ART HISTORY - MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

The art history program at CU Boulder gives students an interdisciplinary foundation in the history of art to prepare them for careers as scholars, museum professionals and related creative professions in the history of art. Its main objective—through graduate seminars, teaching opportunities, museum internships and scholarly fieldwork—is to foster critical thinking about contemporary and historical forms of art as well as visual and material culture.

Students develop their specialized interests from a combination of individual mentoring and collaborative approaches to intellectual inquiry. The program offers a supportive environment committed to debate and experimentation applicable to a variety of career choices. Graduates typically regard their two years in the art history master’s program as a formative period of intellectual growth and professional experience.

Our diverse faculty offers a constantly changing curriculum of seminar topics geared to highlight current research, and a strong foundation in critical historiography and contemporary critical theory. Students in our interdisciplinary program also take advantage of exciting course offerings in cultural anthropology, classics, history, a wide range of literature programs, ethnic studies, gender and women’s studies, art practices, and new media.

Our intimate atmosphere offers exceptional opportunities to work with permanent faculty and distinguished art historians from other institutions through our Visiting Scholars program. This longstanding feature of our graduate curriculum brings four to six leading scholars to campus every year to present their current work in a graduate seminar, public lecture and informal events.

Areas of specialization include: Medieval art, Early Modern art and art theory, Pre-Columbian art, Colonial Latin American art, Asian art, Native North American art, Modern art and architecture, Contemporary art and critical theory.

Faculty

Albert Alhadeff, Associate Professor, Modern Art
Kirk Ambrose, Professor, Medieval Art
Brianne Cohen, Assistant Professor, Contemporary Art
James Cordova, Associate Professor, Latin American Art
Annette de Stecher, Assistant Professor, American Art
Robert Nauman, Teaching Professor, Modern and Contemporary Art and Architecture
Stephanie Su, Assistant Professor, Asian Art

For more information on faculty members and the department’s full listing, see the department’s faculty (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/art-art-history/#facultytext) section.

Please review our list of comprehensive resources (https://www.colorado.edu/artandarthistory/degrees/ma-art-history).

Requirements

Course Requirements

The candidate for the MA degree in art history is required to demonstrate an adequate reading knowledge of French, German or another appropriate language before receiving the degree by satisfactory coursework equal to three progressive semesters at the college level or above, or by passing an approved language examination. Language examinations may be arranged with one of the art history faculty on an individual basis.

Students are encouraged and expected to attend undergraduate lecture courses as needed to prepare themselves for graduate seminars and for the comprehensive exam.

No more than 9 credits of independent study credit may be applied toward the MA degree. A limit of 9 credits of transfer credits may be applied toward the MA degree.

Degree Plans

Plan I: Thesis Option

A minimum of 30 credits must be completed, of which 21 must be completed in residence on the Boulder campus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 6929</td>
<td>Seminar: Theories of Art History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 6959</td>
<td>Master’s Thesis</td>
<td>4-6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Electives

At least one 3-credit, 5000- or 6000-level course in four of the following areas of art history: medieval, early modern and Renaissance, Colonial pre-Columbian art, art of the Americas, Asian art, modern art, contemporary art and critical theory/museology. When available, ancient art may constitute an area.

At least one 3-credit, 3000-level or above course in a department outside the Department of Art and Art History that supplements the major or minor areas of specialization.

Additional courses to meet the 30-credit minimum. 5-3

Total Credit Hours 30

1 Must be taken during the first semester, and may be taken twice for up to 6 credits.

First-Year Review

During the last two weeks of April, students are evaluated during the first-year review. It focuses on a review of student coursework and performance, on selecting the major and minor areas of study in preparation for the comprehensive exam (see below) and on the selection of a thesis topic, if applicable.

Comprehensive Exam

This exam is given to measure the graduate student’s knowledge of art history at the MA level. It consists of essay questions pertinent to the student’s major and minor areas of study. It is given once per year during the second week of October. The comprehensive exam consists of two essays: a two-hour essay in the major area and a 90-minute essay in the minor area. Students must pass the comprehensive exam in order to be eligible to register for thesis credit hours.

Thesis Abstract ("pre-thesis review")

By the end of the semester preceding the student’s thesis semester, the student will prepare an abstract of approximately 1–2 typewritten pages, with attached bibliography, outlining the thesis topic and method of inquiry. The thesis abstract must be approved by the student’s pre-thesis review committee in order for the student to register for thesis hours.
Thesis
This should demonstrate scholarly research and writing in art history, should be based on independent study and analysis and should represent the equivalent of 4–6 credits. In most cases, the master’s thesis is the equivalent of a 40–50 page paper, exclusive of endnotes, bibliography and illustrations.

Thesis Defense
In consultation with the thesis advisor, the student will select a thesis committee that consists of not less than three members of the art history graduate faculty, including the thesis advisor. The student will then schedule the thesis defense and prepare all necessary paperwork. The thesis must be submitted to all members of the thesis committee at least one week before the thesis defense. Graduate School guidelines (“specifications”) must be used to prepare the MA thesis. Upon successful defense, the thesis is submitted to the Graduate School in the electronic form specified by the Graduate School, in accordance with the Graduate School’s deadlines. A hard copy of the signature page, complete with the thesis committee members’ signatures, is submitted to, and remains in, the Graduate School.

Plan II: Project Option
A minimum of 36 credits must be completed, of which 21 must be completed in residence on the Boulder campus.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTH 6929</td>
<td>Seminar: Theories of Art History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 6969</td>
<td>Master’s Project (Art History)</td>
<td>4-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electives</td>
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<td></td>
<td>At least one 3-credit, 5000- or 6000-level course in four of the following areas of art history: medieval, early modern and Renaissance, pre-Columbian art, art of the Americas, Asian art, modern art, contemporary art and critical theory/museology. When available, ancient art may constitute an area.</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>At least one 3-credit, 3000-level or above course in a department outside the Department of Art and Art History that supplements the major or minor areas of specialization.</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Additional courses to meet the 36-credit minimum.</td>
<td>11-9</td>
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<td>Total Credit Hours</td>
<td>36</td>
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<td>1 Must be taken during the first semester, and may be taken twice for up to 6 credits.</td>
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Time Limit
It is expected that the MA program be completed within two years.

Plan(s) of Study

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year One</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTH 6929</td>
<td>Seminar: Theories of Art History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate art history seminar</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate art history seminar</td>
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Spring Semester
Graduate art history seminar 3
Graduate art history seminar 3
one 3000+ level course outside of the department 3
*fulfill language requirement
*first year review

Credit Hours 9

Year Two
Fall Semester
Graduate art history seminar 3
Graduate art history seminar 3
*pre-thesis review

Credit Hours 6

Spring Semester
ARTH 6959 Master’s Thesis 6
*thesis defense

Credit Hours 6

Total Credit Hours 30

Learning Outcomes
The MA in art history is intended to give students a broad general knowledge of art history in a two-year program. Students who have achieved a distinguished record in this MA program should be well prepared for acceptance into a doctoral program in art history as well as other careers requiring an MA in art history or an equivalent degree.

Dual Degree Program
MA/MBA in Art History
To support the university’s mission of advancing knowledge across disciplines, and in recognition that business education and training has relevance to many academic fields, the Leeds School of Business and Department of Art and Art History endorse a dual degree program in which both a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Fine Arts (or Master of Arts in art history) is awarded to those students who satisfy the requirements outlined below. This three-year program offers students the opportunity to earn both degrees together in less time than if the degrees were earned sequentially.

Students must apply to and meet the application requirements for each program separately. Admitted students spend their first year in one of the two programs, the second year in the other program and the third year is a combination of the two. MFA students are required to complete 43 credits of MBA coursework and 45 credits of AAH coursework. MA (art history) students are required to complete 43 credits of MBA coursework and 30 credits of art history coursework. Both degrees must be awarded simultaneously.

Note: Residents of Western states, including Alaska and Hawaii, may be eligible for in-state tuition for this dual degree program. For more information, visit the "Western Regional Graduate Program" section on the Office of the Registrar’s Exceptions to One-Year Domicile (http://www.colorado.edu/registrar/students/state-residency/domicile-exceptions) webpage.