

ART HISTORY, B.A.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Program Description

The art history major is designed to provide students with a dynamic and comprehensive education in the history of art. The histories of diverse forms of visual culture - including painting, sculpture, architecture, design, the graphic arts, and the decorative arts - are examined in relation to their social and cultural contexts. Students who pursue the Bachelor of Arts in art history will acquire a thorough humanistic education that involves writing, speaking, and participating in group discussions, as well as developing a facility in at least one foreign language. Majors are also encouraged to pursue a study abroad experience.

The major provides students with an excellent liberal arts background and prepares them for a range of career paths as well as for graduate study in art history. With a B.A. in art history, graduates have found employment in museums, galleries, publishing, arts agencies, visual resources, archives/libraries, archaeology, historic preservation, and historic sites. Teaching at the college level or working in a museum (as a curator, educator, director, etc.) typically require graduate degrees.

What is Art History?

Art history is the exploration of art and architecture from pre-historic to contemporary times, in Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa, and Oceania. It's museum studies, historiography, iconography, art criticism, connoisseurship, and research. It's studying aesthetics, and the context, form, and social significance of art throughout time and place. Art history relates visual images back to questions of religion, politics, society, gender, economics, philosophy, and culture.

You Might Like this Program If...

- Art, architecture, and/or other visual material makes your mind light up with questions such as "Who? Where? When? Why? How?"
- If you are excited by the possibility of making a career out working with significant cultural objects and applying your critical insight.