ART & MEDIA (MFA)

Program Description

The MFA in Art & Media is a full-time, studio-intensive interdisciplinary degree program that sits at the crossroads of practice and theory, tradition and change in the arts. The MFA program combines contemporary art and media practices with cultural heritage, art theory, media studies, and emergent technologies. Through critique and studio based instruction the MFA allows students to mix and blend concepts, skills, approaches and traditions from various topics across classes and seminars. Coursework and academic requirements are designed to foster the development of students who can think and create in novel and interdisciplinary ways. Students are asked to work across concepts and traditions to make a body of work that may not be in a single transition or body of knowledge. Courses emphasize artistic experimentation within a context of historical, cultural, and theoretical study.

The MFA in Art & Media prepares students for careers not only as artists or professionals in museums, the arts industries or education, but also for any career where creativity, imagination, analytical ability, conceptual clarity, cross cultural understanding and a respect for human achievement and difference are valued.

Program Structure

Students are required to complete 60-credits over two years of study and can choose to work in-depth in a particular area or across multiple arts disciplines, including: Sculpture, Photography, Printmaking, Fiber Art, Painting & Drawing, Digital Art, Design, Digital Media, and Transmedia (video, performance, digital). The program comprises eight required courses, including multiple instances of two distinct Critique classes; five studio electives and a required non-credit mid-program review at the end of the first year. Students have the option to complete two of their five elective courses during NYU's J-term semester. The final semester of year two includes an 8-credit MFA thesis project and exhibition. The MFA thesis will culminate with a 90 minutes oral defense in the NYUAD art gallery before a faculty panel.

Research and Arts Practice

The goals of the program are manifold. It seeks to provide a flexible, supportive, and advanced studio-based learning environment that allows students to integrate art, media and design production, in combination with other disciplines, through creative processes that remix theory, methodology and practice. Its multidisciplinary coursework bridges disciplinary skills and diverse bodies of knowledge. The program is structured to ensure that students develop advanced research skills for visual and academic investigations in the areas of art, media and design practice and theory. Students will learn the perceptual and analytical skills used by artists and designers to engage with and move more thoughtfully through cultural spaces, environments, institutions, and the societies from which they come.

The MFA fosters competency in research, material knowledge, analysis, decision making, brainstorming and teamwork. Students will learn to visualize problems and ideas in novel ways, connect seemingly unconnected phenomena and concepts, and provide valuable insights into and solutions to contemporary problems. Such work contributes to our aesthetic and social development and drives cultural, technological, and economic innovation.

Studio Spaces

NYU Abu Dhabi offers state-of-the-art production facilities in sculpture, design, printmaking, fiber art, photography, interactive media, painting and drawing, fiber arts, digital art, sound art, and film. Students enrolled in the program will be assigned large private studios which will serve as a core teaching and research spaces.

MFA Course Descriptions

The eight required courses provide MFA students with a foundation in all of the degree program learning outcomes. Students are also expected to complete five studio electives and can choose to work in-depth in a particular area or across multiple arts disciplines, including: Sculpture, Photography, Printmaking, Painting & Drawing, Digital Art, Fiber Art, Design and Transmedia (video, performance, digital).

Admissions

Applications for Fall 2024 will open in October, 2023.

- You must have completed a four-year bachelor's degree before the program registration starts. The degree must be from an accredited institution. Official transcripts certifying conferral of a bachelor's degree are required before the student can start the program.
- Your bachelor's degree does not have to be in the arts, but your application should demonstrate the mastery needed to engage effectively with graduate-level work in this program.

In addition to the information below, the online application provides instructions to guide you. All sections of the application and the required supporting documents must be submitted online by the deadline. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Do not submit any hard copy materials to NYU Abu Dhabi as part of the application process.

If you have any difficulties with the online application, please email the graduate admissions office (nyuad.graduateadmissions@nyu.edu) from the email address associated with your application.

After submitting the application, you will not be able to change or add information. You will receive a link to the Application Status Portal where you can track the status of your application.

Application

Prepare the following required information when you are ready to start an application:

- Transcripts from all post-secondary institutions you have attended (copies accepted)
- Proof of English Proficiency (select the appropriate option in the application)
  - You are from a designated list of English-speaking countries
  - You have completed at least 4 years in a university program taught entirely in English
  - Self-reported test scores for proof of English proficiency. Minimum scores: Academic IELTS = 6.5 / TOEFL iBT = 90 / DuoLingo = 120.
- A current CV or resume
- Essays responding to specific prompts provided in the application. Essays give you the opportunity to fully present yourself to the Selection Committee, and to provide insight into your experiences, goals, and thought processes.

- Two letters of recommendation. You will provide the name, title and email of two recommenders. They will receive a request from NYUAD to upload a letter of recommendation for your application.
- Artist's Portfolio. Please view more information in the Artist's Portfolio section below.

You have the option in the application to indicate if you would like to be considered for an academic merit-based scholarship. No other information needs to be included in the application.

Any information or materials submitted to NYU Abu Dhabi after the final application deadline are not guaranteed to be reviewed or considered by the Selection Committee.

You will receive an email when there are updates to your application status that can be viewed on the Application Status Portal. Your final official decision will be posted to your status page, and an admission decision from any other source of communication will be not considered official nor binding.

NYU Abu Dhabi reserves the right to validate the accuracy of your application information with appropriate sources, including the right to contact relevant individuals and organizations.

Admissions Process

1. Verification: After submitting your application, the admissions office checks that all supporting documents have been uploaded correctly and are readable. After this verification, the applications are made available to the Selection Committee for the initial review.
2. Initial Review: The Selection Committee begins reviewing submitted applications after the application deadline. The committee looks at information from all parts of the application to form a complete picture of the applicant's potential fit with the program.
3. Shortlist: The Selection Committee places applicants who have the best fit for the program on a "shortlist". These applicants are invited to an interview with the Selection Committee (usually online).
4. Interview: During the interview, the applicant has the opportunity to provide more details about their motivations, education and experience. This gives the Selection Committee a more complete understanding of the applicant before making an admissions decision.
5. Admissions Decision: Applicants who are offered admission will be notified by email to check the Application Status Portal where the admission letter can be viewed and downloaded. The applicant needs to confirm acceptance of the offer.
6. Offer Acceptance: The applicant confirms acceptance of the admission offer via the Application Status Portal and pays the confirmation deposit.

Note! You must receive a UAE security clearance, and obtain an appropriate UAE visa if required by your residency status. NYU Abu Dhabi will facilitate these processes for admitted students. If for any reason you cannot obtain the security clearance or visa, your admissions offer may be rescinded.

Artist's Portfolio

The MFA application requires you to submit an artist's portfolio. The total number of submitted works cannot exceed 20 items of your recent artwork. This is an integral part of the admissions review process.

Videos for time-based work can be submitted in place of digital images. Videos can be a compilation of various works, but the total running time cannot exceed five minutes per video. Genres appropriate to video

documentation include video art, performance, and kinetic art, but not documentation of sculptures or exhibitions.

All portfolios must be submitted via the NYUAD MFA online application. Do not send hard copies of your portfolio or artwork to NYU Abu Dhabi. Such materials cannot be appended to your application file, nor can such submissions be returned to applicants.

- Media files up to 5GB
- These file formats are supported:
  - [Slide] .bmp, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .tif, .tiff
  - [Video] 3g2, .3gp, .avi, .m2v, .m4v, .mkv, .mov, .mpeg, .mpg, .mp4, .mxf, .webm, .wmv; ProRes is supported.

Program Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Major Requirements		
ARTMD-GH 5001	Graduate Critique Seminar 1	4
ARTMD-GH 5002	Graduate Critique Seminar 2	4
ARTMD-GH 5003	Graduate Critique Seminar 3	4
ARTMD-GH 5051	Individual Studio Critique & Review 1	4
ARTMD-GH 5052	Individual Studio Critique & Review 2	4
ARTMD-GH 5053	Individual Studio Critique & Review 3	4
ARTMD-GH 5060	Writing for Artists	4
Special Topics in Art and Media Course		
Select one of the following:		4
ARTMD-GH 5710		
ARTMD-GH 5720	Special Topics in Art & Media (Art Practice in the Anthropocene)	
ARTMD-GH 5730	Studio: Archives, Methods, Screens	
ARTMD-GH 5740		
ARTMD-GH 5750		
ARTMD-GH 5760		
ARTMD-GH 6120	An Explorative Grammar for Sculpture	
Studio Elective Courses		
Select five Studio Elective courses [1]		20
Review, Seminar and Final Project Course		
Select one of the following:		4
ARTMD-GH 6000	MFA Mid-Program Review	
ARTMD-GH 6050	MFA Thesis Defense	
ARTMD-GH 6005	Thesis Project and Exhibition	
Total Credits		**56**

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Partial listing:

- ARTMD-GH 5110 Photography: Alternative Processes
- ARTMD-GH 5120 Repetition, Degeneration and Imprint
- ARTMD-GH 5130
- ARTMD-GH 6110 Text-Image / Image-Text

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
ARTMD-GH 5001	Graduate Critique Seminar 1	4
ARTMD-GH 5051	Individual Studio Critique & Review 1	4
ARTMD-GH 5120	Repetition, Degeneration and Imprint	4
ARTMD-GH 5730	Studio: Archives, Methods, Screens	4
	Credits	**16**
2nd Semester/Term		
ARTMD-GH 5002	Graduate Critique Seminar 2	4
ARTMD-GH 5052	Individual Studio Critique & Review 2	4
ARTMD-GH 5060	Writing for Artists	4
ARTMD-GH 5720	Special Topics in Art & Media	4
ARTMD-GH 6000	MFA Mid-Program Review	0
	Credits	**16**
3rd Semester/Term		
ARTMD-GH 5003	Graduate Critique Seminar 3	4
ARTMD-GH 5053	Individual Studio Critique & Review 3	4
ARTMD-GH 5110 or ARTHMD-GH 5120	Photography: Alternative Processes or	4
ARTMD-GH 5112 or ARTMD-GH 5730	Teaching, Learning and Pedagogy for the Arts or Studio: Archives, Methods, Screens	4
	Credits	**16**
4th Semester/Term		
ARTMD-GH 5720	Special Topics in Art & Media	4
ARTMD-GH 6050	MFA Thesis Defense	0
ARTMD-GH 6000 or ARTMD-GH 6005	MFA Mid-Program Review or Thesis Project and Exhibition	4
	Credits	**8**
	Total Credits	**56**

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the NYU Abu Dhabi MFA in Art & Media, all graduates are expected to have developed:

1. **Artistic Inquiry, Production, and Experimentation:** Students make artworks that demonstrate a facility with artistic inquiry. Their art works are brought to a high polish and are suitable for exhibition. Materials and modes of display are treated with expertise and fluency, and this is evidenced in final exhibitions as well as open studio events throughout their two-year program.

2. **Art Discourse and Research:** Students learn and use art historical and practice-based terminology to discuss their own work, the work of others, and to interpret and explain artworks. They can relate what they analyze to the wider discourse of visual arts in contemporary culture, regionally and globally. Students demonstrate capability in information gathering, documentation, investigation, analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of sources about artworks and practices. This is evidenced in written artist statements, informal talks about their works, and in their written reviews of other artworks.

3. **Professional Development and Leadership:** Students understand career models and issues in professional ethics, and understand their unique position, regionally, in contributing to the development of arts programming and communities. As students they are involved in regional cultural organizations and seek to create opportunities for the growing regional art community. Students are adept at initiating or originating and uniting others around a shared goal or practice and incorporating perspectives of others as well as their own in an initiative. This is evidenced in artist-as-curator events, formal and informal studio visits across Abu Dhabi and within the NYUAD community, as well as artists actively writing reviews and participating in the discourse of art regionally.

4. **Visual Communication and Literacy:** Students are accomplished at representing their ideas visually and symbolically. Students are adept at analyzing, interpreting, and explaining images, and can relate what they analyze to the wider discourse of visual arts in contemporary culture, regionally and globally. Students demonstrate proficiency in manners of engaged, rigorous, and careful evaluation, interpretation, and explication.

Information on Institutional Research Policies and Policies and Procedures on Projects, Theses, and Dissertations, including registration, proposal submission and approval, selection of principal supervisor, graduate committees, seminar requirements, external readers, final examinations/defences, revisions, award of degree, intellectual property rights and copyrights; can be found online at https://nyuad.nyu.edu/en/research/services-and-support.html.

Policies
NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/).

NYU Abu Dhabi Policies

All NYU Abu Dhabi Graduate policies can be found on the school's academic policy page (https://bulletins.nyu.edu/graduate/abu-dhabi/academic-policies/).