western art course) and 2 courses in studio art.

Degree Requirements for B.F.A.

Students with a B.A. degree in art from Rice or an equivalent degree from another university may enter the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) program, which consists of a fifth year of intensive study in the creative arts. Students with a B.A. in a major other than art may, in exceptional cases, be admitted. Information about application forms, deadlines, and admission standards is available from the chair of the department.

For the B.F.A. degree, students must complete a total of 30 semester hours in approved courses, or the equivalent in approved major electives, at the 300 level or above. In addition to the usual departmental upper-level courses, special fifth-year courses are offered for B.F.A. candidates only.

Degree Requirements for M.A. in Art History

Owing to a high number of vacant positions in the art history section, the master’s program has been placed on hold for several years until those positions have been filled. Resumption of the graduate program is anticipated as soon as the faculty are in place.

Exhibitions and Arts Programs at Rice

Exhibitions and related activities organized by Rice University Art Gallery (Kimberly Davenport, director) enrich the teaching program of the Department of Art and Art History as well as the larger university and Houston community. The Rice Media Center mounts several photography exhibitions each year and sponsors the “Rice Cinema” film series, a public film program. Featured films include classic and contemporary titles, independent and experimental films, documentaries, and alternative cinema programs. The film series, which is intimately connected with the curriculum both in film and media studies and in film and photography production, includes frequent guest lecturers, panel discussions, and media events.

See ARTS (pages 258–262) and HART (pages 374–383) in the Courses of Instruction section.