Graduate students in SAIC’s Art History program pursue research in a prestigious art school connected with a major museum. Working with a large department of full-time faculty specializing in modern and contemporary art and design with a global focus, students challenge, debate, and re-envision the field of art history on an ongoing basis.

The Master of Arts in Modern and Contemporary Art History (MAAH) is a two-year, 36-credit master’s program specializing in modern and contemporary art from a global perspective. Faculty research extends to art and design practices around the world and remains on the cutting edge of present trends in the field.

The department’s full-time faculty are all PhD-level art historians with global reputations. Their teaching incorporates ideas from a breadth of disciplines ranging from cultural studies, museum studies, material culture studies, visual studies, philosophy, film studies, gender studies, and political science; research specialties cover Europe, North America, South Asia, East Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Application Deadline: January 15
For application requirements, visit saic.edu/apply/maah
DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Recently, Art History faculty have received major fellowships from the Clark Art Institute, the Mellon Junior Fellowship in the Humanities, Urbanism, and Design at the University of Pennsylvania, the Graham Foundation, Université Paris VIII, Guggenheim Foundation, the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, Wolfsonian Fellowship, and the U.S. Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, Australia.

- Faculty have published articles in such journals as Art Journal, Winterthur Portfolio, Arte al Dia, GLQ, Third Text, Huffington Post, Art Margins, Criticism, Artforum, the Journal of Design History, and Zeitschrift für Ästhetik und Allgemeine Kunstwissenschaft, and are in leadership positions at The Art Bulletin, caa.reviews, Visible Language, and Design and Culture.

- New books by faculty include Paul Klee: The Visible and the Legible; Against Ambience; Abstract Bodies: Sixties Sculpture in the Expanded Field of Gender; Performative Monuments: The Dematerialization of Public Art; Ugliness: The Non-Beautiful in Art and Theory; and Repainting the Walls of Lunda: Information, Colonialism, and Angolan Art.

- Over thirty graduate students have given lectures nationally and internationally at conferences since 2012.

- Graduate students have won prestigious prizes, such as the Hilla Rebay International Fellowship from the Guggenheim, the Schiff Foundation Award in Critical Writing, and recent graduate student alumni are in PhD programs at Stanford, Brown, Northwestern, Princeton, CUNY, UCLA, and Yale.

- The Department launched a new Bachelor of Arts in Art History and is creating mentorship programs with graduate students.

- The Department hosted over thirty lectures by distinguished and emerging scholars, including Hollis Clayson, E. Patrick Johnson, Irene Hofmann, Susan Stryker, Cécile Whiting, Michael Leja, Andrea Giunta, Orit Halpern, Julian Carter, Hiroko Ikegami, Caroline Jones, Rachael Z. DeLue, and Michael Darling.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

Historiography seminar—choose one of the following:
- ARTHI 5007 History of Art History (3) *
- ARTHI 5008 History of Art Criticism and Theory (3)

Global Issues seminar (5000 level)
Focuses on art worlds outside of Europe and North America or focuses on Global Art Theory. A list of courses that satisfies this requirement is available from the department every semester.
- Graduate seminars in Modern and Contemporary Art History (5000 level) 12
- Additional courses or seminars in Art History, Theory, and Criticism (4000-6000 level) 6
- Interdisciplinary electives at 4000-6000 level or additional courses or seminars in Art History, Theory, and Criticism (4000-6000 level) 6
- Thesis research and writing 6
  - ARTHI 5999 Thesis I (3)
  - ARTHI 6999 Thesis II (Independent Study) (3)
- Completion of thesis—a final thesis must be submitted to and approved by the thesis readers and the Department of Art History, Theory, and Criticism.

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS 36

For complete faculty listing visit: saic.edu/maah

THESES

- The Value in Context: Michael Asher’s Displacements in Chicago, 1979 and 2005
- Technologies of Remembrance: Unresolved Historical Situations in Emily Jacir and Walid Raad’s Video Installations
- Transmission as Medium: Fernsehgalerie Gerry Schum and Videogalerie Schum, 1968-1973
- Dada as Contagion: Metaphors of Syphilis in Berlin, 1917–1920
- Time Unbound and Off the Reel: Tony Conrad’s Yellow Movies
- Atomic Bombshells: Women, Sexuality, and Stereotyping in American Science Fiction Film Posters of the 1950s
- Venezuelan Development In Vitro: The Environments of Domingo Álvarez, from 1967 to 1974
- Accident or Movement: A Conceptual Analysis of Chinese Conceptual Photography of the 1990s

* Students may elect to follow a specialized pathway in Design History. MAAH students electing to follow the Design History pathway are expected to take ARTHI 5007 as their historiography seminar and ARTHI 5576 History of Design Criticism.

Course descriptions: saic.edu/academics/departments/art-history-theory-and-criticism/courses