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Mission Statement of the Art History Program

The Art History Program at Villanova provides students with the tools to understand, interpret, and evaluate art from the perspectives of different societies across time. In doing so, the program encourages students to approach art not only as the production of cultural artifacts that record and reflect particular aspects of the human experience, but also as a dynamic force that has shaped, and continues to shape, the complex interaction of social, political and economic processes both in the past and in the present day.

A key strength of the program is its multi-disciplinary focus. Building upon their own expertise in the history of art, our faculty members incorporate the latest theories and ideas from a variety of disciplines, such as literature, gender studies, and philosophy, in order to place art history in a broader scholarly context, and to emphasize the relevance of art history in contemporary academic research. As a result, our students engage a variety of approaches and methodologies, from iconography, formalism, and social history, to deconstruction, feminism, and visual culture.

In harmony with the university’s Augustinian mission and unique identity, the Art History Program emphasizes the benefits of a broader, liberal arts education. More particularly, art history students can expect to leave Villanova as “sophisticated viewers,” having obtained vital skills that will help them become critical consumers of the visual imagery that is all around us in today’s world.
Why Major in Art History?

The art history major at Villanova is an interdisciplinary program that exposes students to works of art and other visual productions, both past and present, and helps to prepare students for future challenges.

Art history fosters a better understanding of how art communicates historically and in the present. Art History faculty members are dedicated to creating an exciting, challenging, and rewarding academic experience, helping to prepare our students for future challenges. Art history courses at Villanova contain a strong theoretical component that emphasizes the philosophical, social, political, and economic contexts that shaped the production of art in different times and places. The major also provides opportunities for travel and study abroad and fosters cross-cultural understanding.

A graduate who has obtained the necessary skills to become a sophisticated viewer of visual culture will have a distinct advantage in today’s world where the relentless proliferation of images has an ever-increasing influence on our cultural, economic, and political lives, from art to advertising, and from film to fashion. By learning how to assess and read images through analysis and interpretation, students will leave Villanova as critical members of contemporary visual society.

Finally, Art history provides students with career opportunities in a wide range of fields and occupations connected to art, including journalism, law, education, and exhibition design. Careers available to
Art History majors also include museum curator, professor of art history, gallery director, appraiser, auctioneer, conservationist or restoration expert, librarian, archivist, and art critic. Our graduates have gone on to work in auction houses such as Sotheby’s and Christie’s; to work as writers or editors for publications such as Arts Magazine; to continue their art historical studies in graduate programs of repute; and to work for museums as well known as the Renwick Gallery, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine arts.

**Full-Time Art History Faculty**

Mark Sullivan, Ph.D., 1981, Bryn Mawr College. American Art and Architecture, History of Portraiture. *Associate Professor*

Mark.Sullivan@villanova.edu

Timothy McCall, Ph.D., 2005, University of Michigan. Late Medieval and Renaissance Italian Art; European Court Culture. *Associate Professor*

Timothy.McCall@villanova.edu

**Adjunct and Affiliated Art History Faculty**

Tina Bizzarro, Ph.D.  
Jeanne Brody, Ph.D.  
Margaret Grubiak, Ph.D.  
Kim Nastick, Ph.D.
The Art History Major

The major provides a broad, solid liberal arts education with courses that span the history of art from the temples of antiquity to the latest trends in New York’s Soho. Two particularly important features of the art history major are the cross-cultural sweep of the curriculum, and the opportunity to write a major work of original research and analysis in one’s senior year.

Art History majors must complete 33 credits (or 11 courses). Any art history course offered by the Honors Program will be considered as fulfilling requirements toward the B.A in Art History.

Students interested in the Art History major should meet with the chairperson of the History Department.

Dr. Marc Gallicchio, Chair
History Department
SAC 403
610-519-4660
**Requirements for Major**

Art History majors must complete all seven of the following:

- AAH 1101 Ancient to Medieval Survey
- AAH 1102 Renaissance to Modern Survey
- Three courses pre-1700:
  - 2000/2001/2002/2003/2012/3007 & topics or seminars
- Two courses post-1700:
- 4010 Interpreting Art, Methodology Seminar
- 5010 Research and Writing, Senior Seminar

**PLUS**

- One course related to art history in another discipline (either Studio Art; Artifacts in History 2309, or other Material Culture course; Chemistry and Art 1058 or Science of Art MSE 2303; Philosophy of Art 2075); or, alternatively, a team-taught interdisciplinary course with one Art History faculty member (GIS; History; etc.).
- One Upper Level Art History Elective – from AAH 2000 to AAH 4999
Requirements for Minor

Students seeking a minor in Art History are required to earn 18 credits (or 6 courses), with at least 15 credit hours in Art History and 3 credit hours in Studio Art. Six of the Art History credits MUST BE the two survey courses, AAH 1101 and AAH 1102. Note: At least 3 of the 6 required courses must be taken at Villanova University.

Art History minors must complete the following:

- AAH 1101 Ancient to Medieval Survey or 1102 Renaissance to Modern Survey
- Three other Art History courses
- 4010 Interpreting Art, Methodology Seminar (or other upper level seminar or topics course)

One of the art history courses could be substituted for one course related to art history in another discipline (either Studio Art; Artifacts in History 2309, or other Material Culture course; Chemistry and Art 1058 or Science of Art MSE 2303; Philosophy of Art 2075); or, alternatively, a team-taught interdisciplinary course with one Art History faculty member (GIS; History; etc.).
Art History Internships and Study Abroad

Students majoring or minoring in art history also have the opportunity to do internships at nearby museums, auction houses, or historical sites. Recently Art History majors have done internships at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Penn Academy of Fine Arts, Sotheby’s and Christie’s.