

## MFA - FINE ARTS

The MFA Program in Fine Arts encourages young artists to think critically and challenge existing modes of expression.

### **PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students in MFA Fine Arts will:

- Conceive, develop, and execute a successful body of work that reflects critical engagement with their interests, experiences, and values.
- Conduct a robust and sustained research inquiry into a range of intellectual and critical disciplines in art and other related disciplines in order to develop a rich set of informational resources and an authentic, independent point of view.
- Locate their own studio practice within the field of art history, criticism, and theory, based in deep examination of current issues and discourses.
- Develop advanced capabilities with technologies that will aid in the creation, dissemination, and documentation of their work.
- Develop and practice the written and spoken communication skills needed to effectively articulate conceptual and aesthetic agendas to public and art world audiences.
- Cultivate the self-confidence, self-reliance, and camaraderie necessary to sustain a professional career.

Students in MFA Fine Arts with an Emphasis in Art + Social Practice will:

- Be able to query, research, assemble, evaluate, and utilize information from diverse sources to inform their art practices, as well as accomplish specific sets of goals and objectives required of producing a body of artworks and projects.
- Develop the criticality and knowledge necessary for successful art project design, project management, fundraising, community engagement, organizing, capacity building, public affairs, and public art production.
- Develop critical and experiential knowledge of the dynamic and structural relationships between art, politics, and social movements.
- Be able to strategically and coherently communicate complex ideas, contexts, and conceptual frameworks to peers, professionals in the field, and a variety of public audiences.
- Have experiential knowledge of quantitative research and evaluation methodologies pertaining to community-based research and assessment, including: ethics, responsibilities, and accountabilities; protocols for engagement and communication; appropriate and inappropriate roles of the artist and art production within the framework of community determined goals and objectives.

**MFA - FINE ARTS**

<b>Fall - First Year</b>		
COURSE		CR
Special Topics in Art History I	AHCS575	2
Graduate Critique	GRAD610	3
Graduate Studio I	GRAD620	4
Critical Theory & Practice I	AHCS650	3
Electives *		3
		<b>15</b>

<b>Spring - First Year</b>		
COURSE		CR
Special Topics in Art History II	AHCS575	2
Graduate Critique	GRAD611	3
Graduate Studio II	GRAD621	4
Critical Theory & Practice II	AHCS651	3
Electives *		3
		<b>15</b>

<b>Fall - Second Year</b>		
COURSE		CR
Graduate Critique	GRAD710	3
Graduate Studio III	GRAD720	4
Professional Practice	GRAD774	1
Thesis I	LIBS774	3
Electives *		4
		<b>15</b>

<b>Spring - Second Year</b>		
COURSE		CR
Graduate Critique	GRAD711	3
Graduate Studio IV	GRAD721	4
Exhibition Preparation	GRAD775	1
Thesis II	LIBS775	3
Electives *		4
		<b>15</b>

\*In addition to Independent Studies, electives may be taken from the offerings of Fine Arts, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and other departments with department approval.

**MFA - FINE ARTS with an Emphasis in Art + Social Practice**

<b>Fall - First Year</b>		
COURSE		CR
Graduate Critique	GRAD610	3
Graduate Studio I	GRAD620	4
Collaborative Projects I	GRAD630	3
Field Methodologies for Artists	PUBP650	2
Critical Theory & Practice I	AHCS650	3
		<b>15</b>

<b>Spring - First Year</b>		
COURSE		CR
Special Topics in Social Practice Art I	AHCS581	2
Graduate Critique	GRAD611	3
Graduate Studio II	GRAD621	4
Collaborative Projects II	GRAD631	3
Critical Theory & Practice II	AHCS651	3
		<b>15</b>

<b>Fall - Second Year</b>		
COURSE		CR
Special Topics in Social Practice Art II	AHCS582	2
Graduate Critique	GRAD710	3
Graduate Studio III	GRAD720	4
Social Practice Elective	GRAD653	2
Field Internship	PUBP791	1
Thesis I	LIBS774	3
		<b>15</b>

<b>Spring - Second Year</b>		
COURSE		CR
Special Topics	AHCS575	2
Graduate Critique	GRAD711	3
Graduate Studio IV	GRAD721	4
Exhibition Preparation	GRAD775	1
Field Internship	PUBP790	2
Public Realm Seminar	LIBS657	3
		<b>15</b>

### **Special Topics in Art History I: Modernism to Conceptualism**

#### **AHCS585 — 2 credits**

This course examines the development of Modernism as a discourse in the visual arts, from its development in the 1840s to challenges of its key assumptions in the 1960s.

### **Special Topics in Art History II: 1960s to the Present**

#### **AHCS586 – 2 credits**

Beginning in the 1960s with the emergence of Minimalism, Pop Art and Conceptualism, this course looks at developments that challenged the legacy of Modernism and became key elements in the discourse of Contemporary Art.

### **Studio Practices**

#### **AHCS 575B — 2 credits**

A seminar for reading and discussion of issues surrounding painting, photography, and their implications for art practice in general.

### **Out on the Town**

#### **AHCS575D — 2 credits**

In this course students spend time visiting galleries, museums, and artists' studios. Students also read and discuss reviews and articles about the exhibitions and artists' work that they have viewed.

### **Social Practice Art I/II**

#### **AHCS581/582 — 2 credits**

This two-semester course focuses on the production of art in the public sphere from the 1960s to the present, with an emphasis on contemporary social practice. The first class is a series of thematic lectures and discussion to provide an historical framework from public art in the 1960s to social practice in the 2000s. The second semester, students will delve into more in-depth examination of recent case studies of social practice projects.

### **Interdisciplinary Critique**

#### **GRAD610/611/710/711 — 3 credits/ 3 credits/3 credits/3 credits**

In this two-year course sequence, all graduate students, regardless of media, discuss common issues of studio practice. The course provides an in-depth discussion and investigation of how an artist's work is perceived as a public statement, and how one's work exists in the world.

### **Graduate Studio**

#### **GRAD620/621/720/721 — 4 credits/ 4 credits/4 credits/4 credits**

This two-year course sequence focuses on each individual student's practice, specifically directed toward aesthetic and technical issues arising out of their work. Students meet with a number of individual instructors on an independent basis, as they have work or issues prepared for discussion.

### **Collaborative Projects I/II**

#### **GRAD630/631 – 3 credits**

A two-semester field-based collaborative project is undertaken with a partner organization or artists in Los Angeles or beyond. Topics include formation of community relationships, collaborative process, critique, and production. Students will work together with their instructor to determine a topic and location, do research, find partners, and design their project. Students acquire experiential and theoretical knowledge pertaining to assessing community power structures, governmental structures, and economic capacity and preparedness, diplomacy, consensus building, community development, public affairs, and public relations.

**In Context****GRAD652 — 2 credits**

The instructor contextualizes presentations by visiting guest lecturers through readings and presentations. The class prepares students to evaluate guest lecture presentations in an informed and intelligent manner, and to see their work and the work of their colleagues more clearly. Presentations are required. Students who elect this course MUST also sign up for Visiting Artist Lecture Series.

**Social Practice Elective****GRAD653 – 2 credits**

These electives, related to either the practice and/or theory of social practice, will be developed by existing faculty, the new Social Practice Area of Emphasis Head and visiting artists.

**Professional Practices****GRAD774 — 1 credit**

A seminar in which the intricacies, idiosyncrasies, and responsibilities of the professional artist are discussed and deconstructed. (Fall semester).

**Exhibition Preparation****GRAD775 — 1 credit**

Each student in the final year works on the organization, planning, and installation of MFA exhibitions. The course focuses on exhibition psychology, design, and documentation. Additionally, the professional practices needed for well-planned entry into the art world are discussed. (Spring semester).

**Visiting Artist Lecture Series****GRAD789 — 1 credit**

This is a weekly lecture series where artists, theorists, and curators present their own work and discuss some aspect of contemporary visual art that is of interest to the graduate student community. The class can be taken alone or in conjunction with Context.

**Critical Theory and Practice I: Aesthetics and Politics****AHCS650 – 3 credits**

Mechanisms of globalization and an increasingly digitized existence call for a renewed inquiry of the frames through which we apprehend - from the image complex with its forms of circulation and display to boundary-establishing belief systems that organize contemporary life. How does visual cultural production provide the very framework for what becomes perceptible and legible? How do orderings of social relations become manifest in the world and how does the political become 'sensible'? To engage with these questions, we will read texts bridging and interrogating the discourses of class, race, gender, art and the social realm.

**Critical Theory and Practice II: Text, Practice, Discourse****AHCS651 – 3 credits**

Art complicates discussions of difference when it disobeys the values from which such discussions often emerge. How do works of art produce an encounter that slows our perceptual operations and reading capabilities in a world of easily disseminated, readymade perspectives that serve to amplify a culture of fear and suspicion? We will discuss how artists and theorists have responded to the representational politics of the present in order to interrogate one's own practice. This seminar will focus on theory, criticism and writings from the 21st century.

**Public Realm Seminar****LIBS657 – 3 credits**

Study of theories related to public practice and critical writing in visual arts and closely related interdisciplinary topics including anthropology, civic policy, environmentalism, urbanism, etc. Specific topics will vary each semester. Coursework includes assigned readings, class discussions, and a written paper. This course may be repeated for credit or may be substituted as approved by the Chair.

**Thesis****LIBS774/775 — 3 credits/3 credits**

This course encourages and trains students to write a thesis about their own work through the development of the requisite critical writing skills that will serve them in the future when applying for grants as well as preparing them for the literary demands of an artist's career.

**Field Methodologies for Artists****PUBP650 – 2 credits**

Seminar on research and other career/professional methodologies for artists. This seminar will feature discussions, readings, presentations by visitors and field trips.

**Field Internship****PUBP790 – 1 credit**

Students will select an internship with a professional artist working in social practice. This seminar provides an opportunity to reflect on learning and share with other students through presentations. Field internship credits above the required 2 units, up to a total of 10 units, may be taken as electives.

