

ART HISTORY

THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

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Lida Oukaderova

DEGREES OFFERED: BA

The Department of Art History offers a wide range of courses in European, American, Asian, and Middle Eastern/Islamic art history with additional strengths in architectural history and film and media studies. The major in art history is structured to expose students to the chronological, geographical, and methodological breadth of the field of scholarship.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR BA IN ART HISTORY

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 16–19).

Students with a single major in art history must complete 36 hours in art history (12 courses) and double majors must complete 30 hours (10 courses). A total of 6 of the courses for double and single majors must be at the 300 level or above. Of these 6 courses, 2 courses must be in each of the following periods: Pre Modern (antiquity to the medieval period), Early Modern (early modern, or Renaissance in the European context, to the later 18th century), and Modern (later 18th century to the present). Three of these 6 courses also must be in American/European, distributed over the 3 periods; 1 course in Asian from any period; and 1 course in Middle East/Islamic from any period. Of the 12/10 courses for single and double majors, at least 2 courses must be seminars.

It is strongly recommended that majors in art history acquire a proficiency in at least one foreign language.

In addition, art history majors are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities provided by museum internships, study abroad programs, and travel fellowships.

TRANSFER CREDIT

With approval from the departmental undergraduate advisor, a maximum of 4 courses may be taken outside of the department and applied to the major as transfer credits or study abroad course credits. No Advanced Placement credits may be used to satisfy major requirements.

See also Transfer Credit in the Information for Undergraduate Students section (page 29).

HONORS PROGRAM IN ART HISTORY

Art history majors may apply in the spring semester of their junior year for acceptance into the Honors Program. Interested students, with an excellent academic record, must submit a thesis proposal and recommendation from their thesis advisor to a committee of art historians for review. If accepted, 6 credit hours (included in the 36/30 hours for single and double majors) of directed research and writing would be taken the senior year to complete an honors thesis (HART 402/HART 403). Financial assistance is available for honor students to conduct research between their junior and senior years. In addition to a written thesis, honors students must make a presentation to the faculty and students of the department. Once the advisor and readers have evaluated the completed thesis, the art history faculty determine whether to award honors. Students who do not make satisfactory progress in the 1st term will not be allowed to continue. Students who miss the final thesis deadline (mid-spring semester of the senior year) will receive a grade and credit but no honors.

EXHIBITIONS, LECTURES, AND ARTS PROGRAMS AT RICE AND IN HOUSTON

Houston is fortunate to have some of the best art collections in the United States. The department enjoys a strong and ongoing relationship with the local museums, in particular the Menil Collection and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The department offers opportunities for students to study with local museums, galleries, and alternative art spaces by way of internship courses (HART 400, HART 401, HART 500, HART 501), summer internship working opportunities, fellowships, or collaborative events. The collections and special exhibitions of local museums are often the focus of class lectures and research papers in art history.

The department sponsors the Katherine Brown Distinguished Lectures in Art History, which bring leading scholars to Rice to speak on a wide variety of topics. The department also hosts occasional symposia and lectures in collaboration with other departments, presenting the ideas of top scholars, critics, and artists.

The Department of Art History houses the Visual Resources Center, which currently holds a broad and extensive collection of slides and digital images related to the arts for teaching and research, serving both the department and the university at large.

Exhibitions and related activities organized by the Rice University Art Gallery enrich the university and the Houston community. The Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts mounts several art and photography exhibitions each year and sponsors Rice Cinema, a public alternative film program.

See HART in the Courses of Instruction section.