

As images have become a greater part of contemporary life, the visual arts play an increasingly vital role in society. The study of art allows one to explore and develop an understanding of the cultural and historical context of art as well as developing the creative, conceptual and technical skills to produce art that expresses important human thoughts, emotions and values.

THE PROGRAM

The Department of Art offers students of all majors the opportunity to explore art as a means of creative expression through hands-on studio experiences as well as the study of art in history and culture. Subject areas include drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography, graphic design, computer arts, and art history. Class work is supported by ongoing art exhibitions in two campus galleries, visiting artist presentations and workshops, and field trips to local and regional galleries and museums. Each year students of any major are eligible to display their artwork in campus spaces such as the Neil Britton Art Gallery.

THE MAJOR

The major in art consists of 44 hours of specified coursework including art electives. Students majoring in art develop aesthetic and technical skills and study the history of art. The program is designed to balance art production with an awareness of related cultural values and the history of art. Upon completion of the requirements for the major, students either prepare a professional exhibit or complete a visual arts internship in an area related to their career interests. Students planning to teach art must also complete coursework for certification as K-12 art educators by enrolling in the 5th year (4+1) Master of Art in Education (MAED) program. Minors, consisting of 20 hours, are offered in both studio art and art history.

THE COURSES

The Art Department offers courses in both art history and studio art, taught by committed faculty who are also practicing artists. Core classes include drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, photography, digital art, and art history. Specialty areas of study include art electives in jewelry, raku ceramics, public art, the art history of Asia, Africa and the Americas, and others.

INTERNSHIPS/RESEARCH

VWU's location is rich with museums, art centers, public art, and artists' studios enabling students to complete internships and research projects in a wide variety of cultural organizations. Many art majors have received financial support from the university to study abroad in Florence, Rome, and Barcelona, as well as New Zealand and Costa Rica.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

From work on community service projects such as outdoor murals to creating artwork for medical facilities, art students have opportunities to apply their talents in the community. Students have served as post-graduate Art Department interns, continuing to produce their own artwork, exhibiting on campus and assisting with teaching studio courses. Art graduates have skills and attributes that are increasingly sought after which allow them to innovate and collaborate in today's creative economy. Graduates receiving the B.A. in Studio Art have gone on to careers in art, design, teaching, arts management, and communication. Others have completed graduate programs in art education, illustration, art therapy, and other creative fields.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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