Graduate School of Art

The Graduate School of Art confers the terminal professional Master of Fine Arts in Illustration & Visual Culture and the Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art as set forth and accredited by the College Art Association of America and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

The residence requirement for the Master of Fine Arts degree is at least two years of full-time study (minimum 15 units each semester). Students work closely with faculty advisors to explore individual interests within the Sam Fox School and the larger university.

The MFA in Illustration & Visual Culture (IVC) explores the idea of illustration and authorship by combining student practice in illustration and cartooning with curatorial training in visual and material culture. The program is built on the strengths and expertise of the Sam Fox School’s illustration and design faculty and the vast visual resources of Washington University, including the Dowd Illustration Research Archive, a permanent site for studying the history and culture of American illustration.

The MFA in Visual Art educates artists who will define and change the future of their disciplines. It instills students with the agency and resiliency that will be essential to the next generation of artists. The program is home to an inclusive, close-knit community of renegade makers and thinkers, and it offers students a site of rigorous inquiry, humanity, and intellectual generosity. As part of Washington University, a tier-one research institution, the School’s expansive facilities and studios serve as a think tank for intellectual and material experimentation. The Sam Fox School’s MFA in Visual Art professionally prepares students for a diversified approach to the field of contemporary art that nurtures sustained, lifelong engagement while recognizing multiple pathways and definitions for a career in the arts and culture.

Contact Information

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