

ART AND ART HISTORY (BA)

CIP: 50.0702

Program Description

An Overview of the Major

From prehistoric cave art to the digital media of today, human beings across the globe and through the ages have used visual forms to understand and shape their world. Painting, sculpture, and architecture as well as ornament, design, printmaking, and photography have provided rich traditions of visual expression and communication, and the development of new media has greatly expanded this visual repertoire. Different cultures, in different places and at different times, have valued and conceptualized vision and made use of the visual arts in a variety of ways. The visual arts investigate and re-imagine the physical, social, cultural, and spiritual spheres of human existence and offer arguments about and interpretations of these realms. The major in Art & Art History at NYUAD integrates the traditions of historical, critical, and philosophical thinking that characterize the disciplines of art history and aesthetics with practice-based studio art and design. It is grounded in the conviction that thinking about art and making art belong together. Historical and theoretical understandings of art are stronger when they are informed by the direct experience of making art or designing, just as the work of artists and designers is enriched when it is in dialogue with the histories of art and with theoretical debates about the changing meanings and processes of art and design. Students are invited to study the objects, practices, meanings, and institutions that constitute the visual arts in diverse cultures, from comparative, historical, and cross-disciplinary perspectives. The program equally invites students to explore the historical and cultural diversity of art-making by exploring various modes of art-making themselves. Students have the option of focusing on either art historical studies or on art making and design or they can pursue both in combination equally.

The Art & Art History curriculum is global in its focus and pays special attention to cross-cultural encounters, to an understanding of art in comparative frameworks, and to the dialogues between both art history and the arts practices and the humanities, sciences and other arts. The courses on offer in Abu Dhabi can be supplemented with courses on other traditions, periods and topics at New York University's other sites.

The arts practice and design courses allow students to explore different media and techniques including drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking, graphic design, video, and digital media, while at the same time letting them hone their skills in a chosen medium. These courses also require students to reflect critically on the nature of art and design practices and to understand the histories, theories, and contexts that inform and mold these practices.

Courses in the history, theory, and criticism of the visual arts address the major issues and debates that have shaped our understanding of the visual arts. Among the questions we confront are: What is art and the nature of aesthetic experience, and why are they differently understood and valued at different times and in different cultures? What is gained or lost in studying art by focusing on a particular place, time, tradition or genre as opposed to approaching it from a comparative perspective that puts two or more cultures in dialogue? What might it mean to think of art as the product of cross-cultural exchange? How do institutions such as museums, galleries, funding bodies, and universities influence the creation, dissemination and reception of art? How do we explain the

experience of the viewer psychologically, culturally, and historically? How can other disciplines help us better understand the visual arts?

The NYUAD Art & Art History program takes advantage of museums in Abu Dhabi, such as the Louvre Abu Dhabi, the Guggenheim and the Sheikh Zayed Museum, as well as the museums and galleries in Dubai and Sharjah. Whenever possible, the major also draws upon the community of practicing artists and scholars resident in, or passing through the Gulf.

The Art & Art History major 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.

Study Away

Art & Art History majors interested in studying abroad should plan to do so during the spring semester of their Sophomore year or the Fall semester of their Junior year. They must have taken the required courses ARTH-UH 1010 Ways of Looking and ARTH-UH 1718 Ways of Making before taking the semester abroad. All majors should expect to be in Abu Dhabi for the spring semester of their Junior year and throughout their Senior year

The study away pathway can be found on the NYUAD Student Portal at students.nyuad.nyu.edu/pathways (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/abu-dhabi/programs/art-history-ba>). Students with questions should contact the Office of Global Education.

Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see [How to Apply](https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html) (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
Physical Education (2 courses)		
Quantitative Reasoning (1 course)		
Experimental Inquiry (1 course)		
Islamic Studies (1 course)		
First-Year Writing Seminar	4	
Colloquia	4	
Field Colloquia (2 J-Term courses)	6	
Core Competencies		
Arts, Design, and Technology	4	
Cultural Exploration Analysis	4	
Data and Discovery	4	
Structures of Thought and Society	4	
Major Required Courses		
ARTH-UH 1010 Ways of Looking	4	
ARTH-UH 1718 Ways of Making	4	
ARTH-UH 3010 Thinking Art	4	

or ARTH- UH 3011	Making Art	
Major Electives*		
Complete 2 Art History courses (see list below)	8	
Complete 2 Arts Practice/Design courses (see list below)	8	
Complete 3 Additional electives in either of the above categories (Art history or Arts practice/design)	12	
Capstone		
ARTH-UH 4000 Senior Seminar in Research and Practice Art History and Visual Arts	4	
ARTH-UH 4001 Capstone Project	4	
Other Electives		
Complete enough courses to reach the minimum overall required credits	128	58
Total Credits		136

*Note: Only two core courses cross-listed with the Art and Art History can be counted towards the electives.

Electives

Art History Electives

Code	Title	Credits
ARTH-UH 1116	South Asian Art	4
ARTH-UH 1121X	Gulf and Indian Ocean World Art and Architecture	4
ARTH-UH 1122X	Global Art and Science: Geometries, Ecologies, Technologies	4
ARTH-UH 1123	East Asian Art	4
ARTH-UH 1717	Still (Moving) Images: Interventions and Experiments in Photography and Film	4
ARTH-UH 2118X	Contemporary Art and Politics in the Arab World	4
ARTH-UH 2123	Museums, Art and Society	4
ARTH-UH 2124	Art of the Sixties	4
ARTH-UH 2125	Art of the 1970s and 80s: Postminimalism to Postmodernism & Beyond	4
ARTH-UH 2130	International Surrealisms	4
ARTH-UH 2131	Silk Roads, Sea Routes and Shared Heritage	4
ARTH-UH 2610	Global Renaissance	4
ARTMD-GH 5133	Walls: Cultural Witness, Social Catalyst	4
AW-UH 1113X	Alexander and the East: Central Asia and the Mediterranean from the Achaemenid Period	4
AW-UH 1115X	Political Past, Political Presents: Archaeology and the Politics of Memory in the 'Near East'	4
AW-UH 1120X	Archaeology of the Gulf	4
CCEA-UH 1003	Collecting	4
CCEA-UH 1007	Abstraction	4
CCEA-UH 1061	Memory	4
CCEA-UH 1083	Cultural History of Falconry	4
CCEA-UH 1090	Un/Making History	4
CCEA-UH 1110	Faith and Finance: From Renaissance Fortuna to the Futures Market	4
CCEA-UH 1139	The Image in Question	4
HERST-UH 1100	World Heritage Sites & Universal Collections	4
HIST-UH 3717	Art and Politics in Europe from the French Revolution to the end of the Second World War	4

LITCW-UH 2312X	Masterpieces of Pre-Modern Arabic Literature in Translation	4
LITCW-UH 2332	Literature and Revolution	4
LITCW-UH 3501	Advanced Creative Writing: Documentary Forms	4
PHIL-UH 2416	Images	4

Arts Practice/Design Electives

Code	Title	Credits
ARTH-UH 1510	Photography I	4
ARTH-UH 1511	Drawing and Painting I	4
ARTH-UH 1512	Sculpture I	4
ARTH-UH 1710	Types of Art: From Calligraphy and Stone Carving to Digital Type	4
ARTH-UH 1712	Graphic Design	4
ARTH-UH 1714	Yes Logo	4
ARTH-UH 1717	Still (Moving) Images: Interventions and Experiments in Photography and Film	4
ARTH-UH 2610	Global Renaissance	4
ARTH-UH 2712	Interventions: Three-Dimensional Thinking	4
ARTH-UH 2716	Print Studio 1	4
ARTH-UH 2721	Art and Architecture: Reinventing the City	4
ARTH-UH 2726	City to Studio: Transforming Urban Research	4
ARTH-UH 2820	Photography II	4
ARTH-UH 2822	Projects in Mixed Media	4
ARTH-UH 3811	Drawing and Painting II	4
ARTMD-GH 5001	Graduate Critique Seminar 1	4
ARTMD-GH 5051	Individual Studio Critique & Review 1	4
ARTMD-GH 5510	Studio/Topics in Art & Media	4
ARTMD-GH 5720	Special Topics in Art & Media	4
CADT-UH 1005	Creativity and Innovation	4
CADT-UH 1020	Wayfinding: Graphic Design in the Built Environment	4
CADT-UH 1025	Re-Design	4
CCEA-UH 1138	Eco-Art and Ecomedia	4
FILMM-UH 1010	Sound, Image, and Story	4
FILMM-UH 3110	Archives, Methods, Screens	4
IM-UH 1010	Introduction to Interactive Media	4
IM-UH 2113	Machine Lab	4
IM-UH 2315	Software Art: Image	2
IM-UH 2513	Future Punk	4
THEAT-UH 1115	Scenic Design	4
THEAT-UH 1121	Design for Performance	4
THEAT-UH 1126	Costuming Performance	4
THEAT-UH 1127	Ugly	4
THEAT-UH 1519	Installation Art	4

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
First-Year Writing Seminar		4
ARTH-UH 1010	Ways of Looking	4
Core Competency		4
General Elective		2

Physical Education	Credits	14
2nd Semester/Term		
Field Colloquia (J-Term)		3
	Credits	3
3rd Semester/Term		
ARTH-UH 1718	Ways of Making	4
Core Competency		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
	Credits	16
4th Semester/Term		
Core Competency		4
Colloquia		4
Major Elective		4
Major Elective		4
	Credits	16
5th Semester/Term		
Field Colloquia (J-Term)		3
	Credits	3
6th Semester/Term		
Core Competency		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Major Elective		4
	Credits	16
7th Semester/Term		
Major Elective		4
Major Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
	Credits	16
8th Semester/Term		
ARTH-UH 3010	Thinking Art	4
ARTH-UH 3011	Making Art	4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Physical Education	Credits	16
9th Semester/Term		
ARTH-UH 4000	Senior Seminar in Research and Practice Art History and Visual Arts	4
Major Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
	Credits	16
10th Semester/Term		
ARTH-UH 4001	Capstone Project	4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
	Credits	12
Total Credits		128

2. The ability to examine and analyze central questions and topics in Art and Art History, including different forms of art history, art theory, art criticism, art practice, curatorial practice, and aesthetics.
3. The ability to synthesize practice and reflection in academic scholarship and artistic production.
4. Basic to intermediate skills in a range of artistic media.
5. The ability to recognize and articulate a question or problem related to art that can be explicated, explored, and at least tentatively answered in an essay or paper that meets academic standards of organization, presentation of evidence, clarity of expression, and independent thought.
6. A specialization in one particular area of visual arts practice and/or art history sufficient for the production of a Capstone project.

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

A full list of relevant policies can be found on NYU Abu Dhabi's undergraduate academic policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/abu-dhabi/academic-policies/>).

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the major in Art and Art History at NYU Abu Dhabi, all students are expected to have developed:

1. Visual literacy, conceived as knowledge of the visual arts from a range of world cultures and forms, according to generally accepted categories of style, iconography, periodization, region, and media, as exemplified in a variety of individual works of art.