FIND YOUR PLACE

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
Columbia University School of the Arts is an innovative graduate professional school with a tradition of risk-taking, grounded in a deeply intellectual Ivy League university and energized by our location in New York City—one of the great cultural capitals of the world. The study and practice of art-making at the School is an immersive, constantly evolving process. Aspiring, emerging, or established, our filmmakers, writers, theatre practitioners, and visual artists grow individually through intensive engagement with their craft and lively, profound exchanges of ideas and work.

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.

Columbia University is a diverse academic community of more than 40,000 students, faculty, and staff from across the nation and the world, living and learning on dynamic campuses in a great, global city.
Columbia University School of the Arts offers students the opportunity to go to film school at one of the world’s great universities, with a faculty of working professionals esteemed in both Hollywood and the independent film community. Our home is New York City, one of the creative capitals of the world, affording access to exceptional talent pools and locations, major research collections, and the opportunity to see films from every country and era at venues dedicated to film culture. Our degree programs are populated by top students from around the world, and our curriculum fosters cutting-edge creativity, intellectual rigor, and hands-on practicality.

The Film MFA program is among the world’s premiere training grounds for emerging filmmakers, renowned for the global success of its alumni in film and television, including top prizes at Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Berlin, and the Academy Awards. The Film and Media Studies MA program gives students a unique opportunity to study film history and theory in the midst of an active filmmaking community.

**MFA PROGRAMS**
- Screenwriting/Directing
- Creative Producing

**MA PROGRAM**
- Film and Media Studies

"My last film screened at around 70 festivals around the world. I couldn’t have made my film without the Program, and Columbia has given me so many opportunities moving forward. It’s life-changing for sure."

NELICIA LOW
SCREENWRITING/DIRECTING ‘18

Photo by Steven Van via Unsplash.
FACULTY
Bogdan Apetri
Rania Attieh
Ramin Bahrani
Nico Baumbach
Andy Bienen
Hilary Brougher, Chair
Ira Deutchman
Katherine Dieckmann
Trey Ellis
Jane M. Gaines
Bette Gordon
Ron Gregg
Annette Insdorf
Jamal Joseph
Tom Kalin
Rob King
David Klass
Christina Lazaridi
Jack Lechner
Eric Mendelsohn
Ian Olds
Richard Peña
Maureen A. Ryan
James Schamus
Blair Singer
June Stein
Lance Weiler

ALUMNI
Gina Atwater
Albert Berger
Kathryn Bigelow
Lisa Cholodenko
Robert Cristiano
Cherien Dabis
Moira Demos
Dina Emam
Kurt Enger
Nicole Holofcener
Rachel Israel
Annemarie Jacir
Phil Johnston
Jimmy Keyrouz
Bora Kim
Simon Kinberg
Andrew Stephen Lee
Jennifer Lee
James Mangold
Greg Mottola
Olivia Newman
Ben Odell
Madeleine Olnek
Kimberly Peirce
Mark Raso
Laura Ricciardi
Lisa Rubin
Saim Sadiq
Shrihari Sathe
Sandi Tan
Chris Teague
Suzi Yoonessi
Sameh Zoabi

FOR A LIST OF ADJUNCT FACULTY AND RECENT GUEST LECTURERS VISIT: arts.columbia.edu/film-faculty

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR ALUMNI: arts.columbia.edu/film-alumni

Photo by Jakob Owens via Unsplash.

Graduates from our MA program have gone on to doctoral research at Harvard University, New York University, Princeton University, University of California-Berkeley, UCLA, University of Chicago, University of Southern California, Yale, and Kings College, London, among many others. They have also pursued careers as film archivists, critics, festival and repertory theater programmers, and distributors.

FALL 2020 ADMISSION DEADLINES
Film MFA Program: December 3, 2019
Film and Media Studies MA Program: February 4, 2020

APPLY. ARTS.COLUMBIA.EDU
Columbia University's MFA Theatre Program is collaborative, international, and interdisciplinary. It defines itself by its location in New York City. It thrives on the extensive network of Columbia alumni and faculty who work in prestigious theatres at every level, who direct and perform in award-winning productions, and who engage with our students far beyond the classroom.

The Theatre MFA program seeks students who have the talent, vision, and commitment to become exceptional artists. At the School of the Arts, students interact with the leading creators, practitioners, producers, and analysts of today’s theatre, acquiring rigorous training rooted deeply in the classics, while exploring new forms and the cutting edge of theatrical art. The best theatre across all times and cultures has not only reflected, but has also shaped its society. At its best, theatre helps point society to its best future. Columbia’s MFA Theatre Program aims to train theatre artists to fulfill that important role in today’s society.

MFA PROGRAMS

> Acting
> Directing
> Dramaturgy
> Playwriting
> Stage Management
> Theatre Management & Producing
> Theatre JD/MFA

"You look at work that fires people up. And enrages people and excites people. And that’s the kind of work you get here at Columbia."

DAVID FIERRO
ACTING ’11

FALL 2020 ADMISSION DEADLINES
Theatre Directing: December 3, 2019
All other concentrations: January 7, 2020
>> APPLY.ARTS.COLUMBIA.EDU

FACULTY
Arnold Aronson
Anne Bogart
James Calleri
Steven Chaikelson
Peter Jay Fernandez
Liz Hayes
David Henry Hwang
David Klass
Brian Kulick, Chair
Sita Mani
Charles L. Mee
Lynn Nottage
Christian Parker
Michael J. Passaro
Blair Singer
Ron Van Lieu
Lance Weiler
W.B. Worthen

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arts.columbia.edu/theatre-faculty

ALUMNI
Ito Aghayere
Saheem Ali
David Wilson Barnes
Jocelyn Bich
Jeremy Blocker
Hamzaad Chaudry
Rachel Chavkin
Lauren Cipoletti
Carl Cofield
Clarence Coo
Kia Corthron
Nana Dakin
Kareem Fahmy
David Fierro
Michel Hausmann
Anchuli Felicia King
Yue Liu
Hal Luftig
K.K. Moggie
Anson Mount
Robert O’Hara
Diane Paulus
Tyne Rafaeli
Jay Scheib
Ken Rus Schmoll
Darko Tresnjak
Beau Willimon
Barbara Whitman
Rachel Zucker

>> FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR ALUMNI:
arts.columbia.edu/theatre-alumni

Blue Window, directed by Ken Rus Schmoll ’00, with a design team of Jay Scheib ’97, Amanda Marcotte ’16, Yuki Nakase, Kimie Nishikawa, Kirche Leigh Zeile, Elliot Davoren. Lighting by Yuki Nakase, Scenic Design by Kimie Nishikawa, Costume Design by Kasey Legg ’91, Sound Design by Seth Gerowitz. Photo by Carol Rosegg.
The Visual Arts Program attracts emerging artists of unusual promise from around the world. They join a vigorous community, working alongside an exceptional faculty at a world-renowned research institution in New York City.

The two-year studio program is interdisciplinary and offers an MFA degree in Visual Arts rather than in one specific medium. Taught by internationally celebrated artists, students pursue moving image, new genres, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture. Students have many opportunities to expand the depth and complexity of their studio practice as well as their ability to think critically in the context of contemporary art theory. To that end, students have regular studio visits with full-time and adjunct faculty, who offer critical insight into both the form and underlying ideas of students’ work. Students are encouraged to take electives outside of the program to develop a broad base of art history and theory upon which to build a solid and provocative studio practice.

For more information on the Visual Arts curriculum:  
[ARTS.COLUMBIA.EDU/VA-CURRICULUM](http://ARTS.COLUMBIA.EDU/VA-CURRICULUM)

The MFA Sound Art program, offered in association with the Visual Arts MFA Program, the Department of Music, and the Computer Music Center, allows students the opportunity to pursue creative work in a variety of genres and focus on the integration of sound with other media.

For more information on the Sound Art curriculum:  
[ARTS.COLUMBIA.EDU/SOUND-CURRICULUM](http://ARTS.COLUMBIA.EDU/SOUND-CURRICULUM)

“Columbia is truly an interdisciplinary program. It allows me to move across mediums with zero resistance, and unexpected trajectories emerge from this fluidity. The program also grants me access to other departments such as the natural sciences, philosophy, anthropology, and sociology. These classes have been crucial and informative for my practice.”

YIFAN JIANG  
VISUAL ARTS ’20

José Delgado Zúñiga with his piece *More Americans than gringos*, 2017, oil on canvas, 240” x 72”. Photo by Joel Jares.
The MFA Writing Program is highly regarded for its rigorous approach to literary instruction and for its faculty of acclaimed writers and editors who are devoted and dedicated teachers. The faculty, the students, and the curriculum represent and foster a full range of literary diversity. Students are encouraged to make the most of their own artistic instincts and to realize as fully as possible, beyond any perceived limitations, their potential as writers.

At the core of the curriculum is the writing workshop. All workshops are small, and students receive substantial written responses to their work. They also have regularly scheduled one-on-one conferences with faculty. The second-year thesis workshops are dedicated to shaping each student’s work into book form.

The Columbia Writing Program considers the study of literature from the practitioner’s point of view—reading as a writer—essential to a writer’s education. Every semester, students take a workshop and, on average, three craft-oriented seminars and/or lectures designed to illuminate, inform, clarify, augment, and inspire each student’s experience and practice as a writer.

MFA PROGRAMS
› Fiction
› Nonfiction
› Poetry

JOINT COURSE OF STUDY
› Literary Translation

“There’s no barrier between students and professor. And that’s an empowering feeling. I would say that it’s not just writing that changes here, it’s you as a person that’s going to change, so if you’re coming here, be ready for that.”

TALEEN MARDIROSSIAN
NONFICTION ’20

Photo by Joel Jare.
FALL 2020 ADMISSION DEADLINES
All concentrations: January 7, 2020
>> APPLY.ARTS.COLUMBIA.EDU

FACULTY
Hilton Als
Paul Beatty
Susan Bernofsky
Anelise Chen
Nicholas Christopher
Timothy Donnelly
Deborah Eisenberg
Richard Ford
Joshua Furst
Rivka Galchen
Lis Harris
Leslie Jamison
Margo Jefferson
Heidi Julavits
Binnie Kirshenbaum
Dorothea Lasky
Victor LaValle
Sam Lipsyte, Chair
Richard Locke
Phillip Lopate
Ben Marcus
Shane McCrae
Ben Metcalf
Orhan Pamuk
Deborah Paredez
Gary Shteyngart
Wendy S. Walters
Lynn Xu
Alan Ziegler

ALUMNI
Jonathan Ames
Hannah Assadi
Jesse Ball
Mary Jo Bang
Lucie Brock-Broido
Emma Cline
Henri Cole
Meghan Daum
Kiran Desai
Stephen Dubner
Philip Gourevitch
Eliza Griswold
Marie Howe
Mat Johnson
Alexandra Kleeman
Rachel Kushner
Stephen McCauley
Dinaw Mengestu
Susan Minot
Rick Moody
Sigríður Núñez
Gregory Pardlo
Julie Otsuka
Richard Price
Claudia Rankine
Karen Russell
Brenda Shaughnessy
Mona Simpson
Tracy K. Smith

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FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR ALUMNI:
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Photo by Joel Jares.
Members of our faculty have received the highest recognition in their fields, including Academy Awards, Tony Awards, MacArthur Foundation Fellowships, Guggenheim Fellowships, Pulitzer Prizes, National Book Awards, and the Nobel Prize for Literature. Our alumni also claim a record of astonishing success, measured not simply by awards and prizes, contracts and contacts, but by the quality and cultural significance of their artistic achievements.

Today, the School serves nearly 800 Master of Fine Arts students from 57 countries in the Film, Theatre, Visual Arts, and Writing programs, and 35 Master of Arts students in Film and Media Studies. The School’s faculty also teaches more than 1,627 undergraduate students in 120 courses offered each year.

We welcome your interest in and inquiries about the Columbia University School of the Arts community. You can reach the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid anytime at (212) 854-2134 or soaadmissions@columbia.edu.

CAROL BECKER
DEAN, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

From the Sundance Film Festival to the Venice Biennale, from the cover of the New York Times Book Review to Broadway, from America’s most established regional theaters to Europe and Asia’s renowned film and theatre festivals, the success of the School of the Arts faculty and alumni has never before been as prominent and celebrated.
Columbia University School of the Arts
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2960 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
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