

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN STUDIO

Low-Residency MFA

saic.edu/lowres



Sonia Blum
Compositions for a New World, 2019

The Low-Residency Master of Fine Arts (Low-Res MFA) is designed for the 21st-century artist whose work and life demand self-direction, flexibility, and rigorous engagement with an artistic community.

Robust & Flexible Curriculum

The Low-Residency Master of Fine Arts program is a flexibly structured plan of study open to artists, writers, educators, curators, and historians integrating studio work with art history, criticism, theory, philosophy, and poetry. Students come to Chicago for three consecutive six-week summer residencies that combine studio work, classroom-based seminars, and weekly engagements with visiting artists in both individual and group discussions. The intervening spring and fall semesters focus on online classes and remote home studio work supported by SAIC-based faculty and pairing with a SAIC-sponsored mentor in students' geographic region. SAIC faculty deliver both on-campus and online curricula including individual and group critiques, one-on-one studio advising, art history and philosophy seminars, technical labs, discussion groups, online forums, and thesis composition tutorials, as well as pedagogical and professional development workshops.

Faculty

SAMANTHA BITTMAN

LEE BLALOCK

GREGG BORDOWITZ

IRINA BUCAN

DELINDA COLLIER

D. DENENGE DUYST AKPEN

ASSAF EVRON

ANDREW FALKOWSKI

LINDSEY FRENCH

DAVID GETSY

KELLY KACZYNSKI

JUDD MORRISSEY

JOHN NEFF

NATHANAËL

HAMZA WALKER

SADIE WOODS

For complete faculty listing visit:
saic.edu/lowres

Topic-Driven

The degree focuses on three distinct topics with the first year focusing on mobilizing the senses and constructing objects to explore capturing or destabilizing the viewer's attention, the second year exploring sensation—the thoughts, feelings, moods, and actions driving the making process, and the third year exploring the history of perception, including the distinction between objects and their viewing subjects.

Summer Sessions

Weekly colloquia and studio visits with faculty and visiting artists, a wide range of readings on methods of artmaking, distribution, and interpretation, and a series of specialized professional practice courses structure summer sessions. Successive summers introduce students to resources necessary for off-campus semesters, studios and galleries in Chicago, and the development of networks and resources necessary for a successful transition into professional practice. Summer sessions also include the annual Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition and other events including open studio events, film series, and workshops.

Visiting Artists

Summer residencies are centered on weekly colloquia with visiting artists. Role models for navigating the art world, visiting artists present their work, participate in the Graduate Studio Seminar and undertake studio visits over a four-day period each. Each summer residency includes fifteen such visits by artists representing a range of practices, media, and concerns. Past visiting artists have included Wafaa Bilal, Cassils, Alejandro Cesarco, Andrea Fraser, Miguel Gutierrez, Kira Lynn Harris, Jennie C. Jones, Zoe Leonard, Glenn Ligon, Rodney McMillian, Helen Molesworth, Eileen Myles, Trevor Paglen, Sondra Perry, Yvonne Rainer, Shinique Smith, Lynne Tillman, and Wu Tsang.

Curriculum Requirements

Studio - MFA 6009 Graduate Projects, Seminars and/or 3000 level and above studios	36
Art History/Theory Courses	18
Flex Credit Electives	6
Participation in all Graduate Studio Seminars	
Participation in the Graduate Exhibition or Equivalent	
Total Credit Hours	60

Application Process

Submit:

- ▶ Online application
- ▶ Application fee
- ▶ Official college transcripts
- ▶ Statement of purpose
- ▶ Letters of recommendation
- ▶ ePortfolio

For more information
on requirements,
please visit:

saic.edu/lowres

Visiting Artists & Scholars 2019

TOM BURR

CASSILS

DIS

LYLE ASHTON HARRIS

XANDRA IBARRA

JENNIE C. JONES

SHAHRYAR NASHAT

CHRISTINA QUARLES

SHINIQUE SMITH

ADDIE WAGENKNECHT



Beth Iska
the night tree, 2019

	SUMMER	FALL	SPRING	ANY SEMESTER
YEAR 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Studio Seminar (4.5 cr) Art History/Theory: Attention (3 cr) Professional Practices: Digital Interfaces (1.5 cr) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Projects: Independent Studio (3 cr) Art History/Theory: Art Ideas (3 cr) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Projects: Independent Studio (3 cr) Art History/Theory: Writing Art (3 cr) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Flex Credit Electives
YEAR 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Studio Seminar (4.5 cr) Art History/Theory: Sensation (3 cr) Professional Practices: Cultural Liaisons (1.5 cr) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Projects: Independent Studio (3 cr) Art History/Theory: Special Topics (3 cr) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Projects: Independent Studio (3 cr) Thesis Composition (4.5 cr) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Flex Credit Electives
YEAR 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Studio Seminar (4.5 cr) Art History/Theory: Perception (3 cr) Thesis: Public Presentation (1.5 cr) Professional Practices: Expanded Networks (1.5 cr) 			



School of the Art Institute
of Chicago

Graduate Admissions

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Chicago, IL 60603

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Fax 312.629.6101
gradmiss@saic.edu

Application Deadline: January 10

For application requirements,
visit saic.edu/lowres