



DEPARTMENT OF ART

Creative Education, Creative Careers



ABOUT US The Department of Art is a vibrant, diverse community where creativity is our passion. Whether you are interested in being a professional artist, designer, educator, or historian, you will learn the skills you need to pursue a career that feeds your curiosity. Classes in our department focus on innovation and experimentation in both traditional and new media with faculty focused on student success.



STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES Engage, exhibit, and work at the Center for Visual Art, our off-campus gallery that exhibits international and nationally-recognized artists as well as our own students and faculty. You can intern at a variety of local museums, galleries, and design firms. Join a club like the Dirtburners or the Art Guild, or go on a study abroad trip organized by our faculty in places like Barcelona or Berlin.



WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL Our faculty are deeply embedded in the Denver creative scene and bring real-world knowledge to their classrooms. They often connect students with opportunities in the community and bring guest artists and designers to campus. Art History faculty bring history to life by bringing objects from the materials collection to class and working with students in collections such as the Denver Museum of Nature and Science or taking them on field trips to the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Museo de las Americas, and the Denver Art Museum.

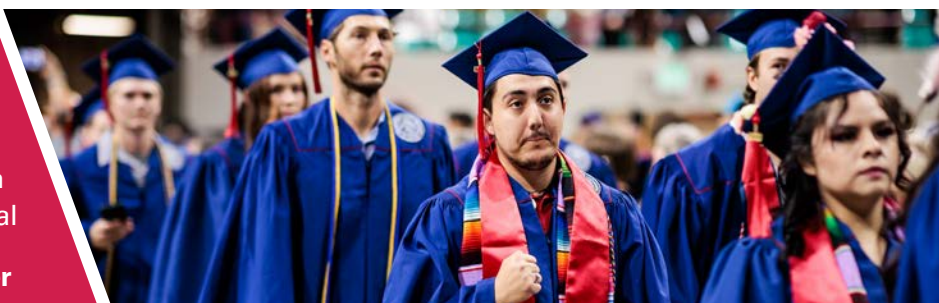


MAJOR/MINOR We offer a B.A. or a B.F.A. in Art, a B.F.A. in Communication Design, a B.F.A. in Art Education, or a B.A. in Art History, Theory, and Criticism. You can also do a minor in Studio Art, Art History, Theory, and Criticism, or Digital Media.

STUDENT QUOTE

"MSU Denver strives to make its education relevant, and the Art Department realizes that vision and produces artists who can step from their academic practice right into a professional one."

—Heather Doyle-Maier



CONTACT US

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ART | Bachelor of Fine Arts

Experiential Major Map



MSU[™] COLLEGE OF LETTERS,
ARTS AND SCIENCES

First Year Middle Years Last Year

Cultivate Learning & Academic Excellence

- Take your Foundations classes in ART/ARTH
- Meet with your Faculty advisor
- Attend open studio hours

- Take courses in a variety of media at the beginning and intermediate levels
- Take Integrated Media courses
- Apply to the B.F.A. degree

- Build your body of artwork in preparation for the Senior Thesis exhibition at the Center for Visual Art
- Enroll in ARTH 4080 and relate it to your senior thesis artwork

Engage Globally and Locally

- Join a student organization
- Go to an exhibition at the Center for Visual Art
- Research study abroad opportunities

- Participate in a Department of Art study abroad opportunity
- Attend a conference in your discipline with one of the student organizations

- Apply to the Undergraduate Research Symposium
- Consider a Studio Assistantship
- Research Artist's Residencies for after graduation

Prepare for Postgraduation Success

- Attend a Visiting Artist event and hear about the career paths of professional artists
- Build your resume through volunteering or working in the Department of Art

- Take the Professional Practices courses and learn about how to apply for professional opportunities
- Apply for on or off-campus arts-related jobs, including at the CVA

- Attend other students' thesis exhibitions
- If considering graduate school, discuss options with your faculty advisor
- Develop a website for your artwork

Employment in Art is projected to grow by 6.2 percent from 2024 to 2026.

Academic Success Checklist

- ☐ Discover library resources
- ☐ Book an appointment with your academic advisor
- ☐ Visit the writing and tutoring center
- ☐ Complete FASFA and academic scholarship applications

Career Development Checklist

- ☐ Update your resume early & often
- ☐ Drop into the C2 Hub's Career Lab
- ☐ Secure an internship or career aligned part time job to develop essential skills for graduation

Career Information

What skills do employers want?

- Art handling and familiarity with a variety of artistic media
- Ability to work collaboratively on a team
- Knowledge and familiarity with contemporary and historical art and processes
- Strong oral and written communication skills

This major gives me the skills to:

- Conceive and implement creative projects from beginning to end
- Fabricate and install artworks in a variety of media
- Convey cultural and aesthetic ideas in visual and verbal form, work on a team to implement creative projects

What careers can I pursue?

- Independent artist
- Artist's assistant
- Exhibition preparator/installer
- Gallery Assistant
- Arts Administrator
- Muralist

