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

Robust & Flexible Curriculum

Our three-year Master of Fine Arts program is a flexibly-structured plan of study open to artists, writers, educators, curators and historians. It integrates studio work with art history, theory, philosophy and poetry. Three consecutive six-week summer residencies at SAIC bring students together to participate in studio and classroom-based courses and symposia, with spring and fall semesters focused on online classes and remote home studio work supported by SAIC-based faculty and pairing with a local SAIC-sponsored program mentor. A rotating core of SAIC faculty delivers 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.
Topic-Driven

The degree focuses on three distinct topics. The first year concentrates on mobilizing the senses and constructing objects to explore the capture, and destabilization, of the viewer’s attention. The second year explores sensation—the thoughts, feelings, moods, and actions driving the creative process, and the third year explores the history of perception, including the relationships between objects and their viewers.

Summer Sessions

Summer sessions are structured around weekly seminars 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. 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.

Visiting Artists and Scholars

During the summer residencies, visiting artists and scholars, who serve as role models for navigating the art world, spend four days each presenting their work, participating in the Graduate Studio Seminar and holding individual student and group studio visits with students. Summer 2022 visiting artists and scholars included: Lynne Cooke, Susanne DesRoches, Heather Dewey-Hagborg, Rachel Faller, Laura Harris, Troy Michie, Fred Moten, Claire Pentecost, Guadalupe Rosales, Nancy Shaver, Pamela Sneed, and Wu Tsang. Our visitors often return. Pamela Sneed, an essential member of the Low-Res community since its inception, presented in summer 2021 to share recent exhibitions and publications. Hamza Walker, Director of LAXART, delivered the yearly commencement address for graduating students.

Curriculum Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studio - MFA 6009 Graduate Projects, Seminars</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and/or 3000 level and above studios</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art History/Theory Courses</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flex Credit Electives</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in all Graduate Studio Seminars</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in the Graduate Exhibition or</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equivalent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credit Hours</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Application Process

Submit:
- Online application
- Application fee
- Official college transcripts
- Statement of purpose
- Letters of recommendation
- ePortfolio
- Résumé

For more information on requirements, please visit:

saic.edu/lowres
### Visiting Artists & Scholars 2022

LYNNE COOKE  
SUSANNE DESROCHES  
HEATHER DEWEY-HAGBORG  
RACHEL FALLER  
LAURA HARRIS  
TROY MICHIE  
FRED MOTEN  
CLAIRE PENTECOST  
GUADALUPE ROSALES  
NANCY SHAPER  
PAMELA SNEED  
WU TSANG

Commencement Speaker 2022  
HAMZA WALKER

---

**SUMMER**

- **YEAR 1**
  - Graduate Studio Seminar (4.5 cr)
  - Art History/Theory: Attention (3 cr)
  - Professional Practices: Digital Interfaces (1.5 cr)

**FALL**

- Graduate Projects: Independent Studio (3 cr)
- Art History/Theory: Art Ideas (3 cr)

**SPRING**

- Graduate Projects: Independent Studies (3 cr)
- Art History/Theory: Writing Art (3 cr)

**ANY SEMESTER**

- Completion of Flex Credit Electives

---

**YEAR 2**

- Graduate Studio Seminar (4.5 cr)
- Art History/Theory: Sensation (3 cr)
- Professional Practices: Cultural Liaisons (1.5 cr)

**FALL**

- Graduate Projects: Independent Studio (3 cr)
- Art History/Theory: Special Topics (3 cr)

**SPRING**

- Graduate Projects: Independent Studies (3 cr)
- Thesis Composition (4.5 cr)

**ANY SEMESTER**

- Completion of Flex Credit Electives

---

**YEAR 3**

- 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)

---

Noura Al Khasawneth  
(On wall) PPA: Personal Protective Amulet, 2022  
*R-H-M: Bowl of Terror / Bowl of Healing, 2022*
Application Deadline: January 10
For application requirements, visit saic.edu/lowres