Visual Studies

Lee Ann Garrison, Director  
School of Visual Studies, College of Arts and Science  
102 Swallow Hall  
(573) 882-7547  
http://visualstudies.missouri.edu

Artist faculty whose engagement of traditional studio production blends with digital technologies to engage students for advanced professional art careers and provides teaching experience to those interested in teaching at the college level. The structure of our MFA curriculum allows students direct access to faculty whose engagement of traditional studio production blends with digital technologies to engage students for advanced professional art careers and provides teaching experience to those interested in teaching at the college level.

**Faculty**


Curators Teaching Professor: D. Huelsbergen*


Assistant Teaching Professor: K. Bilal, E.J. Hornbeck, M.G. Langenecker, D. Moore

Teaching Professor: M. Ballou

Visiting Assistant Teaching Professors: N. Potter, A. Wehrwein

Professor Emerita: R.F. Cook, J. Stealey*

* Graduate Faculty Member - membership is required to teach graduate-level courses, chair master's thesis committees, and serve on doctoral examination and dissertation committees.

** Doctoral Faculty Member - membership is required to chair doctoral examination or dissertation committees. Graduate faculty membership is a prerequisite for Doctoral faculty membership.

**Undergraduate**

For undergraduate degree programs within the School of Visual Studies please refer to the Art (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/art/#text), Art History (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/arthistory/), Digital Storytelling (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/digitalstorytelling/), Film Studies (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/filmstudies/) program pages.

**Graduate**

- MA in Visual Studies (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/visualstudies/ma-visual-studies/)
- MFA in Visual Studies (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/visualstudies/mfa-visual-studies/)
- PhD in Visual Studies (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/visualstudies/phd-visual-studies/)

The School of Visual Studies also offers a Graduate minor in Museum Studies (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/additional-minors-certifications/graduate-minor-museum-studies/).

**Degrees Offered**

**MFA in Visual Studies**

The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Visual Studies is a three-year, 60 credit, interdisciplinary, thesis-driven program that focuses on the creative goals of the individual. We guide all MFA students to find and develop a direction and language as they create a coherent and conceptually unified body of artwork.

Through an intense studio-based practice, our MFA program prepares students for advanced professional art careers and provides teaching experience to those interested in teaching at the college level. The structure of our MFA curriculum allows students direct access to faculty whose engagement of traditional studio production blends with digital technologies to engage students for advanced professional art careers and provides teaching experience to those interested in teaching at the college level.
contemporary approaches. The program supports student movement between media areas as needed to tailor a student’s experience to the goals of their creative research. Additionally, the department supports consistent integration of contemporary and historical theories of art as appropriate to each student’s individual studio practice.

MA & PhD in Visual Studies with a concentration in History, Theory, and Criticism

The MA and PhD programs in Visual Studies blend disciplinary training in the history of art, material culture, and media studies with a commitment to public humanities. The MA and PhD programs combine coursework; outreach, research, and teaching opportunities; and interdisciplinary collaboration with other professional programs, to provide students for careers in educational institutions, cultural organizations, and the broader creative economy.

The graduate program is designed around three distinct but interrelated curricular goals. First, the graduate program provides students with a breadth of knowledge about the history of fine art, material culture, and new media, as well as the opportunity to develop a depth of knowledge in a particular field of study. Second, the graduate program provides a hands-on approach to the study of visual and material culture that emphasizes reflexive scholarships: learning that allows research and practice to inform one another. Students work closely with original objects, historical archives, and collections through our associations with (among others): the MU Museum of Art and Archaeology, MU Museum of Anthropology, Ellis Library Special Collections, Center for Missouri Studies, and local art galleries and arts organizations. Third, the graduate program enhances career readiness through its collaboration with other departments, programs, and schools.

The school participates in interdisciplinary graduate minors in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Museum Studies, and Women’s and Gender Studies.

Funding: Internal and External

The School of Visual Studies offers teaching assistantships in introductory and upper-level courses; research assistantships; and scholarships and fellowships for research and travel. It also participates in university-wide fellowship programs. Incoming students are considered for funding when they apply, and returning students submit applications for continued funding in the spring semester. The program follows the rules set by the Graduate School regarding tuition waiver limits.

Generally, the School of Visual Studies offers .5 FTE (full time equivalent) assistantships that require approximately 20 hours of work per week. These provide a nine-month stipend; a tuition waiver that covers resident educational and non-resident fees; and a 50% medical insurance subsidy if students enroll in the “Student Accident and Sickness Insurance” program.

The School of Visual Studies awards a number of fellowships to advanced students in the area of history, theory, and criticism, including the Herbert Schooling Fellowship and the John Pickard Fellowship. It also offers a number of travel awards, including the Edzard Baumann Traveling Fellowship in European Art; Irina Hans Fellowship in Art History; and the Osmund Overby Fund for research in American art, architecture, and historic preservation. Students interested in these awards should contact the director of graduate studies and their advisors for application instructions.

In the MFA program, the School of Visual Studies awards several scholarships and fellowships, including the Donald L. Bartlett Scholarship Fellowship, the Ann Stevens Hoffman Memorial, the Dorothy L. Rollins Memorial Scholarship, and the Verna Wulfekammer Art Fellowship.

The School of Visual Studies participates in the major fellowship programs sponsored by the University of Missouri Graduate School. Nominations for these campus-wise competitions are completed by the director of graduate studies in consultation with the entire faculty after students are admitted to the programs. Students in the School of Visual Studies have held a number of these awards, including the G. Ellsworth Huggins Scholarship, the Gus T. Ridgel Fellowship, and the Robert E. Waterston Award. Graduate students are also eligible for awards from The Graduate Professional Council (GPC) and the Graduate Student Association (GSA).

The School of Visual Studies encourages graduate students to apply for internships, study abroad programs, grants, residencies, and fellowships that support their programs of study.