

## **THE FIELD**

The discipline of the history of art and architecture examines visual culture and the built environment within their social and historical contexts. The history of art and architecture major at UMass Amherst provides students with a solid foundation in the history of art and architecture produced in diverse regions and cultures, and from all periods of human history. Students learn not only how to analyze works of art as objects or monuments in their own right, but also to understand and interpret them in relation to the historical circumstances, endeavors, and conflicts of the culture and region in which they were made.

Current course offerings cover the fields of ancient Greece and Rome; Byzantium and the Middle Ages; Islamic Art from its origins to today; East Asian art; Early Modern, modern, and contemporary European art; art of the Americas from the fifteenth century through to the present, and modern architecture. With the instructor's consent, qualified undergraduates may enroll in graduate research seminars.

***A minor in history of art and architecture is available.***

## **THE MAJOR**

The major requires a minimum of 13 courses (39 to 41 credits) in history of art and architecture. Majors are encouraged to select courses in a wide range of media, historical periods, and geographical areas. They are also urged to gain a reading knowledge of two or more foreign languages; knowledge of languages is essential for further study, for research, and for many careers in the field.

## **HONORS**

For the degree with departmental honors, a student must meet the requirements for the major, maintain a high GPA, complete two honors courses in history of art and architecture, and successfully complete a thesis or a two-semester-long independent study project.

## **STUDY ABROAD**

Many majors study abroad, especially in their junior year, either individually or in exchange programs sponsored by UMass Amherst. The International Programs Office (413-545-2710, [umass.edu/ipo](http://umass.edu/ipo)) has information about study in various programs outside the United States for one semester, for the year, or during the summer. Among the countries in which students have studied are Argentina, China, England, France, Germany, Italy, Korea, Scotland, Spain, and Turkey.

## **INTERSHIPS**

Dealing directly with works of art in museums or galleries, consulting special collections related to art history in libraries, or working in the field of historic preservation can be essential parts of an undergraduate education. A combination of practical, hands-on experience and rigorous academic study has contributed to the notable success enjoyed by majors continuing to work and study in the field after graduation. Students in the department have recently interned at the Museum of Fine Arts and Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Studio Museum in Harlem, and Guggenheim Museum in New York; the Museum of Fine Arts in Springfield; and Historic Deerfield, as well as at museums in other parts of the country. History of art and architecture students should contact faculty members in particular fields, the undergraduate program director, and Career Development Services for information about internships.

## **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

With its broad emphasis on culture and history and its focus on writing, analysis, and research, history of art and architecture is an excellent liberal arts major for students seeking flexible but rigorous training for a variety of careers. The major not only prepares students to work in arts-related fields, but also fosters the kinds of skills necessary in any profession involving visual culture in its broadest sense, historical and cultural understanding, critical analysis, persuasive argumentation, thorough research, and effective writing.

Graduates of the program include numerous museum staff members, college and high school teachers, art therapists, architectural historians specializing in historic preservation, an arts foundation consultant, private art dealers, specialists at auction houses, librarians, art program officers at private charitable foundations, visual resources and digital image curators, and arts administrators at state, local, and federal agencies. Alumni have gone on to graduate study at Johns Hopkins, the University of California at Berkeley, Columbia University, University of Delaware, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, New York University, Princeton University, University of Virginia, and other universities, as well as Williams College. Their areas of specialization, aside from art history, have included art education, anthropology, archaeology, sculpture, conservation, museum training, management, and library science. Students should consult their advisor and the undergraduate program director for information on graduate programs in art history and such related areas as museology, conservation, archaeology, and arts management. All PhD programs in art history require reading knowledge of foreign languages.

## **COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS**

The humanities focus on human creativity, endeavor, and culture. The imaginative and creative arts—literary and performing—derive from life and teach about human behavior and constructs of social reality. The history of social, political, and economic systems illuminates and shapes the present and future. Students in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts are expected to broaden their perspectives on individual and cultural expression within their own and other societies, to understand the development and evolution of the discipline of study in relation to the culture from which it emanates, and to learn the methods by which knowledge in the discipline is gained.

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