

Bachelor of Arts in Visual Arts



WHAT DO STUDENTS LEARN?

Students studying visual arts at Chatham choose between two concentrations:

In the **studio arts concentration**, students are introduced to fundamental hands-on skills, processes, theory, history, and culture from foundation classes to contemporary visual theory and advanced studio practices such as ceramics, sculpture, painting, drawing, and printmaking.

The **art history concentration** immerses students in trends and traditions of major art movements across the globe. Students analyze a wide range of art forms, from painting, sculpture, and architecture to photography, film, video, and electronic media, always grounded in its historical, theoretical, and cultural contexts.

WHAT DO GRADUATES GO ON TO DO?

Graduates of our studio arts concentration possess skills, foundations, and theoretical direction to navigate the creative industry in pursuit of such jobs as master printer, art handler, curator, museum professional, art registrar, art critic, or entrepreneur. Additionally, students within the studio arts concentration are prepared for graduate programs, artist residencies, and exhibition opportunities.

Chatham students have entered competitive graduate programs in art history, museum studies, and arts management, and worked as curators, educators, and in institutional advancement for internationally-recognized museums. Others have launched careers directly after graduating as curators and grant writers, managers for artists' studios, or founders of community-oriented art organizations.

Our visual arts program combines the advantages of a small school with the perks of being in a city with a vibrant arts scene, including traditional museums and experimental spaces. By majoring in visual arts, you will enjoy working in small, intimate classes with a dynamic faculty that is well recognized in the local, national, and international community, learning how to care for, research, critically analyze, and create works of art. As part of our liberal arts focus, we embrace innovation and a student-centered approach, resulting in a flexible, interdisciplinary program that integrates new technology and practical experience with history, theory, and self-exploration.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- All students complete a capstone seminar that channels the knowledge they've accumulated into a discipline-specific project under close faculty guidance. Chatham is one of the few universities across the country that offers such an independent and student-driven program.
- The Chatham University Art Gallery exhibits artwork by students and by international, national, and local artists, providing students with a chance to work up close and in-person with renowned works of art and historical artifacts. The variety of exhibitions gives students access to both historical and contemporary modes of visual expression.
- Bequeathed by alumna Dr. Cheryl Olkes '70, Chatham's magnificent Olkes Collection contains more than 600 works of African art. Art History and Museum Studies students work extensively researching, preserving, exhibiting, and programming the Olkes Collection and other University collections, including eighteenth to twentieth-century prints, paintings, and sculpture by historic and contemporary Pittsburgh artists.
- Students can earn their certification to teach art to grades K-12 through Chatham's Department of Education.
- Chatham is walking distance to many of Pittsburgh's best loved arts institutions and organizations, including the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh Filmmakers, Carnegie Music Hall, and the Frick Pittsburgh Art and Historical Center.

SAMPLE COURSES

American Art Before 1900

This course examines the ways in which artists represented “America.” Beginning with the Colonial era, we explore selected themes and issues in American art to 1900. Emphasis is placed on how the works of art can help us understand our history, how studying that history provides a deeper understanding of the works of art, and how art worked to create diverse national identities.

Art + Land: Artists Engage the Environment

Building on Chatham’s commitment to sustainability, this course examines human engagement with nature and the landscape through the visual arts, from the Renaissance to contemporary. Particular attention is paid to the development of landscape painting and photography, Land Art of the 1970s, and artists who work sustainably today.

Advanced Painting Studio

This advanced course in painting gives the student a broad understanding of technical issues in the context of contemporary conceptual and critical approaches to the medium. Students are given the opportunity to work on independent projects, developing their concepts and artistic identities.

► www.chatham.edu/visualarts/curriculum.cfm

INTERNSHIPS

Our faculty are well connected to local institutions. As a result, students have had internships at institutions including:

- The Carnegie Museum of Art
- The Frick Art Museum
- The Andy Warhol Museum
- Peggy Guggenheim Collection (Venice, Italy)
- Children’s Museum
- Mattress Factory
- Society for Contemporary Craft
- Pittsburgh Office of Public Art
- Disney World
- Silkscreen Film Festival
- Morgan Gallery
- Google

MUSEUM STUDIES MINOR

The museum studies minor provides students with the skills, experiences, and specific professional knowledge necessary to work in the museum field. The minor balances history and theory with practical experience designing and installing exhibitions and preparing educational programming. Students interact with museum and gallery professionals through frequent field trips to local and regional museums.

THE ARTIST COLLECTIVE

The Artist Collective is a Chatham-based community of artists who are passionate about art and strong advocates of their work. Each year, they host Extraction—a one-day salon-style interdisciplinary exhibition. In 2013, Extraction received the Outstanding Social Program Award from the National Association of Campus Activities.



“Art is ultimately about communicating ideas. What sets Chatham apart is its focus on interdisciplinary research which challenges students to think broadly and critically about how they visually articulate their own ideas. This environment prepares students to be active and thoughtful participants in contemporary studio practice and dialogue.”

— JAMES LOUKS, *assistant professor of visual arts*

“Chatham prides itself on its close relationship with Pittsburgh art institutions and museum and gallery professionals. The opportunities this provides for our students are immeasurable and include direct access to important works of art, events, internships, and other pre-professional prospects.”

— ELISABETH ROARK, PH.D.,
associate professor of art



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LEARN MORE

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*Read faculty bios, browse course descriptions, and
learn about program requirements at*
chatham.edu/visualarts