From the Chair

The Visual Arts MFA Program at Columbia University School of the Arts attracts emerging artists of unusual promise from around the world. They comprise a vibrant community studying with an exceptional faculty at a renowned research institution in the global center that is New York City. Upon graduating, our students join a diverse and welcoming circle of distinguished alumni.

Led by a passionate faculty of internationally recognized artists, Columbia University’s Visual Arts Program at the School of the Arts is committed to creative inquiry within an interdisciplinary learning environment. MFA candidates are encouraged to explore a wide range of media while developing advanced skills with which to articulate their singular visions. These media include drawing, installation, painting, performance, photography, printmaking, sculpture and video, each understood in its broadest contemporary terms. Our student/teacher ratio of five-to-one affords each MFA candidate valuable time with full-time faculty and allows the program to respond to individual interests and needs. Students participate in a multifaceted curriculum, meeting with critics and artists, looking at each other’s work, visiting established artists in their studios, working intensely with artist-mentors, and taking elective offerings in other departments across the University. Students gain teaching experience and contribute their own expertise to Columbia’s undergraduate arts program through teaching assistantships.

We foster a strong creative community founded on collaboration, shared experience and dialogue. Our students are committed artists asking challenging questions about the state of art-making in contemporary society. I encourage you to visit us and meet current students at our fall-semester information session and open studios, or by scheduling a tour for prospective students via our website at arts.columbia.edu/tours.

Matthew Buckingham, Chair
Yola Monakhov Stockton, *Of how terrible orange is*, 2010

Digital C-Print, 30” x 40”
Full-time Faculty

Matthew Buckingham, Chair  Thomas Roma
Gregory Amenoff  Shelly Silver
Sanford Biggers  Sarah Sze
Jon Kessler  Rirkrit Tiravanija
Nicola López  Tomas Vu-Daniel
Miya Masaoka  For a list of adjunct faculty see
Leeza Meksin  arts.columbia.edu/visual-arts-brochure.
Aliza Nisenbaum

Artist-Mentor Program

First- and second-year MFA candidates are assigned two artist-mentors with whom they work on- and off-campus for one week each semester of the program. Recent mentors have included:

Gregg Bordowitz  Suzanne McClelland
Mark Dion  Josiah McElheny
Keltie Ferris  Judy Pfaff
David Humphrey  Matthew Ritchie
Michael Joo  A. L. Steiner
Ralph Lemon  Rona Yefman

Recent Visiting Artists and Critics

Marina Abramovic  Nancy Holt  Genesis P-Orridge
Hilton Als  Pierre Huyghe  Cai Quo-Qiang
Sadie Benning  Chrissie Iles  Yvonne Rainer
Huma Bhabha  Glenn Ligon  Yasmil Raymond
Kerstin Brätsch  Simone Leigh  Dr. Oliver Sacks
Elinor Carucci  Tom Kalin  Dana Schutz
Paul Chan  Sharon Lockhart  Kaja Silverman
Trisha Donnelly  Yoko Ono  Gayatri Chakravorty
Nicole Eisenman  Gabriel Orozco  Spivak
Okwui Enwezor  Clifford Owens  Wolfgang Tillmans
Omer Fast  Trevor Paglen  Charline von Heyl
Sharon Hayes  Sheila Pepe
Barbara Hammer  Lari Pittman
Georgia Sagri, *Tsa!*, 2014
Performance and installation including
*Tsa!* performance script; *Snout is Wall and Wall is Snout*, 2014, photo wallpaper on plaster wall, metal, coat hooks. 450 x 900 cm. *Copypaste*, 2014, overall (print on fabric) 150 x 90 cm.
Oil on linen, 30” x 40” (detail)
Curriculum

Course of Study: First Year

Graduate Studio, I and II

Visiting Artist Lecture Series, I and II

Studio Practice and Criticism, I and II

Critical Issues in Art, I and II

First-Year Exhibition

The first year of study culminates in a curated exhibition mounted in the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery.

Course of Study: Second Year

Graduate Studio, III and IV

Visiting Artist Lecture Series, III and IV

Studio Practice and Criticism, III and IV

Critical Issues in Art, III and IV

Thesis Project

Thesis Exhibition

The second year of study culminates in a curated exhibition mounted in the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery.

In collaboration with the Department of Music and the Computer Music Center, the School of the Arts also offers a multidisciplinary program in Sound Arts.

For more information, visit arts.columbia.edu/sound-arts.
Selected Alumni

Derrick Adams
Shadi Habib Allah
David Altmejd
Kamrooz Aram
Julieta Aranda
Uri Aran
Korakrit
  Arunanondchai
Guy Ben-Ner
Tamy Ben-Tor
Huma Bhabha
Dineo Bopape
Kerstin Braetsch
Matthew Brannon
Caitlin Cherry
Yve Laris Cohen
Ann Craven
Sue de Beer
Francesca DiMattio
Karel Funk
Barnaby Furnas
Chitra Ganesh
Tim Gardner
Gandalf Gavan
Josephine Halvorson
Marc Handelman
Tim Hyde
Jamie Isenstein
Iman Issa
Anya Kieler
Matt Keegan
Fabienne Lasserre
Liz Magic Laser
Leigh Ledare
Tom McGrath
Elizabeth Neel
Kambui Olujimi
Alyssa Pheobus
Sondra Perry
Eileen Quinlan
Lisi Raskin
Gilad Ratman
Rachel Rose
Mika Rottenberg
Heather Rowe
Georgia Sagri
Aki Sasamoto
Dana Schutz
Dasha Shishkin
Gedi Sibony
Gregory Parma
Smith
Yola Monakhov
Stockton
Mika Tajima
Alison Elizabeth
Taylor
Naama Tsabar
Banks Violette
Garth Weiser
Paula Wilson
Rona Yefman
Kevin Zucker

Financial Aid

Visual Arts students with documented financial need receive financial support from the School of the Arts. Offers of support include a combination of tuition scholarships, teaching assistantships and paid service positions. In addition, the School of the Arts works closely with students to explore other options including federal work-study, loans, on- and off-campus employment, and outside scholarships and grants.

Application

The School welcomes applications for the fall semester of each year.

Visit arts.columbia.edu/apply for application information. Please note specific guidelines for international students, including visa information.
David Altmejd, *Untitled*, 2011
Epoxy resin, foam, plaster, glass eyes, artificial hair, artificial eyelashes, quartz, assorted minerals, acrylic paint
37-3/8" H x 6-5/8" W x 8-1/2" D (detail)
Paula Wilson, *Remodeled*, 2007
Relief woodcut, offset lithography and silkscreen with collaged elements and hand coloring, 19-1/2" x 25-3/4" (detail)
About the School

Columbia University School of the Arts awards the Master of Fine Arts degree in Film, Theatre, Visual Arts and Writing and the Master of Arts degree in Film Studies. It also offers an interdisciplinary program in Sound Arts. The School is a thriving, diverse community of talented, visionary and committed artists from around the world with a faculty comprised of acclaimed and internationally renowned artists, film, theatre and television directors, writers of poetry, fiction and nonfiction, playwrights, producers, critics and scholars. In 2015, the School marked the 50th anniversary of its founding. In 2017, the School opens the Lenfest Center for the Arts, a multi-arts venue designed as a hub for the presentation and creation of art across disciplines on the University’s new Manhattanville campus. The Lenfest will host exhibitions, performances, screenings, symposia, readings, and lectures that present new, global voices and perspectives, as well as an exciting, publicly accessible home for Columbia’s Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery.

Visit arts.columbia.edu/visual-arts-brochure for application requirements and financial aid information.