

# STUDIO ART - M.F.A.

## College of the Arts

School of Art  
241 Center for the Visual Arts  
Kent Campus  
330-672-2192  
artinfo@kent.edu  
www.kent.edu/art

## Description

The Master of Fine Art degree in Studio Art is designed to prepare students for careers as independent visual arts through the cultivation and refinement of a successful studio practice. The program emphasizes intensive personal investigation and the development of strong aesthetic and conceptual understanding. In addition to time in their own studio, students have opportunities to enhance existing skills and knowledge by observing undergraduate class demonstrations and critiques.

The M.F.A. is the terminal degree in the studio arts and is a requirement for those who intend to teach visual arts in higher education.

The Studio Art major comprises the following concentrations:

- The **Ceramics** concentration offers an intense focus on artistic development. Through mentorship and a broad spectrum of course offerings, students work closely with faculty advisors to find their own voice as artists. Studio practice is supplemented with art history seminars, visiting artist lectures, summer workshops and travel study programs to New York City, culminating in a solo M.F.A. thesis exhibition.
- The **Drawing** concentration draws upon contemporary practices and discourse in the field to prepare students for a life in the arts. Students are encouraged to work across disciplines and techniques in order to develop a body of work that reflects their independent investigations in drawing. Studio practice is supplemented with art history seminars, visiting artist lectures, summer workshops and travel study programs to New York City, culminating in a solo M.F.A. thesis exhibition.
- The **Glass** concentration is based on the belief that successful creative work results from spending time with one's ideas and receiving constructive and supportive criticism from faculty and peers. The concentration aims to create an atmosphere where students pursue ideas and engage in an extended scholarly dialogue. While building on the legacy of the American Studio Glass Movement, students are fostered to be leaders in redefining the future of studio glassmaking.
- The **Jewelry, Metals and Enameling** concentration allows students to build individual research strategies for developing a coherent and distinctive body of work. Investigations of inter-media and interdisciplinary relationships are part of the curricular focus. Students are expected to be conscious of and involved in contemporary practices, discourse and trends, nationally and globally, among the field and within the larger arts/crafts/design movements. In addition to time in their own studio, students have opportunities to enhance existing skills and knowledge by observing undergraduate class demonstrations and critiques. Students are encouraged to use both traditional and contemporary
- studio practices while having access to an array of metalsmithing equipment, enameling kilns and a digital fabrication laboratory..
- The **Painting** concentration draws upon contemporary practices and discourse in the field to prepare students for a life in the arts. Students are encouraged to work across disciplines and techniques in order to develop a body of work that reflects their independent investigations in painting. Studio practice is supplemented with art history seminars, visiting artist lectures, summer workshops and travel study programs to New York City, culminating in a solo M.F.A. thesis exhibition.
- The **Print Media and Photography** concentration aims to strengthen the students' personal vision through emphasis on the conceptual aspects of the printmaking and photography disciplines. Students have access to studios for lithography, etching, relief, silkscreen and digital media, in addition to a darkroom, press room and digital fabrication laboratory. Enrollment is deliberately kept small enough to make possible the faculty mentor/student relationship.
- The **Sculpture and Expanded Media** concentration encourages proficiency in foundational methods of making-modeling, carving and assembly. The concentration is a springboard for students to learn how to communicate ideas through sculptural works. Although sculpture classes are rooted in the history of object-making new forms of sculptural practice (installation, time-based practice, sound and kinetic works) are all part of a comprehensive three-dimensional program.
- The **Textiles** concentration focus on guiding young artists into the world of the professionally active studio artist. Digital design and technology go hand-in-hand with traditional fiber art techniques, while pushing students to think conceptually, experimentally and across disciplines.

## Fully Offered At:

- Kent Campus

## Accreditation

National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)

## Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university for unconditional admission
- Minimum 3.000 undergraduate GPA on a 4.000 point scale for unconditional admission
- Official transcript(s)
- Curriculum vitae
- Goal statement
- Artist statement (250-500 words)
- Portfolio
- Three letters of recommendation
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning one of the following:
  - Minimum 550 TOEFL PBT score (paper-based version)
  - Minimum 79 TOEFL IBT score (Internet-based version)
  - Minimum 77 MELAB score

- Minimum 6.5 IELTS score
- Minimum 58 PTE score

For more information about graduate admissions, please visit the Graduate Studies admission website. For more information on international admission, visit the Office of Global Education's admission website.

## Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the program will be able to:

1. Demonstrate advanced professional competence in some aspect of studio art as exemplified by considerable depth of knowledge and achievement of a significant body of work.
2. Demonstrate a deep and comprehensive awareness of historical and cultural contents of art production.
3. Demonstrate advanced skills of aesthetic judgement and assessment, as well as integration/synthesis and independent thought.
4. Demonstrate an awareness of contemporary art making and relevant issues through dialogues with professional artists and curators.

## Program Requirements

### Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
ARTS 64000	GRADUATE SEMINAR I: STUDIO ART	3
ART 69199	M.F.A. THESIS I <sup>3</sup>	6
Art History (ARTH) Electives		9
Studio Art (ARTS) Electives <sup>1</sup>		9
General Electives <sup>2</sup>		6
<b>Concentration Requirements</b>		
Choose from the following: <sup>4</sup>		27
Ceramics		
Drawing		
Glass		
Jewelry, Metals and Enameling		
Painting		
Print Media and Photography		
Sculpture and Expanded Media		
Textiles		
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		60

<sup>1</sup> Students may take studio art electives through graduate studio, cross-discipline, seminar-style courses, travel study and/or independent study outside of their declared concentration. Maximum 6 credit hours of travel study courses may be applied toward the M.F.A. degree. Maximum 42 credit hours of graduate studio courses may be applied toward the M.F.A. degree from the Studio Arts Electives, General Electives and Concentration Electives.

<sup>2</sup> Students may take elective courses outside the School of Art. Maximum 42 credit hours of graduate studio courses may be applied toward the M.F.A. degree from the Studio Arts Electives, General Electives and Concentration Electives.

<sup>3</sup> Students' thesis may comprise an installation or a series of collective works, in addition to a written thesis. The written thesis must document and substantiate the visual works through historical context, process or other theoretical premises. Students must present an oral defense of the works to a faculty committee, in addition to mounting the installation and preparing the written thesis.

<sup>4</sup> For the declared concentration, students complete graduate studio courses and/or travel study. Maximum 6 credit hours for travel study courses may be applied toward the M.F.A. degree. Maximum 42 credit hours of graduate studio courses may be applied toward the M.F.A. degree from the Studio Arts Electives, General Electives and Concentration Electives.

---

### Candidacy Examination

Successful completion of the candidacy review examination is a requirement in every School of Art graduate program. In the studio majors, it is scheduled after half of the program has been completed. Successful completion of the examination designates the student as a candidate for the degree.