ART STUDIO

Departmental Guidelines

In Studio Art we foster independent and creative thought, emphasizing art-making as a means of thinking about not only oneself, but our relationship to the world of ideas from multiple perspectives. We offer two degree programs in Studio Art, a bachelor of arts (BA) and a bachelor of fine arts (BFA). Both degree programs emphasize individuality, interdisciplinary work, collaboration and community. We encourage the fluidity of learning and see art as a bridge to all areas of study and research. The BA and the BFA prepare students in different ways for a variety of post-graduate pursuits, be it graduate school or professional endeavors in art and related fields. Students who plan to major in Studio Art are strongly advised to seek an advisor in Studio Art at the time of their decision to major. Studio Art majors are required to take a series of core courses and students need to work closely with advisors to complete these core courses by end of the first semester in their junior year. Students should expect to work two hours per week outside of class for each credit hour of a course. For students to whom off campus study is an option, we transfer up to 4 courses from an off-campus study experience towards the major, pending approval from the Chair.

Faculty

Associate Professor Sheilah ReStack, Chair

Professor Ronald Abram (Drawing and Printmaking); Associate Professors Micaela Vivero (Sculpture) and Sheilah ReStack (Photography and New Media); Assistant Professors Keith Spencer (Painting) and Justin Coleman (Ceramics); Visiting Professor Melissa Vogley Woods; Director of Collaborative Technologies in the Arts Christian Faur (Animation and Digital Technology); Academic Administrative Assistant Dyan Couden; Visual Resource Curator Jacqueline Pelasky; Ceramic/ Sculpture Technician Stanley Wrzyszczynski.

View faculty profiles and contact information (https://denison.edu/academics/studio-art/contacts)

Studio Art Major (B.A.)

Our BA students are encouraged to connect their Studio Art major with the curriculum of the college to realize individual approaches to Studio Art that are interwoven with science, social science, humanities and/or other fine arts disciplines. A total of 48 credit hours are required, with ten courses coming from Studio Art and two courses from Art History and Visual Culture, or alternatively, one course from Art History and Visual Culture and one course from Philosophy (see description below).

- **12 courses (48 Credit Hours) total:** 10 Studio Courses: 4 core courses to be completed by the end of first semester Junior Year.
  - ARTS 101 - Studio Art Foundation OR ARTS 110 - Introduction to Drawing (or ARTS 170 - Introduction to Drawing for Majors),
  - one 2D course,
  - one 3D course
  - and one Time-based course (such as photo, video, performance art, animation or a web-based studio course).
  - One 200 level studio elective.
  - One semester of Junior Practicum.
- **Senior Year:**
  - ARTS 401 - Visual Arts Practicum plus a 300-level studio course or independent study in the fall semester, Senior year;
  - ARTS 401 - Visual Arts Practicum plus a 300-level studio course or independent study in the spring semester, senior year. (Senior BA Studio Art majors are required to take ARTS 401 - Visual Arts Practicum during each semester of the senior year in conjunction with either a 300-level course or an independent study in an area of studio concentration. All 300-level courses are repeatable.)
  - Art History and Visual Culture/Theory Courses: Art History and Visual Culture/Theory electives should be determined in consultation with the student's advisor. Students may choose any two Art History and Visual Culture courses, or one Art History and Visual Culture course, and PHIL 269 - Philosophy of the Arts: Aesthetics, to fulfill this requirement.
  - All Studio Art majors (B.A. and B.F.A.) are required to participate in the group Senior Exhibition and are required to give a Gallery Talk in conjunction with the Senior Exhibition.

Studio Art Major (B.F.A.)

Students pursuing a BFA degree should discuss their intentions with a member of the Studio Art faculty as soon as possible. Students are required to apply to the BFA program in the first semester of their Junior year by presenting artwork made at Denison in an exhibition with fellow applicants. Prospective BFA candidates will then be required to meet at the exhibition with the Studio Art faculty for a discussion of their work and their reasons for pursuing the BFA degree. Upon acceptance into the BFA program, the department will notify the Registrar. BFA students are also subject to periodic review of their studio work by the Studio Art faculty. A total of 72 credit hours are required, with a minimum of fourteen courses coming from Studio Art and three courses from Art History and Visual Culture. Students may then choose one more elective from either Studio Art, Art History and Visual Culture or PHIL 269 - Philosophy of the Arts: Aesthetics.

- **18 Courses Total:**
  - Five core courses to be completed by the end of 1st semester Junior Year:
    - ARTS 101 - Studio Art Foundation,
    - ARTS 110 - Introduction to Drawing (or ARTS 170 - Introduction to Drawing for Majors),
    - one 2D course,
    - one 3D course and one time-based course (such as photo, video, performance art, animation or a web-based studio course).
  - One semester of Junior Practicum.
  - five electives:
    - two 200 level studio electives,
    - one 300-level studio elective or independent study
    - and one more 200 or 300-level elective or directed study.
    - The final elective may come from either Studio Art, AHVC or PHIL 269 - Philosophy of the Arts: Aesthetics
  - NOTE: ARTS 110 - Introduction to Drawing / ARTS 170 - Introduction to Drawing for Majors cannot be used to fulfill the 2D course requirement for the BFA.
  - **Senior Year:**
    - ARTS 401 - Visual Arts Practicum plus ARTS 451 - Senior Research – in the fall semester Senior year.
    - ARTS 401 - Visual Arts Practicum plus ARTS 452 - Senior Research – in the spring semester, Senior year.
    - (Senior BFA Studio Art majors are required to take ARTS 401 - Visual Arts Practicum during each semester of the Senior Year)
year in conjunction with one year of senior research that will culminate in a solo or 2-person exhibition and an oral defense with a committee of 3 faculty "readers". BFA candidates are required to meet with each committee member at least twice over the course of their Senior year before the final defense, which takes place in the exhibition. Students are also required to produce their own written catalog/extended artist statement as part of their exhibition, articulating their thesis and key elements of their process.

- Art History and Visual Culture/Theory Courses: Three Art History and Visual Culture/Theory courses should be determined in consultation with the student's advisor. Students may choose any three Art History and Visual Culture courses.
- BFA students follow the college-wide General Education course requirements.
- All Studio Art majors (B.A. and B.F.A.) are required to participate in the group Senior Exhibition and are required to give a Gallery Talk in conjunction with their BFA solo Senior Exhibition.

**Studio Art Minor**

A minimum of six courses (five in Studio Art and one in Art History and Visual Culture) should be taken as follows:

- ARTS 101 - Studio Art Foundation,
- four elective Studio Art courses (one elective must be a 200-level Studio course),
- and one AHVC or Art Theory course.

**Courses**

**ARTS 101 - Studio Art Foundation (4 Credit Hours)**

Directed at both majors and non-art majors, Studio Art Foundation (SAF) is a basic introduction to artistic practice in contemporary culture. Through an interdisciplinary approach and a technical understanding of multiple mediums, the course crosses borders between two-dimensional, three-dimensional and time based artistic disciplines. Campus wide events (lectures, concerts, exhibitions) are used as points of departure in the class to emphasize the critical nature of art making with other content areas of study, theory and research.

**ARTS 110 - Introduction to Drawing (4 Credit Hours)**

A studio course in the fundamentals of drawing in several media. Problems in still life, rendering, and perspective will be covered, along with historical and contemporary approaches to drawing.

**ARTS 115 - Introduction to Painting (4 Credit Hours)**

Historical and contemporary approaches to painting technique will be covered in readings and discussions and by working with painting materials.

**ARTS 117 - Introduction to Photography (4 Credit Hours)**

An introductory course concentrating on: the fundamentals of operating a digital single lens reflex camera (SLR), editing software – Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop, and output to large format printers. Technical understanding of camera and editing software, lectures on historical context and contemporary practice, as well as readings serve to encourage students to explore photography as a way to look, question and record personal experience through the medium of photography.

**ARTS 121 - Introduction to Ceramics (4 Credit Hours)**

A broad introduction to all ceramics potential. Clay working in sculptural as well as vessel-oriented directions. Slide presentations and discussions with references made to ceramic history as well as to contemporary ceramic art. Students are introduced to a variety of hand building techniques and are encouraged to pursue their individual creative potential.

**ARTS 122 - Introduction to Ceramics - The Wheel (4 Credit Hours)**

An introduction to producing Ceramic forms, both utilitarian and sculptural, using the potter’s wheel. Image presentations and discussions will introduce students to the contemporary and historical role of ceramics in art and material culture. Students are introduced to a variety of throwing techniques and surface treatments and are encouraged to pursue their individual creative potential.

**ARTS 131 - Introduction to Printmaking (4 Credit Hours)**

As a foundation course, emphasis will be on historical and contemporary concepts in art through the media of printmaking. The course will provide exposure to printmaking processes with direct involvement in one of the following: intaglio, screen printing and relief. Tools, materials and techniques will be fully covered regarding the featured printmaking process. Art issues such as format and content of visual images will be stressed as well as technical procedures for implementing the print.

**ARTS 141 - Introduction to Sculpture (4 Credit Hours)**

This course is an introductory course into sculpture. It will concentrate on developing sculptural thinking and working habits, the safe use of basic tools, understanding ways of seeing and the translation of experience into an arts practice.

**ARTS 165 - Special Topics in Studio Art (4 Credit Hours)**

Special topic courses with a focus on particular aspects of studio art at the introductory level.

**ARTS 170 - Introduction to Drawing for Majors (4 Credit Hours)**

A studio course in the fundamentals of drawing in several media. Problems in still life, rendering, and perspective will be covered, along with historical and contemporary approaches to drawing.

**ARTS 180 - Intermediate Drawing (4 Credit Hours)**

Continued experience in drawing with emphasis on contemporary techniques. Prime objective is increased capacity for responsive seeing and a deeper understanding of drawing as a total medium. **Prerequisite(s):** ARTS 110 or consent.

**ARTS 198 - Introductory Topics in Art (1-4 Credit Hours)**

A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

**ARTS 210 - Intermediate Drawing (4 Credit Hours)**

Study from the human figure in charcoal and other media with emphasis on structure in line, value and color. **Prerequisite(s):** ARTS 110 or consent.

**ARTS 211 - Life Drawing (4 Credit Hours)**

Study from the human figure in charcoal and other media with emphasis on structure in line, value and color. **Prerequisite(s):** ARTS 110 or consent.

**ARTS 212 - Life Drawing (4 Credit Hours)**

Through a series of drawing and printmaking projects, this studio art course seeks to explore and creatively express queer culture, aesthetics and GLBT art history, as well as notions of identity, gender, orientation and sexuality. Art students will employ traditions of journalistic comics, collage, screen-printing, photo-copies, community collaborative artistic work (zines) and research presentation projects to not only celebrate queer artistic practices but also reveal the often damaging impact society and politics has on self-identity and expression.
ARTS 215 - Intermediate Painting (4 Credit Hours)
Continued painting experience with emphasis on developing individual concepts.
Prerequisite(s): ARTS 115 or consent.

ARTS 218 - Analog & Alchemy. Darkroom Photography and Alternative Processes (4 Credit Hours)
Is an intermediate level photography course for students interested in learning how to use the film cameras (both 35 mm, medium format and 4 x 5) including shooting, developing and printing in the wet darkroom. Students will also learn how to use several alternative printing techniques, such as cyanotype, Van Dyke and combinations of traditional and alternative printing processes. Students will develop a historical understanding of the materials of early photography, as well as use those same materials to make work that investigates and critiques questions of photography and representation. One of the greatest challenges for contemporary photography is to discover how it wants to position itself in relation to the reality it mirrors, or reflects on. Questioning of the indexical nature of the photograph will be encouraged in assignments, critical readings, and discussion.
Prerequisite(s): ARTS 117 or consent of instructor.

ARTS 219 - Photo: Writing with Light (4 Credit Hours)
This class will be an in depth exploration of light as material, and its relationship to photography. Because of photography's presence in both the art and commercial world, it has always been a slippery medium to place definitively as art, craft, document or commercial enterprise. This is ironic, because never have we been more surrounded by photos and asked to ingest them as signs of truth from topics as diverse as journalism to images of what a beautiful body should/could look like. During this course, we will try to slow down our visual consumption by being specific about the medium that makes the image possible – light. We will begin in the night, travel to day, and then to the indoor and portable lighting kits (strobe, flash, tungsten).
Prerequisite(s): ARTS 117 or consent of instructor.

ARTS 220 - Ceramic History and Contemporary Practice (4 Credit Hours)
The history of ceramics very closely parallels the development of civilization and culture across the planet. In this studio course, students will draw upon this long, rich history as inspiration for their own work and gain a deeper understanding of the context in which they and other contemporary artists are creating ceramic art. The primary emphasis of ceramic history and its impact on contemporary practice will be explored through image presentations, research, discussions and studio work. Students will use a variety of construction techniques and surface treatments to transform their ideas and research into objects and are encouraged to pursue their individual creative potential.

ARTS 221 - Intermediate Ceramics (4 Credit Hours)
Students will hone the skills gained in previous ceramic courses and will focus on refining the application of learned techniques to produce visually and conceptually compelling work. Image presentations and discussions will lead to a deeper understanding of contemporary and historical ceramic art. Students will gain experience in different firing technologies and clay and glaze chemistry. Primary emphasis is on students' individual conceptual and technical development.
Prerequisite(s): ARTS 121, ARTS 122 or Ceramic Multiples.

ARTS 222 - Contemporary Comics (4 Credit Hours)
This Studio Art course will examine the relationship of words and pictures through the study and making of autobiographical and nonfiction comics. As other Studio Art courses examine the disciplines of photography, ceramics, sculpture or painting through experiential learning, so too will students realize the potential of this discipline to reveal their creative selves through its unique visual language. Placing practice in context, comics history will be explored with the emphasis on contemporary cartoonists and graphic novelists as artists focused on relevant first person narrative storytelling and comics journalism. Traditional techniques of layout, design and storytelling will be included along with drawing and writing exercises. Course projects will extend technical exercises to address content concerns through in-class workshops, presentations on cartoonists, critiques, field trips and a range of short and long outside projects that will gradually build to more ambitious creative comic undertakings by semesters end. No previous studio art or drawing experience is required.

ARTS 223 - The Ceramic Surface (4 Credit Hours)
In this studio course students will explore the numerous options for surface expression in ceramic art making. One of clay’s unique properties is the ability to faithfully record impressions in its surface - from the fingerprint of a potter to patterned designs stamped into the surface. Today, mark making on clay has caught up with technology, incorporating digital processes into the roster of print technique possibilities. Students will learn to make their own glazes, effectively use slips, glazes, china paints, lustres, print-transfers, photo-decals and alternative firing techniques. Students will explore the relationships between content, form and surface through the creative process, group critiques, readings, image presentations and discussions.
Prerequisite(s): A Denison University ceramic course or consent of instructor.

ARTS 224 - Ceramic Multiples (Ceramics From Molds) (4 Credit Hours)
In this studio course students learn to create ceramic objects using plaster molds, how to make casting slip, and the basics of kiln firing. We will explore the relationship between Art, Design, and Craft, and students will be encouraged to push the boundaries of where these categories begin and end. Producing ceramic objects from molds allows for greater refinement of the object, unlimited possibilities of form and the potential of creating multiple replicas or variations on one form. Because of inherent associations with industry, technology, and mass-production, objects produced from molds offer unique conceptual possibilities that students will pursue through the creative process, group critiques, readings and discussions.
Prerequisite(s): Any Denison University Studio Art course or consent of the instructor.

ARTS 231 - Intermediate Printmaking (4 Credit Hours)
Students may work with any printmaking processes in which they have had experience or with the consent of instructor. Processes available to Printmaking II students include: relief, lithography, intaglio or screen printing. Emphasis will be on continued technical and conceptual development.
Prerequisite(s): ARTS 131 or consent.

ARTS 240 - Installation/Site-Specific Art (4 Credit Hours)
In installation art the space is considered like the blank sheet of paper of a drawing. Its goal is the transformation of spaces through the use of objects, images, color, etc. Site-specific art is art that is created in a certain space, where the place is part of the work and adds meaning to it. This Installation/Site-Specific Art studio class will focus on creating objects that will transform a variety of architectural spaces.
ARTS 241 - Intermediate Sculpture (4 Credit Hours)
This course focuses on the search for art practices. The students have to develop projects starting out with specific themes that are discussed by the group, but the end product is personal depending on the individual conceptual and aesthetic development.

ARTS 243 - Mixed Media Sculpture (4 Credit Hours)
Combining theory and practice in the sculpture studio, this topical intermediate sculpture course focuses its central objective around an overarching relevant interdisciplinary theme that varies per semester. Along with theoretical readings and presentations, a series of sculpture projects will be developed by each student to explore the selected research theme created with a range of techniques and materials. Course materials may include plaster, wax, fabric, found objects, wood, and metal. The works will acquire meaning based not only on the form, but also on the material the work is made out of and its connotations. Importance will be given to the investigation on the theme, to the process of sculptural creation and to the end products, the final sculpture.

ARTS 244 - Fiber Arts (4 Credit Hours)
This studio art course is an introduction to the basic expressive potential to create two- and three-dimensional works. The use of natural and/or artificial materials will be introduced and a combination between structural and non-structural materials, to make the composition work as an image, object or installation. The artworks created will be the result of an analytic process guided by information acquired, the interpretation of that information and experiences lived by each participant of this class.

ARTS 264 - Special Topics in Studio Art (4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

ARTS 265 - Special Topics in Studio Art (4 Credit Hours)

ARTS 267 - Performance Art (4 Credit Hours)
This studio art course will focus on processes of creating and executing actions that may have an artistic content. In this course the participants will generate actions that will be performed. Prior to the execution of artistic actions the participants will be exposed to a wide range of artistic performances. We will be working on the approach to art practices from the production of meaning and the relationship between art and life. The main objective is to use actions as a way of discovering arts practices. This course fulfills the Oral Communication general education requirement and a Fine Arts Division requirement.

ARTS 299 - Intermediate Topics in Art (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

ARTS 308 - Introduction to Animation (4 Credit Hours)
Animation is the illusion of motion created by the consecutive display of slightly varying drawings or models of static elements. In this course, students will learn the fundamentals of traditional animation techniques, as well as cover many aspects of the more experimental contemporary forms of stop-motion animation processes. Students will be given several animation "studies" over the course of the semester that will offer them experience with different types of stop-motion and computer key-framed techniques, as well as experience in story-boarding, sound recording, character movement and rig development, and post digital effects work. In addition to workshop projects, students will be exposed to outside readings and film viewings.

ARTS 310 - Advanced Drawing (4 Credit Hours)
Continued drawing experience with emphasis on developing individual skills, concepts and expression.
Prerequisite(s): ARTS 210 or consent of instructor.

ARTS 311 - Landscape Painting (4 Credit Hours)
This course introduces students to the genre of landscape painting. Art making will be completed in the studio and out in the field. Art projects are devised to have students develop acute observations about the landscape while creating newfound observations about the landscape while creating new found relationships to it. Technical demonstrations in paint application and design are coupled with strategies of research and preparation to produce thoughtful and critical representations. An introduction to the historical lineage of the painted landscape will be balanced with exposure to contemporary artists and concepts. Students will use painting as an excuse to probe their landscape, to dissect and invert it, to wander off path, and redefine where it starts and ends. Group readings, presentations, and discussions compliment the studio workshop environment by helping to contextualize an art practice to the broader world.

Crosslisting: ENVS 211.

ARTS 315 - Advanced Painting (4 Credit Hours)
Continued painting experience.
Prerequisite(s): ARTS 115 or consent of instructor.

ARTS 317 - Advanced Photography (4 Credit Hours)
An Advanced class that will focus on developing a portfolio of work. Students will be introduced to large format cameras, and the lighting studio will be used for specific technical assignments. Readings and lectures will provide a basis for dialogue as students develop their own lineage of influence and make photographic work that speaks to their own interests and questions.

Prerequisite(s): ARTS 117 and ARTS 217.

ARTS 321 - Advanced Ceramics (4 Credit Hours)

ARTS 331 - Advanced Printmaking (4 Credit Hours)
Students may work with any printmaking process in which they have had experience or with the consent of instructor. Processes available to Printmaking III students include: relief, lithography, intaglio or screen printing. Experimentation and innovation, both conceptually and technically, will be stressed for the advanced student.

Prerequisite(s): ARTS 231.

ARTS 341 - Advanced Sculpture (4 Credit Hours)

ARTS 345 - Junior Arts Practicum (4 Credit Hours)
Through independent project work, readings, oral presentations, and individual/group discussions, this course will focus on the universal studio practice of critiques to further develop student skills to describe, analyze, interpret and understand their own artwork and its goals as well as the work of others. Students will also pursue research throughout the semester to make important connections between their creative practice and the art historical/theoretical context in which they work. This course is required for all studio art majors.

ARTS 361 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)
For the student of marked creative ability who wishes to pursue advanced subjects not otherwise listed, such as design, graphics, or history and criticism.
ARTS 362 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)
For the student of marked creative ability who wishes to pursue advanced subjects not otherwise listed, such as design, graphics, or history and criticism.

ARTS 363 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

ARTS 364 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

ARTS 365 - Advanced Special Topics (4 Credit Hours)
Special Topic courses with a focus on particular aspects of studio art at the advanced level.

ARTS 399 - Advanced Topics in Art (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

ARTS 400 - Senior Art History Project (3 Credit Hours)
Studio, B.A., B.F.A.

ARTS 401 - Visual Arts Practicum (4 Credit Hours)
Theory and creative practice in selected areas of the visual arts. Majors are required to enroll in the Visual Arts Practicum twice in their senior year in conjunction with a 300-level course in their area of specialization. This class is for Studio Art majors only or by permission of instructor.

ARTS 451 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)

ARTS 452 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)