

The Department of Visual Arts

Using the power of art to impact the world

Do you have a love of art and history? Want to learn about ways to use your creativity? Do you want to help others through art? The Marian University Department of Visual Arts has many exciting areas of study which may be right for you.

The Power of the Visual Arts

Through the ages, important thinkers have maintained that visuals and vision are potent forces. Zhang Yan Yuan of China, the world's first art historian, stated that art helps human relations by allowing us to explore the mysteries of the universe. Art, he wrote, completes culture. Years later, St. Thomas of Aquinas asserted that looking upon an object has powerful effects on the viewer's mind and body. At Marian University, visual arts majors study the many ways art has been and continues to be used as a powerful tool to shape our minds and our culture.

Overview

Students receive instruction from fully qualified, full-time faculty and area specialists in classes that are kept small to ensure personal contact. Students benefit from the department's close relationship with the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the Eiteljorg Museum, the Indianapolis Arts Center, and numerous businesses that provide valuable internship experiences.

Programs of Study

The visual arts curriculum includes bachelor of arts degrees in the following major areas: art history, arts administration, fine arts, graphic design, and photography. Minors in these areas are also available, as well as concentrations in art therapy, fine arts, and graphic design. In partnership with the School of Education, students may obtain licensing to teach in the area of arts education.

Art History

The art history major best suits the student who wants to pursue graduate study in art history. Students are introduced to the basic theories of art, the handling of traditional media, and the fundamental techniques of design. This foundation is combined with a full range of courses in art history covering the history of western art from its beginnings to the contemporary scene. Internships are available in local museums for qualified students. Art history majors are strongly encouraged to participate in Marian University's study abroad program.

Arts Administration

The arts administration major gives students a comprehensive education in the disciplines of the arts combined with specific business courses. An internship is required to complete this course of study.

Fine Arts

Under the personal direction of qualified artists, students are first introduced to the fundamentals of art and later to higher levels of theory and techniques. Advanced students are guided toward independent study, in the medium of their choice, and are shown how to prepare a resume and professional portfolio.

Graphic Design

Students majoring in graphic design receive instruction in the foundations of fine arts combined with specialized instruction in layout, typography, and computer-aided design. Students have access to a computer lab equipped specifically for graphic design. The program prepares students for entry into either graduate school or a position in the profession. Internships are arranged for qualified students.



"Talking to a Marian University professor helped confirm my decision to attend, and viewing the art building for myself, I felt that the technology and atmosphere would provide a great learning environment. I'm now comfortable using that technology and am confident that I am learning the skills I need to work in the field of graphic design."

Kendra Wilmes '12, graphic design major from Ferdinand, Indiana

Photography

A picture is worth a thousand words. Consequently photography has become one of the most vital and persuasive means of communication. Marian University students receive instruction from a Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist.

Art Therapy

Art therapists work with other mental health professionals in both diagnostic and treatment capacities. The program is designed for students who want to pursue graduate work; they must earn either a minor

or a second major in psychology. Acceptance into the program must be approved by both the Department of Visual Arts and the Department of Psychology. The curriculum is based upon the recommendations of the American Art Therapy Association and internships are arranged for qualified students in local health care facilities.

Arts Education

Students major in fine arts and receive their methods instruction from the Marian University School of Education. Students graduate with a bachelor of arts degree in fine arts and all of the requirements needed to apply for a state teaching license including a professional portfolio. Graduates are prepared to enter the classroom or graduate school.

Department of Visual Arts Scholarships

The Department of Visual Arts offers two Fine Arts Talent Scholarships to first-time baccalaureate students who are majoring in any of the fine arts programs. These scholarships may be renewed each year for four years as long as the student meets the academic requirements and maintains the fine arts major. Scholarship applications may be obtained by contacting Jamie Higgs, Ph.D., chairwoman of the Department of Visual Arts, or the Office of Admission.

Career Opportunities

A February 2008 study published on the Inside Indiana Business web site showed that the arts provide significant employment opportunities ranging from museum curator to art appraiser, from preservation and conservation to graphic and web design, from therapy and teaching to photography and art law. The following resources will assist students and parents in considering this career path: *Career Alternatives for Art Historians*, Gerald Brommer's *Careers in Art: An Illustrated Guide*, and Elizabeth Gardner's *Opportunities in Arts and Crafts*.

Marian University does not discriminate in enrolling students on the basis of age, race, sexual orientation, creed, national or ethnic origin, or disability.

On the move and making history!

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Marian University is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana.

Student Testimonials

"Each professor in the Department of Visual Arts—whether it be fine arts, art history, photography, or graphic design—pushes students to their creative borders and beyond. They don't just teach someone how to be creative and produce great art, but show us how to work through the challenges of our work that can be affected by all areas of our life."

Emily Blankenship '09, graphic design major and business administration minor from Indianapolis, Indiana



Emily Blankenship '09

"Marian University provides a unique opportunity to study visual art while also building a solid foundation with a liberal arts education. I knew when I first enrolled at Marian University that I wanted to major in art, but I was not sure specifically what career I was going to pursue. Taking a wide range of art courses including drawing, painting, three-dimensional design, printmaking, and art history among others, as well as a wide range of general education courses, helped prepare me to be the teacher that I am today. I still consistently draw upon that knowledge when teaching my own students as an assistant professor of art at Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa."

Jenny Pauckner '02, visual art major from Indianapolis, Indiana

"The study abroad program and professors were profoundly important in my career. Marian University's liberal arts education allows me to live imaginatively and examine life critically. By having the opportunity to witness art history and learn the roles of an artist, it provided me with a drive to continue my education and to share my love of art through teaching. As a result of this, I am now a K-12 art educator at St. Matthew School in Indianapolis, Indiana, and continuing my studies as a grad student with New York University in Venice, Italy."

Lindsey Lehner '02, studio art major from Indianapolis, Indiana

Want to know more?

For more information about the Department of Visual Arts, contact Jamie Higgs, Ph.D., at jhiggs@marian.edu or 317.955.6432.

