

ART HISTORY

500 Diana Center
212-854-2118
212-854-8442 (fax)
email: arthistory@barnard.edu
Department Administrator: Elisabeth Sher

The Department of Art History

Mission

Art History, which is devoted to the study of all the visual arts, is one of the broadest fields in the humanities. It is concerned not only with the nature of works of art – their form, style, and content, but also with the social, political, and cultural circumstances that shape them.

The department, fortunate in being located in New York City, one of the world's great art centers, takes full advantage of the rich resources of the city's museums and galleries.

Introductory level courses encourage a basic and lifelong understanding and appreciation of works of art. The rest of the curriculum offers a more advanced and specialized knowledge of art, which can lead to many kinds of careers, including teaching, museum administration and curating, business positions in galleries or auction houses, publishing, criticism, collection advising, and conservation, as well as creative careers in any medium. Students in many fields may also find that art history is relevant to their studies.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who graduate with a major or minor in art history will be able to attain the following outcomes:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the social, political, and cultural circumstances surrounding the making and viewing works of art in a range of cultural traditions and time periods in a comparative way;
- Discuss the form, style, and content of a range of works of art;
- Recognize the methods and theories used to ask significant questions about works of art;
- Frame and execute their own research projects through the writing of papers, the production of art works or a combination of the two;
- Express themselves effectively orally, in writing, visually or materially;
- Study works of art in person.

Co-Chair, Art History: [Elisabeth Hutchinson](#)
Co-Chair and Director of Visual Arts Program: [Joan Snitzer](#)
Art History Professors
[Alexander Alberro](#) (on leave Fall 2023 and Spring 2024)
[Anne Higonnet](#)
[Jonathan Reynolds](#)
Art History Associate Professor
[Elisabeth Hutchinson](#)

Art History Assistant Professor
[Gregory Bryda](#)

Visual Arts Senior Lecturer
[Joan Snitzer](#)
Visual Arts Professor of Professional Practice
[John Miller](#)

Visual Arts Assistant Professor of Professional Practice
[Irena Haiduk](#)

Art History Term Professors

[Rosalyn Deutsche](#)
[Dorota Biczal](#)

Adjunct Professors

Annabel Dau
Mira Dayal
Adam Eaker
Piper Marshall

Valerie Smith

Kameelah Janan Rasheed
Lida Orzeck '68 Distinguished Artist in Residence for 2023
Renée Green

Art History and Visual Arts Department Administrator: [Elisabeth Sher](#)

Art History Major Requirements: Concentration in Art History

Requires a minimum of 12 Art History courses, including:

AHIS BC1001		4
AHIS BC1002		4
AHIS BC3970	(To be taken during the junior or senior year.)	4
AHIS BC3959 - AHIS BC3960 or AHIS BC3960	and *Please see notes below on one and two semester written senior thesis options.	3-6
Two Seminar Courses in Art History (may also be counted toward the historical and regional distribution requirement.)		
Seven elective courses *See below for elective requirements		

1. BC1001 (Fall) and BC1002 (Spring) Introduction to Art History. This two-course sequence is required.
2. BC3970 Methods and Theories of Art History. To be taken during the fall of senior year or by permission of instructor and major advisor.
3. BC3959x and/or BC3960y Senior Research Seminar. Students write their senior thesis in conjunction with the Senior Research Seminar. Students will develop, research, and write their thesis project in consultation with an individual faculty member in Art History. They will also attend and participate in group seminars convened during the academic year in which all students will present their work. Students who plan to study abroad during their senior year and those who expect to graduate early must begin the senior research seminar sequence in the second semester of the junior year.
4. Two Seminar Courses in Art History (may also be counted toward the historical and regional distribution requirement.)
5. Seven elective courses, with the following requirements: Lecture or seminars courses can be used to fulfill the seven elective requirements. BC1001 and 1002 or any other broad survey can not be

used to fulfill this requirement. Courses in film are accepted toward the major requirements; studio courses are not.

Students must take at least one course in three of four historical periods:

- Ancient (up to 400 CE/AD), 400-1400, 1400-1700, 1700-present
- *These chronological divisions are approximate. In case of ambiguities about the eligibility of a course to fill the requirement, please consult the department chair or your advisor.
- An additional two courses must also be drawn from at least TWO DIFFERENT world regions, as listed: Africa, Asia and the Indigenous Pacific, Latin America/Caribbean/Indigenous Americas, Middle East

- Courses in film are accepted toward the major requirements; studio courses are not.
- Broad survey courses can not be counted towards the temporal requirements but can count towards regional requirements.
- Recommended: One or two studio courses should be taken.

Students who plan to undertake graduate work should acquire a reading knowledge of at least two foreign languages in which major contributions to the history of art have been made. Most graduate schools require a reading knowledge of French, German, or Italian. The department strongly recommends a student’s taking one of these languages while at Barnard.

AP CREDIT AND THE ART HISTORY MAJOR AND MINOR

For students entering Barnard in Fall 2016 or after, an AP Art History score will not exempt students from either INTRO TO ART HISTORY I or II (AHIS BC1001 or AHIS BC1002).

Visit the Barnard Registrar’s AP Credit Information webpage for further details: <https://barnard.edu/transfer-credits>

ART HISTORY WRITTEN SENIOR THESIS

All Art History Majors with a concentration in Art History write a substantial research paper in their senior year. There are two options for fulfilling this requirement: Seniors have the option of doing a year-long thesis, or reworking and developing a seminar paper into a thesis through a one-semester participation in the Senior Thesis Seminar. The Senior Thesis Seminar would function for those interested in working on a thesis over the course of a year, but those deciding for the option of expanding a seminar paper would only join the course in the second semester. The intent is to offer an alternative to those with less interest in a major writing project.

WRITTEN SENIOR THESIS OPTIONS

- Students interested in participating in the year-long Senior Thesis Seminar should write a brief (one-page) description of their thesis topic and submit it to the appropriate adviser within the first two weeks of the fall semester. The potential adviser will determine the feasibility of the study in question and accept or decline to become the student’s adviser. Such a thesis should ultimately be approximately 30-50 pages long.
- Students interested in expanding and enhancing a seminar paper will find a faculty adviser, preferably the professor with whom they wrote the original paper, willing to help them in its transformation into a thesis. They will then join the Senior Thesis in the spring semester

of their senior year. In this context they will have an opportunity to present their ideas to the rest of the graduating class as well as members of the faculty so as to receive comments and suggestions as to how to develop their arguments. These created by these means should aim to be approximately 30 pages long.

GRADES

Two grades will be awarded in connection with your work on the finished thesis. One will evaluate the way in which you have fulfilled the requirements of the Senior Research Seminar. That is, your participation and attendance in the Thesis Colloquium, the energy you have put into the research, the effort you have made in producing an original and challenging argument as well as a solidly constructed and polished piece of prose. Since the course is yearlong, students will receive a grade of Y (indicating year long course) for the fall semester and will receive their grade at the end of the spring term for the year. This grade will be assigned in the usual A through F spectrum. The other grade will be awarded on the basis of the evaluation of the thesis itself. This evaluation will consider whether or not the aims of the project were met: was the research sufficient to warrant the conclusions, is the argument of the thesis original as well as coherent and convincing, was the writing adequate to the ideas that had to be expressed? Very often the instructor will ask another member of the faculty to comment on the paper as well. This grade will either be a Pass with Distinction, a Pass or a Fail.

NOTE ON SENIOR THESIS FOR DOUBLE AND COMBINED MAJORS
Please note the distinctions between the Double Major, the Double Major with a Single Essay, and the Combined Major. In the Double Major students will do all of the required course work for both majors and write two different Senior Essays that fulfill the requirements of each department. In the Double Major with Single Essay students do all of the required course work for the two majors and write only one essay read by an adviser in each major field. In the Combined Major students follow the requirements for coursework for a combined major and write a single senior essay also read by an adviser in each major field. To do a combine Art History and another major you will need to obtain a special form from the Dean of Studies office. The form needs to be signed by both department chairs. On the form you will need to list the sponsors from both departments along with the 6 courses from each major you plan to count towards the combine major. Any questions, please contact the Art History office.

Art History Major Requirements: Concentration in Visual Arts

Requires a minimum of 12 Art History courses (a minimum of 39 credits) including:

Seven Art History courses:		
AHIS BC1001		4
AHIS BC1002		4
AHIS BC3031		4
One course in 19th, 20th or 21st Century Art.		
One seminar in Art History.		
One additional Art History course.		
Five Studio courses:		
AHIS BC3530	(I (Fall semester))	4
AHIS BC3531	(II (spring semester))	4
Three additional Studio courses.		

1. BC1001 (Fall) and BC1002 (Spring) Introduction to Art History. This two-course sequence is required.

2. BC3031 Imagery and Form in the Arts (spring) Required course to be taken in the spring semester of the Junior or Senior year

3. Senior Visual Arts Thesis Project

Senior Art History Majors with a Concentration in Visual Arts will research and create a thesis project in consultation with faculty members and peers in the Visual Arts. They will also attend two semester-long courses, participate in group critiques, and guest artist lectures scheduled during the academic year. They will present visual art projects in two public group exhibitions planned at the end of the Fall and Spring semesters of the senior year.

The following Studio courses are required for the Senior Visual Art Thesis Project

BC3530 Advanced Senior Studio I (Fall)

BC3531 Advanced Senior Studio II (Spring) (Please see description of the senior thesis here).

4. One Seminar Course in Art History

5. One 19th, 20th or 21st-century elective course in Art History.

6. Two elective courses in Art History

7. Three elective courses in Visual Arts-Studio

*Courses in film can apply toward the major requirements.

*Studio courses cannot exceed 30 points of credits.

SENIOR THESIS PROJECT FOR ART HISTORY MAJORS WITH A CONCENTRATION IN VISUAL ARTS

The Senior Visual Arts Thesis Project for Art History Majors with a Concentration in Visual Arts is scheduled in the last year of the major. By that time, you will have taken Imagery and Form BC3031 and a variety of Art History and Studio courses, which may help form your approach to your thesis project.

Advanced Senior Studio I BC3530 (Fall) and Advanced Senior Studio II BC3531 (Spring) provides a two-semester framework in which to complete a senior project. Your senior project should be a cohesive body of work based on original concepts and executed with some technical proficiency. A paper approximately seven-to-ten pages in length will accompany your senior project outlining your artistic goals. This paper will serve as an artist's statement and should describe what your work would mean to viewers as well situate your work vis-a-vis artistic precedents.

You also will take part in a senior thesis exhibition, which will be accompanied by a catalog. Here, you will be responsible for both installing your work and for taking it down at the end of the show.

GRADES

Two grades will be awarded in connection with your work on the Senior Project. One will evaluate the way in which you have fulfilled the course requirements, that is, the regularity of your meetings and the effort you have made in completing your thesis. This grade will be a letter grade.

The second grade will be awarded on the basis of the evaluation of the Senior Project itself. This evaluation will consider whether or not the aims of the project were met: a pass with distinction, a pass or a fail.

OPTION FOR ART HISTORY AND VISUAL ARTS - WRITTEN SENIOR THESIS

Art History Majors with a Concentration in Visual Arts may choose to do a written Art History Senior Thesis instead of the Visual Arts Senior Project. To do this they must: Notify their adviser of their intention to do so by the end of their junior year with permission from both the Visual Arts Director and Art History chair. They must then take both Methods and Theories of Art History (BC3970) & the written Art History senior research seminar (BC3959 and BC3960). These three courses required for the written thesis option replace the Visual Arts sequence, BC3031 Imagery and Form in the Arts and Advanced Senior Studio I BC3530 (Fall) and Advanced Studio II BC3531 (Spring).

- Notify their adviser of their intention to do so by the end of their junior year

- Take both AHIS BC3970 and AHIS BC3959 + AHIS BC3960 .

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HISTORY AND THEORY OF ARCHITECTURE

See Architecture Program offerings.

ART HISTORY MINOR REQUIREMENTS

The minor in Art History consists of five courses, including BC1001, BC1002, and three courses in the following areas of which students must have at least one be Non-European

AHIS BC1001	4
AHIS BC1002	4

Three courses in the below areas, of which students must have at least one be Non-European.

European and American

- Ancient
- Medieval
- Renaissance
- Baroque
- Modern

Non-European

- Chinese
- Japanese
- Indian
- African

- Meso-American
- Native American

Cross-Listed Courses

Art History and Archaeology

Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures (Barnard)