Art and Art History

The School of Humanities

Chair
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Thomas McEvilley

Degrees Offered: B.A., B.F.A., M.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), and theater listings (THEA).

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

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 17–19). 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 480/580 *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 205–206 *Introduction to the History of Art*
  • 1 non-Western art course
  • At least 1 seminar
• 2 courses in studio art

Double Majors. Double majors must also select one track. These students must take at least 10 departmental courses. 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 205–206 *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

The M.A. in art history has concentrations in the Western tradition of European and American art, and graduate work is possible in film and media studies. Entering graduate students must pass a reading examination in either French or German. Other languages may be required depending on the course of study. The M.A. degree requires at least 33 semester hours of graduate courses. Students must complete:

- 3 hours of courses in art historical concepts, history, and methods of research
- 9 hours of thesis work (in the second year)
- 21 hours of lecture, seminar, and reading courses

Financial Support. Graduate fellowships and scholarships are awarded on the basis of scholarly achievement and available funds. Graduate students, as part of their training, are expected to render some service as research assistants.

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, which is 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 258–263), HART (pages 366–371), and THEA (page 511–512) in the Courses of Instruction section.