

ART PRACTICES - MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA)

The MFA in art practices is a rigorous program intended for artists committed to pursuing a professional life in the arts and prepares students for careers as practicing artists and arts professionals as well as teachers in colleges, universities and art schools. MFA students in the Department of Art and Art History are given private studio spaces and access to many of the department's facilities in the Visual Arts Complex and are eligible for a variety of awards, assistantships and teaching opportunities.

The MFA is a two-and-a-half or three-year program.

Tracks

- Ceramic
- Drawing & painting
- Film
- IMAP (Integrated Media Arts Practices)
- Printmaking
- Sculpture and post-studio practice

Requirements

Advising

Upon admission, students are assigned a tenured or tenure-track faculty member to serve as an academic advisor in the student's home area.

Required Courses and Credits

A minimum of 54 credit hours (of which 36 credit hours must be taken in residence on the Boulder campus) of acceptable graduate work must be completed beyond the bachelor's degree.

Procedures for transferring credit from other graduate programs are governed by the regulations of the Graduate School. Transfer credit, not to exceed 18 credit hours for studio arts or 9 credit hours for art history, must first be approved by the student's academic advisor, associate chair and the Graduate School.

Students who wish to change their area of concentration after admission must petition the art practices curriculum committee.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses		
ARTS 5117	Graduate Art Seminar (Should be taken in the first semester)	3
ARTS 5118	Visiting Artist Program (should be taken in the second semester)	3
ARTS 6957	Master of Fine Arts Creative Thesis	6
Home Area Courses		12
Painting & Drawing:		
ARTS 5202	Graduate Drawing and Painting	
ARTS 5222	Drawing & Painting Specialized Investigation	
Ceramics:		
ARTS 5075	Graduate Ceramics	

ARTS 5095	Special Topics in Ceramics
Printmaking:	
ARTS 5303	Graduate Relief
ARTS 5403	Graduate Intaglio
ARTS 5413	Graduate Lithography
ARTS 5423	Graduate Screen Printing
ARTS 5433	Graduate Alternative Printmaking
ARTS 5453	Graduate Monotype
ARTS 5097	Special Topics-Non-Studio
Sculpture & Post-Studio Practice:	
ARTS 5004	Land and Environmental Art (Sculpture and Post-Studio Practice)
ARTS 5017	Special Topics in Studio Arts
ARTS 5024	Public Art
ARTS 5444	Art and Environments Field School
ARTS 5504	Graduate Sculpture
Film:	
ARTF 5610	Image-makers Graduate Seminar
Any ARTF course at the 5000/6000 level	
IMAP (Integrated Media Arts Practices):	
ARTS 5126	Digital Art 2
ARTS 5161	Graduate Photography
ARTS 5171	New Directions in Photography
ARTS 5176	New Directions in Digital Art
ARTS 5246	Graduate Beginning Video Production
Electives	21
Studio and non-studio; up to 6 credit hours may be taken in an allied field, at the 3000 level and above	
Art History	3
Theory Requirement	3
Additional course in Art History, Theory or Film	3
Total Credit Hours	54

Degree Requirements

First-Semester and First-Year Reviews

In consultation with the advisor, the student will establish the membership of his or her committee, consisting of a minimum of three faculty members and one second-year graduate student, and schedule the first-semester review; its purpose is to give feedback to the student with regard to progress toward the degree. At the end of the first year, the committee is convened for a first year review; its purpose is to evaluate the student's progress in the program and to determine if she or he will continue in the program.

Pre-Thesis Review

At the end of the semester preceding the graduating semester, the pre-thesis review takes place. Its purpose is for the graduate student to present the focus of his or her written thesis and exhibition, to review and evaluate the student's progress in the program, and to determine if the student is ready to register for thesis hours.

Thesis/Exhibition/Defense

The MFA thesis defense must be conducted while the student's work is on view during the MFA Exhibition. The MFA thesis must be submitted in its final draft form to all the thesis committee members two weeks prior to the scheduled thesis defense. After the defense, two copies of the thesis, with the required signatures on the signature sheet, must be

turned into the graduate program coordinator. One of these is cataloged in the Norlin Library and a digital copy is submitted to CU Scholar, Norlin Library's digital repository.

Time Limit

It is expected that the MFA program be completed within two-and-a-half or three years, depending on the track.

Graduation

Before registering for thesis hours, ARTS 6957 Master of Fine Arts Creative Thesis, students must have a pre-thesis review with their faculty advisor and thesis committee. Art practices thesis work must take the form of original creative work of acceptable professional standards. The oral defense exam must be done in conjunction with the thesis exhibition, and the candidate must provide a critical written statement (creative thesis) concerning the work. The candidate's written creative thesis becomes part of Norlin Library's digital repository (https://scholar.colorado.edu/art_mfa/) and digital documentation of thesis work is housed within the department's Visual Resources Center (<https://www.colorado.edu/artandarthistory/vrc/>) digital image collection.

For further information see MFA guidelines (https://www.colorado.edu/artandarthistory/degrees/mfa-art-practices/#mfa_degree_requirements-193) on the department's website.

Program Tracks

In addition to the core required courses and credits for all students listed on the Requirements tab, students must fulfill track requirements as listed below.

Ceramics

Courses as laid out under Master of Fine Arts - Art Practices degree as well as the subplan requirements below:

A 12-credit total of the following options:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ARTS 5075	Graduate Ceramics	3
ARTS 5095	Special Topics in Ceramics	3

Ceramics requires that MFA students enroll in ARTS 5075 Graduate Ceramics every semester that it is offered. A total of 12 Area Home credits are required for each track. The Ceramics Subplan is a 2 1/2-year program ending with an MFA thesis exhibition.

Drawing and Painting

Courses as laid out under Master of Fine Arts - Art Practices degree as well as the subplan requirements below:

A 12-credit total of the following options:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ARTS 5202	Graduate Drawing and Painting	3
ARTS 5222	Drawing & Painting Specialized Investigation	3

Drawing and Painting (D&P) requires that MFA students enroll in ARTS#5202#Graduate Drawing & Painting#every semester that it is offered; this includes any extra semesters a student remains in the program. In addition, students are required to take ARTS 5222 Drawing &

Painting Specialized Investigation at least once during their program. A total of 12 Area Home credits are required for each track. The D&P Subplan is a 2 1/2-year program ending with an MFA thesis exhibition. Students may petition for an additional semester. Students who do the 3-year program should plan on graduating in the summer semester of their last year.

Film

Courses as laid out under Master of Fine Arts - Art Practices as well as the subplan requirements below:

A 12-credit total of the following options:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ARTF 5610	Image-makers Graduate Seminar	3
Any ARTF course 5000/ 6000 level		3

Film (CINE) requires that MFA students enroll in ARTF5610 Image-makers Graduate Seminar every semester that it is offered. Any ARTF course at the 5000/6000 level will count towards home area credit. A total of 12 home area credits are required for each track. The Film Subplan is a 3-year program ending with an MFA thesis exhibition. Students should plan on graduating in the summer semester of their last year.

IMAP

Courses as laid out under Master of Fine Arts - Art Practices as well as the subplan requirements below:

A 12-credit total of the following options:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ARTS 5126	Digital Art 2	3
ARTS 5161	Graduate Photography	3
ARTS 5171	New Directions in Photography	3
ARTS 5176	New Directions in Digital Art	3
ARTS 5246	Graduate Beginning Video Production	3

IMAP offers several options at the graduate level. Any of the following count towards the home area credit: ARTS 5126 Digital Art 2, ARTS 5161 Graduate Photography, ARTS 5171 New Directions in Photography, ARTS 5176 New Directions in Digital Art, and ARTS 5246 Graduate Beginning Video Production. A total of 12 Area Home credits are required for each track. The IMAP Subplan is a 3-year program ending with an MFA thesis exhibition. Students should plan on graduating in the summer semester of their last year.

Printmaking

Courses as laid out under Master of Fine Arts - Art Practices degree as well as the subplan requirements below:

A 12-credit total of the following options:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ARTS 5097	Special Topics-Non-Studio	3
ARTS 5303	Graduate Relief	3
ARTS 5403	Graduate Intaglio	3
ARTS 5413	Graduate Lithography	3
ARTS 5423	Graduate Screen Printing	3

ARTS 5433	Graduate Alternative Printmaking	3
ARTS 5453	Graduate Monotype	3

Printmaking offers several options at the graduate level. Any of the following count towards the home area credit: ARTS 5303 Graduate Relief, ARTS 5403 Graduate Intaglio, ARTS 5413 Graduate Lithography, ARTS 5423 Graduate Screen Printing, ARTS 5433 Graduate Alternative Printmaking, ARTS 5453 Graduate Monotype, and ARTS 5097 Special Topics-Non-Studio. A total of 12 Area Home credits are required for each track. The Printmaking Subplan is a 2 1/2-year program ending with an MFA thesis exhibition.

Sculpture and Post-Studio

Courses as laid out under Master of Fine Arts - Art Practices degree as well as the subplan requirements below:

A 12-credit total of the following options:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ARTS 5004	Land and Environmental Art (Sculpture and Post-Studio Practice)	3
ARTS 5017	Special Topics in Studio Arts	3
ARTS 5024	Public Art	3
ARTS 5154	Metalsmithing 1	3
ARTS 5444	Art and Environments Field School	6
ARTS 5504	Graduate Sculpture	3

Sculpture and Post Studio Practice (SPS) requires that MFA students enroll in ARTS#5504#Graduate Sculpture#every semester that it is offered. Additionally, SPS strongly recommends that MFA students enroll in ARTS#5444#Art and Rural Environments Field School#at least once during their time in the program. A total of 12 Area Home credits are required for each track. The SPS Subplan is a 3-year program ending with an MFA thesis exhibition. Students should plan on graduating in the summer semester of their last year.

Plan(s) of Study

Year One

Fall Semester

ARTS 5117	Graduate Art Seminar (must be taken in the first semester. May count towards the theory requirement)	3
Graduate seminar in home studio (major area)		3
Graduate-level elective		3
First-semester review		

Credit Hours 9

Spring Semester

ARTS 5118	Visiting Artist Program (must be taken in the second semester)	3
Graduate seminar in home studio (major area)		3
Graduate-level elective		3
Graduate-level elective		3
First year review		

Credit Hours 12

Year Two

Fall Semester

Graduate seminar in home studio (major area)	3
Graduate-level art history seminar (ARTH 5000 or 6000 level course)	3
Graduate-level elective	3
Graduate-level elective/ or course outside of the department at the 3000 level or above	3

Credit Hours 12

Spring Semester

Graduate seminar in home studio (major area)	3
Graduate-level seminar in art history, theory or film (ARTF 5000 level)	3
Graduate-level elective	3
Graduate-level elective/ or course outside of the department at the 3000 level or above	3
Pre-thesis review	

Credit Hours 12

Year Three

Fall Semester

ARTS 6957	Master of Fine Arts Creative Thesis	6
Graduate-level elective		3
Thesis defense		

Credit Hours 9

Total Credit Hours 54

Learning Outcomes

By the completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Encourage depth and refinement of students' artistic practices.
- Expose students to varied modes of contemporary art practice and thinking through coursework and individual study.
- Prepare students for careers as practicing artists and arts professionals, as well as teachers in colleges, universities and art schools.

Dual Degree Program

MBA/MFA in Art Practices

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 (<http://leeds.colorado.edu/>) and the Department of Art and Art History endorse a dual degree program in which both MBA and MFA degrees are awarded. This opportunity will appeal to students with career aspirations in gallery or museum management, or in starting entrepreneurial ventures combining their business and artistic talents. This three-year program offers students the opportunity to earn both degrees together in less time than if the degrees were earned sequential.

Students must apply to and meet the application requirements for each program separately. Please see the MFA degree requirements page (https://www.colorado.edu/artandarthistory/degrees/mfa-art-practices/#mfa_degree_requirements-193) and MFA application page (<https://www.colorado.edu/artandarthistory/apply/mfa-art-practices-application/>) for more information on satisfying the MFA application and degree requirements. 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. Both degrees must be awarded simultaneously. To learn more, visit the department's MBA/MFA (<https://www.colorado.edu/artandarthistory/apply/mamba-or-mfamba/>) webpage.