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
Gregory Amenoff
Sanford Biggers
Gabo Camnitzer (2018-19)
Dana DeGiulio (2018-19)
Katie Hubbard (2018-19)
Jon Kessler

Nicola Lopez
Miya Masaoka
Leeza Meksin
Aliza Nisenbaum
Shelly Silver
Sarah Sze
Rirkrit Tiravanija
Tomas Vu-Daniel

For a list of adjunct faculty see arts.columbia.edu/visual-arts-brochure.

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:

Mark Dion
David Humphrey
Michael Joo
Ralph Lemon
Suzanne McClelland

Matthew Ritchie
Kiki Smith / Craig Zammiello
Sable Elyse Smith
Rona Yefman

Recent Visiting Artists and Critics

Marina Abramovic
Hilton Als
Sadie Benning
Huma Bhabha
Kerstin Brätsch
Elinor Carucci
Paul Chan
Trisha Donnelly
Nicole Eisenman
Okwui Enwezor
Omer Fast
Sharon Hayes
Barbara Hammer

Nancy Holt
Pierre Huyghe
Chrissie Iles
Glenn Ligon
Simone Leigh
Tom Kalin
Sharon Lockhart
Yoko Ono
Gabriel Orozco
Clifford Owens
Trevor Paglen
Sheila Pepe
Lari Pittman

Genesis P-Orridge
Cai Quo-Qiang
Yvonne Rainer
Yasmil Raymond
Dr. Oliver Sacks
Dana Schutz
Kaja Silverman
Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak
Wolfgang Tillmans
Charline von Heyl
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.
In collaboration with the Department of Music and the Computer Music Center, the School of the Arts also offers a multidisciplinary program in Sound Art. For more information, visit arts.columbia.edu/sound-art.
Curriculum

Course of Study: First Year

- Graduate Studio: Research and Practice, I and II
- Group Critique, I and II
- Artist Mentorship, I and II
- Visiting Artist Lecture Series, 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: Research and Practice, III and IV
- Group Critique, III and IV
- Artist Mentorship, III and IV
- Visiting Artist Lecture Series, 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.

Visual Arts Electives include:
Critical Issues: Methodology
Critical Issues: Genealogy
Critical Issues: Idioms
Critical Issues: Language
Visual Art Lab
Professional Practice
Discipline-Based Seminar Classes

Critical Thinking elective requirements may be fulfilled by Visual Arts electives or electives in other Columbia University departments, including Art History, Anthropology, Literature, Film, History, Humanities, Philosophy, Sociology, Women’s Studies, among others.

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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 and Media Studies; it also offers an interdisciplinary program in Sound Art. The School is a thriving, diverse community of talented, visionary, and committed artists from around the world and a faculty comprised of acclaimed and internationally renowned artists, film and theatre 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 opened 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 hosts 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.