

Art History and Visual Studies



Without the history of art, artworks would be enigmas. Art History decodes artworks by revealing the context for artists' creations and diverse motivations for producing meaningful objects and built environments.

Our Program

Are you interested in the ways in which we communicate through images and the built environment and in the ways in which the human relationship to images, forms and structures has changed over time and differs from one geographical and cultural context to another? Art historians view the visual arts of various human societies as active agents in shaping perception, affecting behavior and expressing messages in works that represent thoughtful and complex combinations of form and content. We ask, "why has art been so important in the past, how does it affect our present and how will it shape our future?"

Clubs, groups, events

Art history examines the visual and material culture of the entire globe. One of the most important and memorable experiences you may have during your college years is travel to an unfamiliar place to study art.

NIU's art history student organization *Historia Artis* seeks to foster awareness and understanding of art history as a lens through which the vastly diverse expressions of visual communication manifest themselves throughout time, history and culture. We are organized as a support group for students who are involved in the study and research of art history.

Faculty and Opportunities

Opportunities include academic enrichment and engaged learning, study abroad, and work on exhibitions sponsored by the NIU Art Museum or in the gallery spaces of the School of Art and Design. A bachelor's degree in art history is an excellent preparation for study in multiple disciplines at the M.A. and Ph.D. levels, which lead to teaching at the college level. Students fascinated by issues of art theft, cultural patrimony, and copyright may also be interested in our accelerated B.A./J.D. program offered in collaboration with the College of Law.

Art History Faculty

Sinclair Bell — Classical
Sarah Evans — Contemporary
Rebecca Houze — Modern Art and Design
Helen Nagata — East Asian
Mary Quinlan — Early Modern European,
1400-1700
Ann van Dijk — Medieval



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

School of Art and Design

College of Visual and Performing Arts

ART HISTORY AND VISUAL STUDIES AT NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Degree Requirements

Art history is an interdisciplinary enterprise connecting to fields of anthropology, philosophy, literature, religion, science and technology. The bachelor of arts in art history at NIU emphasizes critical thinking and creativity while promoting the understanding of regions other than our own — a crucial skill in a globalized world. A diverse faculty offers courses in Western and non-Western, pre-modern, modern, and contemporary art and design, as well as courses in museum studies.



Art History Requirements (15 credit hours)

- ARTH 282 Intro to World Art (3)
- ARTH 292 Art and Design Since 1900 (3)
- ARTH 294 Arts of Asia (3) *(spring only)*
- ARTH 486 Art History Methodology (3) *(fall only)*
- ARTH 494 Undergraduate Seminar (3)

Art History Electives (21 credit hours)

Pick one from the following list (3)

- ARTH 310 Ancient and Middle Eastern Art *or*
- ARTH 320 Medieval Art *or*
- ARTH 330 Early Modern European Art

Pick one from the following list (3)

- ARTH 340 Modern Art *or*
- ARTH 350 Contemporary Art *or*
- ARTH 360 Design

Pick one from the following list (3)

- ARTH 370 Asian Art *or*
- ARTH 380 African, Oceanian, Native American, Pre-Columbian and Latin American Art

- ARTH Electives (6)
- ARTH 300 Elective (3)
- ARTH 400 Elective (3)

Foreign Language Requirement (12 credit hours)

Four years of high school foreign language (all in one language) or four semesters in college. Preferred languages for this program are French, Italian and German.

Required Cognate Courses (12 credit hours)

Suggested two of your courses be based in studio practice, while the remaining courses be based on related fields of scholarly interest/inquiry (suggestions include, but are not limited to: literature, history, women's studies, philosophy and anthropology).

Total Art History Major Hours: 60

Minimum Graduation Requirements for NIU:

- Minimum of 120 semester hours earned for degree.
- 40 of the 120 hours must be upper-level (300 and/or 400 level) courses.

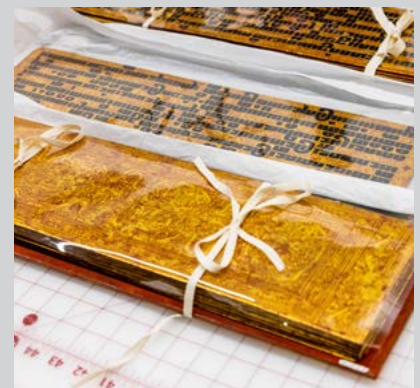
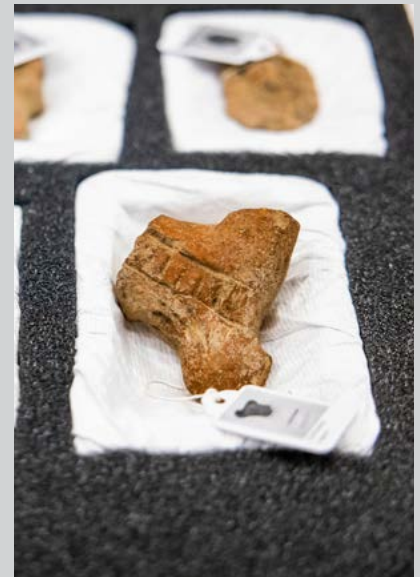


Northern Illinois University

Contact Information

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go.niu.edu/arthistory



Above photos from the Center for Burmese Studies.

Career Information

Art history is a wonderful major for students attracted to the visual arts who want to pursue careers working as curators, administrators or educators in museums.

Art historians work in archives and libraries as well as collections of objects, where they may specialize in research and conservation. Art historians also write reviews and articles for magazines and websites.

Career outcomes obtained from the Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook.