

UBC Department of Art History, Visual Art & Theory

Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts

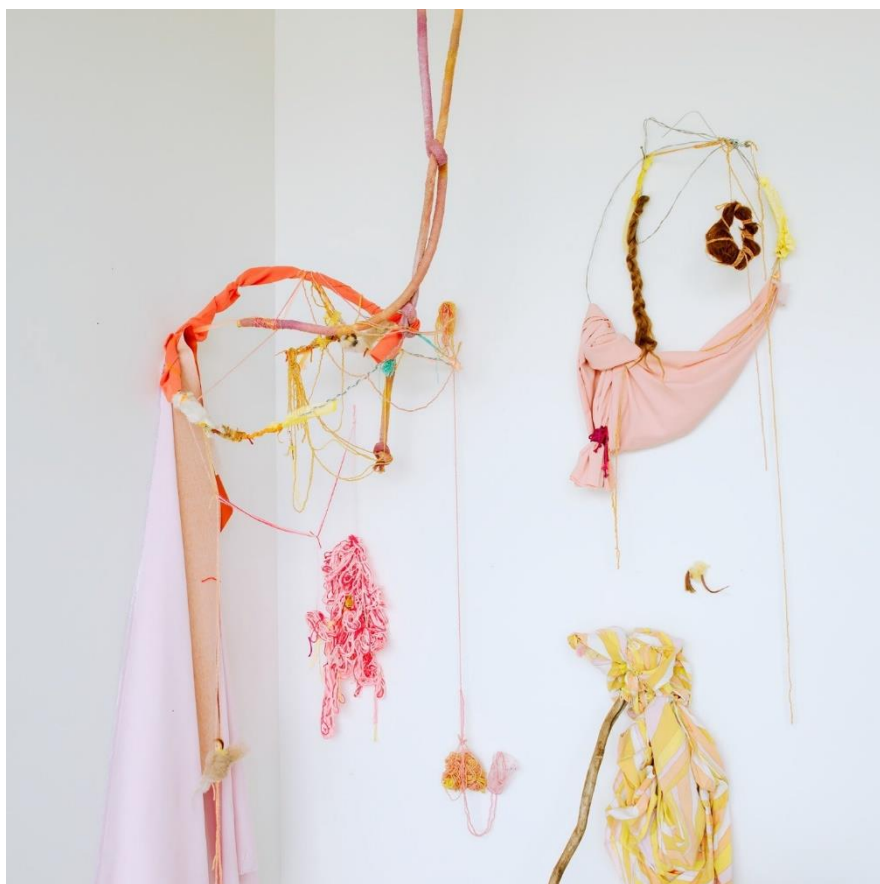


THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

We acknowledge that the UBC Vancouver campus is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam).

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Detail of Jamey Braden's Studio

Program Overview

The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Program in Visual Art at the University of British Columbia (UBC) provides an opportunity for intensive conceptual, material, and technical development for those students wishing to pursue a professional career in advanced contemporary art. The MFA degree is the standard qualifying degree for teaching visual arts at the post-secondary level. The MFA program is dedicated to helping students understand both the making and theorizing of art against the background of the diverse intellectual environment of a major university, and within the context of local and international art communities.

Students in the program may work in any area of contemporary art production including painting, drawing, printmaking, three-dimensional and installation work, photography, digital art, multimedia, video, performance, or in any interdisciplinary form.

The program does not include training in applied art, commercial art and design, graphic design, film or television.

The MFA Program requires two academic years of course work with completion of requirements occurring in no less than two calendar years and no more than five calendar years after initial registration in the program. The MFA Program can only be pursued on a full-time basis.

Admissions

Applicants to the MFA in Studio Art normally hold a BFA or BA degree with a major in Studio Arts. It is strongly advised that, at a minimum, an applicant have 18 academic credits (i.e. non-studio courses) at the 300 level or above, with at least a B+ (76%) standing in each. This is to ensure that, if admitted, the student will benefit from the academic components of the program.

In addition, applicants must also satisfy the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (G+PS) minimum admission requirements, i.e. holding an Honours or Bachelors degree requiring four years of study with a B+ average in third and fourth year level coursework (from Quebec, a three-year Bachelors degree is acceptable provided the Diplome d'Etudes Collegiales has been previously awarded). Please refer to the G+PS website (<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/graduate-degree-programs/master-of-fine-arts-visual-art>) to confirm the minimum admission requirements including minimum language proficiency for international students.

It should be noted that these standards constitute a minimum, and admission remains at the discretion of the Department. Only six applicants will be offered admission to the MFA Visual Art program per year.

Applications for Admission

Applications require submission of all materials noted below. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please submit directly to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies:

- Online application at www.grad.ubc.ca/apply/online/
- Application fee.

The admission process includes the assessment of a submitted portfolio of work. Assessment is also based on the statement of intent, letters of reference, academic record, exhibition record, published writing, or other evidence of achievement

Scans of official transcripts (or certified copies) from all universities/colleges previously attended and/or currently attending can be uploaded to the online admissions system. Transcripts issued in a language other than English must be accompanied by certified English translations.

E-Reference via the UBC online reference system (once the online application is completed referees will receive a link with information on submitting an e-reference.) From three referees (ideally professors, curators, and artists not employers).

Full Curriculum Vitae giving your academic and professional background including exhibitions and publications.

Statement of intent a description of your art practice and research interests, your past achievements, and a plan of study and research of what you would do if accepted into the program.

Please submit directly to the Department of
Art History, Visual Art and Theory:

*Attn: Graduate Program Coordinator
Department of Art History, Visual Art & Theory
400 — 6333 Memorial Road
The University of British Columbia Vancouver, BC
Canada V6T 1Z2*

Portfolio documentation of your recent work.
Please refer to the MFA Applicant Portfolio
Information on the online application system
for Portfolio instructions.

International students Applicants from a
university outside Canada in which English is
not the primary language of instruction must
present evidence of competency to pursue
studies in the English language prior to being
extended an offer of admission. Applicants
are required to submit an official TOEFL score,
of at least 600 on the paper version, 250 on
the computer version, or 100 on the internet
version, taken within the past 2 years.

Fees

Please refer to the UBC Calendar for tuition
and fee information. An on-line version is
accessible at students.ubc.ca. The MFA Visual
Art program can only be pursued on a full-
time basis.

For more details, please consult:

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/application-admission/check-your-eligibility>

International Students

International prospective students are encouraged to consult the G+PS website for detailed information relevant to being an international student at UBC, including fees, funding, permits, housing, and other pertinent details:

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/international-students>

Other resources, including advising, can be found on the Student Services International House website:

<https://students.ubc.ca/international-student-guide>

Application Deadlines

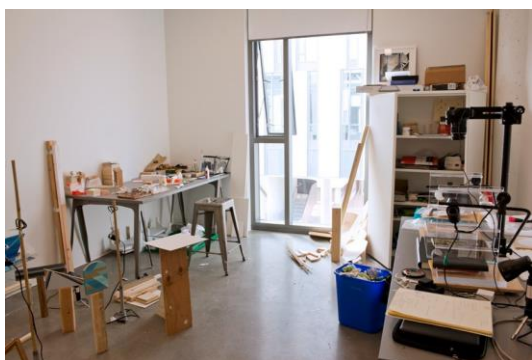
Students are advised that the deadline for receipt of complete applications is January 10. All supporting material must be received by the deadline. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews (on Skype) in February, with offers being sent out on a rolling basis after this until all spots have been filled. Applicants not short-listed will be contacted in early to mid-March as to whether or not they have been accepted into the program, or placed on a wait list.

Student Studios

Each MFA student is provided with a private studio space on campus in our new facilities in the Audain Art Centre for a 2 year (24 month) period. Each studio is approximately 20.5 square metres. In addition, there is a large common room/social area and computer room available for the exclusive use of MFA students. Students have access to all of the Visual Arts facilities, including the woodshop, metal shop, print media centre, digital labs, photo/lighting studio, as well as access to all photo, video, sound, and workshop equipment for sign-out.

Studio space is allocated by the Department Administrator during the first week of classes. Studio Fees are as follows:

- A refundable \$100 Studio Deposit to the Department
- A refundable \$20 key deposit to UBC Parking & Security



TOP View of Kate Moss' Studio

BOTTOM View of Michelle Weinstein's Studio

Program Requirements

The MFA Visual Art Program requires the following:

Coursework // 36 credits are required, including the following:

12 credits // VISA 581 (Studio V)

This seminar/studio course is a full-year course taken in Year 1. It includes weekly seminars, studio assessments and critiques outside of seminar class hours (see Open Studios and Interdepartmental Critiques below), and essay papers/presentations. It is a forum for critical discussion about leading issues in contemporary art, visual culture, cultural theory, and philosophy. It is an opportunity for examining ideas related to the artwork and interests of students and will include presentations by visiting artists, curators, and scholars from a broad range of disciplines. Students will be required to read all seminar texts, contribute to discussions of texts, and present on topics related to the texts in question. A number of classes will be dedicated to critiques of students' artworks. A position paper related to the student's artwork will be submitted at the end of first term. Normally the marking is weighted as: 60% studio production (as assessed by Open Studio jury of Visual Art faculty and supervisors), and 40% seminar participation, critiques, and research paper (as assessed by the Studio Instructor).

12 credits // VISA 582 (Studio VI)

See description above; this seminar/studio course is a full-year course taken in Year 2.

The following is a typical schedule of the MFA program:

First Year

- VISA 581 (Studio V) Year-long (12 credits)
- VISA 583A (Studio VII) Term 2 (3 credits)
- Academic courses (non-VISA) at the 500-level in Term 1 or 2, or Summer Term (3 credits)
- Open studios (December and April)
- First Year Exhibition Term 2

Second Year

- VISA 582 (Studio VI) Year long (12 credits)
- VISA 583B (Studio VII Term 2 (3 credits)
- Academic courses (non-VISA at the 500-level; Term 1 or 2, or summer term (3 credits)
- Interdepartmental Critique
- Final Exhibition & Presentation (Spring)
- Roundtable presentation related to research and writing of the major paper (Spring)
- VISA 580 Major Paper Pass/Fail (final draft submitted at end of August to ensure graduation in November)

3 credits // VISA 583A (MFA Research Seminar)

This research-writing intensive seminar is geared toward development of the final Major Paper. This course is taken in Year 1, term 2.

3 credits // VISA 583B (MFA Research Seminar II)

See description above. This course is taken in Year 2, term 2.

6 credits // Elective Academic Courses at the 500- level

Students can choose 6 credits of academic, non-VISA graduate courses (up to 3 credits may be taken at the 400-level, with approval from the Graduate Advisor). Academic courses are chosen from all university departments and faculties, but students are encouraged to take courses in Art History and Critical & Curatorial Studies, and courses should complement the overall direction the student wishes to pursue in terms of their artwork and major paper. Coursework will be approved by the Graduate Advisor at the start of each term.

0 credits (P/F) // VISA 580 (Major Paper)

Students enroll in VISA 580 in their final summer term and submit their final papers in August of their final year. This course is Pass/Fail graded.

Open Studios & Studio Assessment

Public Open Studios are held in December of Year 1 and 2. These provide an opportunity for students to show their work, and for faculty to evaluate student progress and provide feedback. In the evening, students invite faculty, staff, students, and the general public to their studios to view their work, and a small reception is held.

Faculty Open Studios are held in April of Year 1 and 2 for a final evaluation of student progress and work for the year.

Assessment grading from these Open Studios are counted towards the VISA 581/582 marks.

Interdepartmental Critiques

At the beginning of year 2 in September, students (together as one cohort) hold a public critique of their work in the AHVA Gallery.

Roundtable Presentation

Scheduled soon after the Interdepartmental Critiques, the Roundtable Presentations are an opportunity for students to make a public presentation of initial ideas for their major paper research and to receive critical input from students and faculty members. The presentation is not graded but rather acts as a public occasion for sharing ideas with one's peers. One should make an argument for ideas and artwork vis-à-vis research concerns that would go towards the final version of one's major paper (to be submitted in August at the end of your second year). This paper should be a credible, well-researched, well-argued essay, founded on a topic that contextualizes and/or helps in the understanding of one's work. The student will schedule a time, within two weeks of the Roundtable Presentation, to meet together with their supervisory committee and discuss the presentation.

Final Graduation Exhibition & Presentation

The Final Graduation Exhibition & Presentation is an invitational curated exhibition of artwork at the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, which occurs in the spring of the final year of the program. The exhibition must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the faculty, the candidate's capacity for independent, creative work. An external critic will be involved in the examination of the final presentation.

Non-VISA Graduate Courses offered in the AHVA Department

* Not all courses are offered every year. Some courses may require special permission or have restrictions. Check the course calendar for updated course offerings and details at www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/

ARTH 531 (3/6)

Early Medieval Art

ARTH 533 (3/6)

Medieval Art

ARTH 535 (3/6)

Art of the Renaissance

ARTH 537 (3/6)

17th and 18th-Century Art

ARTH 539 (3/6)

19th-Century Art

ARTH 540 (3/6)

20th-Century Art

ARTH 543 (3/6)

Canadian Art

ARTH 548 (3/6)

North American Architecture

ARTH 551 (3/6)

Chinese Art

ARTH 553 (3/6)

Japanese Art

ARTH 555 (3/6)

South & Southeast Asian Art

ARTH 561 (3/6)

Indigenous Arts of the Americas

ARTH 571 (6)

Methodology of Art History

CCST 500 (3)

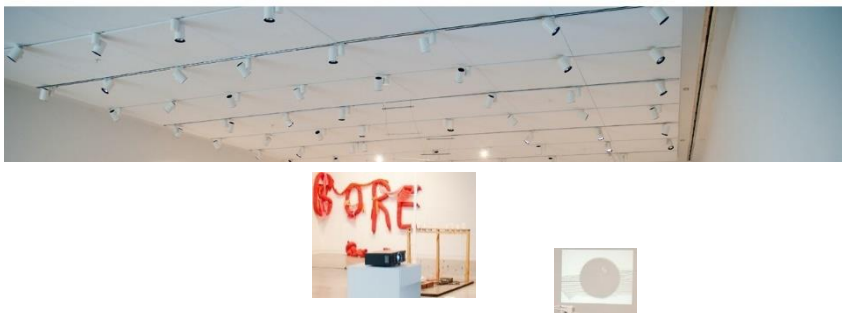
Historical Frameworks in Critical & Curatorial Studies

CCST 501 (3)

Contemporary Contextual Issues for Critical and Curatorial Practice

CCST 502 (3)

Case Studies in Exhibitions and Institutions



TOP AHVA Gallery First Year MFA Exhibition *Denise*

BOTTOM Guadalupe Martinez, *"Baby, it aint' over till it's over"*, 2014.
View of appropriated staircase and props part of video-installation, in
MFA Lounge.

Major Paper

The major paper will be a credible, well-researched, well-argued essay on a topic that relates to the student's artwork – including process, materials, ideas and research – and that helps in the understanding of the artwork. It is a thesis-type essay that must be between 30-50 double-spaced, typed pages (not including images) in 12 point font, which integrates critical research that focuses on a topic related to the student's own interests and artistic practice. Students must meet with their supervisory committee on a regular basis to discuss the major paper. One copy of the final version must be submitted to the Graduate Program Coordinator along with documentation of the student's artwork.

Completing the Program

The MFA program is complete when the graduating student has successfully completed and passed all of the program requirements:

- Completed the academic coursework component (including surrounding events: open studios, interdepartmental critiques and first year exhibition)
- Held their final exhibition/oral presentation
- Held their roundtable presentation
- Handed in their graded major paper and images of their work

In the case of students completing their requirements late, any additional fees paid will be prorated to the end of the month in which the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies confirms that all degree requirements have been met.

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/current-students/graduation/program-completion>

Committees, Supervision, and Completing the Program

The MFA program is structured to encourage the development of an independent studio practice. Students are supervised throughout the program as follows:

The Supervisory Committee

Formation of Committee Each student is assigned a faculty mentor prior to arriving at UBC. Within the first two months of the first term of the academic year, each student is responsible for asking two to three faculty members to join their supervisory committee (please be aware that some faculty members may not be able to be part of your committee due to other commitments). The committee is comprised of a primary supervisor (must be a visual arts faculty member at the assistant level at least in the Department of Art History, Visual Art, and Theory) and a secondary advisor. A third advisor may also be added if desired/required. (This committee may or may not include the mentor that was assigned to the student upon entrance).

Duties of Committee The supervisory committee is responsible for providing advice on ongoing art projects, reviewing and evaluating the student's artistic development, advising on roundtable preparations, and overseeing the major paper.

Student Responsibility Students are expected to meet with their supervisors on a regular basis and are responsible for ensuring that this requirement is met. It is recommended that students meet with their supervisor at least twice a year (at the beginning and end of each term).

Graduate Advisor

The Graduate Advisor chairs the Graduate Advisory Committee. The Graduate Advisor oversees the MFA program as a whole, approves MFA course work, and monitors the progress of students through the program. The Graduate Advisor is available for regular consultation throughout the program.

Graduate Advisory Committee

The Graduate Advisory Committee consists of Visual Art faculty members and an MFA

student representative. The committee is chaired by the Graduate Advisor. The committee develops program policy and offers general assistance in planning course work and selecting a supervisory committee. Students meet with the Graduate Advisory Committee at the beginning of each academic year.



Exhibition opening
AHVA Gallery First Year MFA Exhibition *Denise*

Financial Support

Grant-writing workshops are scheduled in the department during September and October. All students are urged to participate.

Opportunities for financial support in the PhD program include the following:

Graduate Support Initiative Awards (GSI)

Graduate Support Initiative Awards (GSI) are offered to the best and brightest incoming PhD students for full-time graduate study. All applicants to the program are automatically considered for this award. In the event that a student receives another funding offer, in excess of the GSI allocation, the department reserves the right to withdraw the offer so that another student can receive funding.

University Affiliated Fellowships

The university offers a limited number of Affiliated Fellowships to students with a minimum first-class standing. Awards are based on academic excellence and are open to any graduate student regardless of citizenship or visa status. Applications for Affiliated Fellowships are available to students upon their acceptance to the program, from the graduate program coordinator, and are normally due in November of the first year. Students who are awarded these highly competitive fellowships receive funding for their second year of study. These fellowships are valued between \$8,000 and \$16,000.

Teaching Assistantships

The department has a number of TA positions available every year. TA positions are normally offered to students entering the second term of the first year of the program, and these teaching assistantships will continue to be offered to students until they have completed their degree (conditional on satisfactory performance, availability of positions, enrolment, and funding). Notice of teaching assistantships are posted in the department by March 31. Duties include leading tutorial sessions and grading exams and papers for undergraduate courses for up to 12 hours per week.

BC Binning Memorial Fellowship

This fellowship to the amount of \$25,000 is awarded at the end of each academic year to one MFA student entering second year (or the fellowship can be divided into two awards of \$12,500). The award recipient is selected based on their drawing ability (as it relates to their overall artistic practice) by a jury of the Visual Art faculty, usually during the Open Studios evaluation at the end of term 2 in April.

Roloff Beny Foundation Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded each year to one or two current or incoming MFA students whose work engages with photo-related practices. The scholarship is valued between \$5,000 and \$10,000 and is awarded based on artistic excellence.

Fred Herzog Award in Visual Art

This \$2,500 award is available to an outstanding undergraduate or graduate student pursuing a Fine Arts major in the Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory who demonstrates volunteerism and community service.

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Doctoral Fellowships

Applicants who are either Canadian citizens or Landed Immigrants are strongly encouraged to submit applications directly to SSHRC. Applications are due in the fall - one year prior to the anticipated enrolment date. Further information is available at www.sshrc.ca. If incoming students miss the SSHRC deadline the fall prior to beginning the program, they can apply for funding for their second year. Continuing students who are eligible for SSHRC are required to submit a SSHRC application in order to be included in the adjudication for Affiliated Fellowships.

For additional information on financial support for graduate students, consult the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website at <http://www.grad.ubc.ca/>. Financial support counselling is also available in the UBC Office of Awards and Financial Aid at (604) 822-5111 or through their website at <http://www.students.ubc.ca/finance/>.

Facilities, Programs, and Resources

Guest Lecturer and Visiting Artist Programs

Each year the department invites distinguished international and Canadian critics, curators, artists, and scholars to address challenging and topical themes relevant to the study and practice of art. In addition to the short-term distinguished visitors, AHVA also hosts artists in residence at the Audain Art Centre. Past artists in residence include Beau Dick, Marianne Nicolson, and Stan Douglas. Visiting artists, guest lecturers, and artists in residence may deliver a public lecture, lead an intensive seminar, participate in graduate student critiques, conduct studio visits and assist students in the development of their work and early professional career.

These programs are made possible by the generous support of the Rennie Collection, Joan Carlisle-Irving Endowment, Audain Endowment for Critical and Curatorial Studies, and the Koerner Foundation.

Print Media Research Centre (PRC)

The PRC provides a dynamic learning and research environment for the production of visual art in all major print media. This well-equipped facility allows for an integrated approach to print media that fosters a union of digital-image generation with traditional and contemporary intaglio, relief, screen and lithographic printmaking processes, as well as letterpress and bookbinding procedures. The faculty and staff of the PRC are vigilant in the continuous development and maintenance of a non-toxic, well-ventilated environment, as well as the implementation of sustainable practices, while encouraging students to explore a full range of print media.

Past visiting artists include

Eleanor Antin
Dave Beech
Rebecca Belmore
Liesbeth Bik and Jos van der Pol
Mark Boulos
David Claerbout
Maria Eichhorn
Andrea Fraser
Melanie Gilligan
Dan Graham
Jakob Jakobsen
Brian Jungen
Stanya Kahn
Mary Kelly
John Kelsey
Michael Krebber
Scott Lyall
Ken Lum
Josephine Pryde
R.H. Quaytman
Jeanne Randolph
Blake Rayne
Stefan Romer
Cheyney Thompson
Kerry Tribe
Francesco Vezzoli
Ian Wallace
Li Yifan

The AHVA Visual Resources Centre (VRC)

The Visual Resources Centre (VRC) houses a community study space, meeting spaces and over half a million visual materials. The VRC has total holdings of over 450,000 35mm photographic slides, videos, films, DVDs and a growing database of 60,000 digital images, covering all areas of art history and visual art as represented by the curricula of the AHVA department and the film program. As a vital teaching and research facility for both faculty and students, the VRC continues to extend its resources and services to the university communities through collaborative projects in the areas of e-learning and distance education.

Irving K. Barber Learning Centre: Music, Art, and Architecture Library

The Music, Art, and Architecture Library is located in the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. The collection includes books and journals on visual art, art history, architecture, community and regional planning, dance, design, and music. Special materials include exhibition catalogues, pamphlets, microforms, clippings, picture files, CD-ROMs, and online indexes and databases.

Circulating books are located in the open stacks of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. Most material circulates for two weeks. The library provides many areas for students to study: silent and group study spaces, a graduate research room, and a digital media commons. Library staff with specialization in visual art and art history is available to assist with reference, instruction, and tours.

<http://ikblc.ubc.ca/>

Other Creative and
Performing Arts
Department at UBC

School of Music

www.music.ubc.ca

Offers programs that lead to the degrees of M.Mus, M.A., D.M.A., Ph.D, B.Mus and BA with Major, Minor or Honours in Music

The Department of Theatre and Film

www.film.ubc.ca

Offers programs that lead to the degrees of Ph.D., M.A., M.F.A., B.A. and B.F.A.

Creative Writing Program

www.creativewriting.ubc.ca

Offers programs that lead to the degrees of B.F.A., Minor, M.F.A.

The Museum of Anthropology

UBC's Museum of Anthropology, designed by Arthur Erickson and opened in 1976, is situated on the Point Grey cliffs overlooking Howe Sound and the North Shore mountains. Both its setting and architecture are inspired by coastal First Nations settlements of British Columbia. The collections include the famous Northwest Coast First Nations collection, the Walter and Marianne Koerner Collection, an international textile collection, and archaeological findings of British Columbia and the North Pacific Rim.

<http://moa.ubc.ca>

The Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery

This standalone contemporary art gallery opened in 1995. The gallery is a public facility contributing to the cultural life of the campus, the city, the province, and beyond. Throughout the year the gallery hosts a variety of informative and provocative exhibitions that confirm the creative and eclectic aspects of contemporary art. Exhibitions are generated internally or borrowed and draw on work from local, national, and international artists, other Canadian art institutions, art organizations and international sources. The gallery attempts to expose the broadest possible spectrum of visual concerns to both the university community and the public at large. It also sponsors visiting speakers as well as occasional symposia.

<http://belkin.ubc.ca>

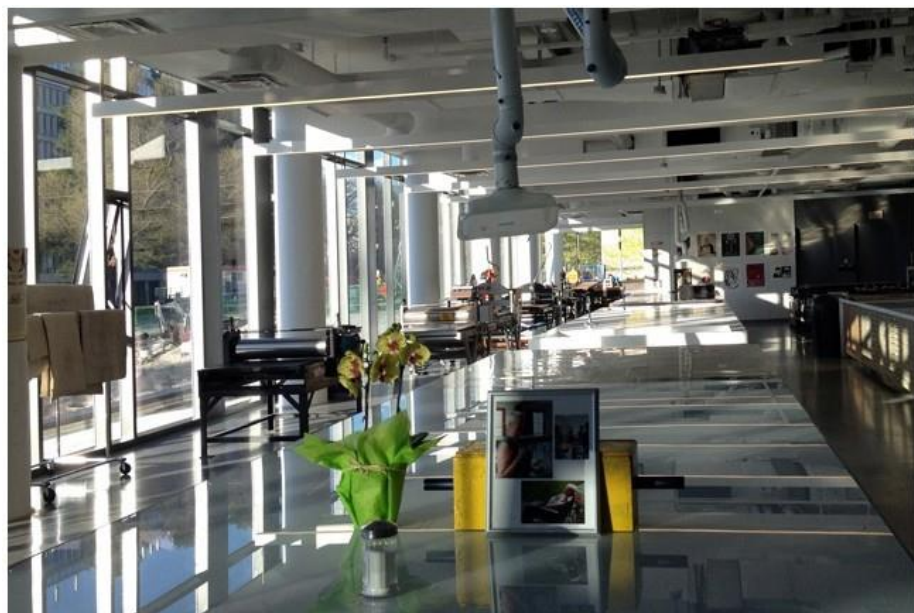
MFA students are invited to hold their final MFA Graduating Exhibition at the Belkin Gallery, usually through the month of May. For more information about past MFA exhibitions visit <https://ahva.ubc.ca/graduate/mfa-in-visual-art-program/mfa-graduate-exhibitions/>

Xwi7xwa Library

Xwi7xwa (pronounced whei-wha) began in the 1970s with the founding of the Indian Education Resource Centre. The collection later came under the care of the Native Indian Teacher Education Program (NITEP). When the First Nations House of Learning opened the Longhouse in May of 1993, NITEP transferred the collection to Xwi7xwa Library. Xwi7xwa Library, now a branch of the UBC Library, has collections consisting of approximately 12,000 items, including about 6,000 books, 450 videos, 5,000 vertical file materials, curriculum resources, journals and newspapers, maps, posters, theses and dissertations, the G.A. (Bud) Mintz special collection, and some archival materials. The collections focus on First Nations in British Columbia, but also include contextual materials about Aboriginal people in Canada as a whole.

In addition to special collections, Xwi7xwa has research librarians expert in Indigenous areas, and is an international leader in Indigenous classification research.

<https://xwi7xwa.library.ubc.ca>



TOP The Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery

BOTTOM Print Media Research Centre

Contacts

Faculty and Areas of Research

Please visit ahva.ubc.ca for AHVA faculty biographies and research areas.

Staff Contact Information

Please visit ahva.ubc.ca for AHVA staff contact information.

Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery Contact Information

Please visit belkin.ubc.ca for staff contact information.

For questions and inquiries, please contact:

Graduate Program Coordinator

Department of Art History, Visual Art & Theory
The University of British Columbia
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Disclaimer

This brochure in no way contradicts or modifies any rule laid down in the University Calendar, which should be consulted when precise information on any specific point on course program requirements is required. This is obtainable from the Office of the Registrar:

Brock Hall, 2106
1874 East Mall
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6T 1Z1
(604) 822-2844
<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/>

We acknowledge that the UBC Vancouver campus is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam)



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Department of Art History, Visual Art & Theory
Faculty of Arts