

# Art History and Archaeology

The Department of Art History and Archaeology offers the degrees of **Master of Arts (AM)** and **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**. Particular areas of strength include ancient art, European art of the Renaissance and early modern periods, Asian art, and modern and contemporary art of Europe and the Americas. The size of our graduate program ensures that our students receive an exceptional level of advising and mentoring. Every student has a faculty advisor, and the research of PhD students is supervised by a Research Advisory Committee (RAC) made up of a core group of three members of the faculty. As part of their professional preparation, PhD students gain teaching experience within the department or in other programs either as a Mentored Teaching Experience (MTE) or as instructors of record.

Our faculty prepares students to acquire skills in empirical and theoretical methods in art history; museum, archival and site research; visual and textual analysis; and descriptive and analytic writing. Students also take advantage of curatorial or research internships at the university's Kemper Art Museum, the Saint Louis Art Museum, and other local institutions as well as art museums outside the region. The department supports students' professional development and research projects through funded field trips to major art centers and financial subvention of travel for research and presentation of conference papers. Such education and support prepares our students for a variety of professional opportunities at the highest level.

Students with a PhD from the department pursue a diverse array of career paths, including teaching appointments at colleges and universities; positions as curators, registrars, and educators in art museums; jobs in university administration; and jobs with auction houses, arts publications and art dealers. Students with the AM degree from the department have pursued doctoral studies at Washington University or in other PhD programs; they have also taken a variety of positions in museum curation and education, arts journalism, art libraries, art advising, and commercial art galleries.

Phone: 314-935-5270  
Website: <https://arthistory.wustl.edu/>

## Faculty

### Chair

**William E. Wallace** (<http://arthistory.artsci.wustl.edu/people/william-wallace/>)

Barbara Murphy Bryant Distinguished Professor of Art History  
PhD, Columbia University

## Endowed Professors

**Elizabeth C. Childs** (<http://arthistory.artsci.wustl.edu/people/elizabeth-c-childs/>)

Etta and Mark Steinberg Professor of Art History  
PhD, Columbia University

**Claudia Swan** (<https://arthistory.wustl.edu/people/claudia-swain/>)

Mark Steinberg Weil Professor in Art History & Archaeology  
PhD, Columbia University

## Professors

**John Klein** (<http://arthistory.artsci.wustl.edu/people/john-klein/>)

PhD, Columbia University

**Angela Miller** (<http://arthistory.artsci.wustl.edu/people/angela-miller/>)

PhD, Yale University

## Associate Professors

**Nathaniel Jones** (<http://arthistory.artsci.wustl.edu/people/nathaniel-jones/>)

PhD, Yale University

**Kristina Kleutghen** (<http://arthistory.artsci.wustl.edu/people/kristina-kleutghen/>)

David W. Mesker Associate Professor  
PhD, Harvard University

**Ila Sheren** (<http://arthistory.artsci.wustl.edu/people/ila-sheren/>)

PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## Assistant Professor

**Nicola Aravecchia** (<http://arthistory.artsci.wustl.edu/people/nicola-aravecchia/>)

PhD, University of Minnesota

## Lecturers

**Esther Gabel** (<https://arthistory.wustl.edu/people/esther-gabel/>)

PhD, University of Cambridge

**Betha Whitlow** (<https://arthistory.wustl.edu/people/betha-whitlow/>)

MA, Washington University in St. Louis

## Etta Steinberg Postdoctoral Fellow

**Maggie Crosland** (2021-2024)

PhD, Courtauld Institute of Art

## Affiliated Faculty

**Rebecca Messbarger** (<https://rll.wustl.edu/people/rebecca-messbarger/>)

Professor of Italian; History; and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies  
PhD, University of Chicago

**Eric Mumford** ([http://samfoxschool.wustl.edu/portfolios/faculty/eric\\_mumford/](http://samfoxschool.wustl.edu/portfolios/faculty/eric_mumford/))

Rebecca and John Voyles Professor of Architecture  
PhD, Princeton University

## Professors Emeriti

**David Freidel** (<https://anthropology.wustl.edu/people/david-freidel/>)

Professor of Archaeology, Department of Anthropology  
PhD, Harvard University

**Susan Rotroff**

Jarvis Thurston & Mona Van Duyn Professor Emerita  
PhD, Princeton University

**Sarantis Symeonoglou**

PhD, Columbia University

## Affiliated Directors and Curators, Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Washington University

**Sabine Eckmann**

Director and Chief Curator  
PhD, University of Erlangen–Nürnberg

**Meredith Malone**

Curator  
PhD, University of Pennsylvania

**Dana Ostrander**

Assistant Curator  
PhD, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

## Affiliated Curators, Saint Louis Art Museum

**Nichole Bridges**

PhD, University of Wisconsin–Madison

**David Conradsen**

MA, University of Delaware

**Philip Hu**

MA, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University

**Simon Kelly**

PhD, University of Oxford

**Clare Kobasa**

PhD, Columbia University

**Eric Lutz**

PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Judith Mann**

PhD, Washington University in St. Louis

**Alexander Brier Marr**

PhD, University of Rochester

**Amy Torbert**

PhD, University of Delaware

**Melissa Venator**

PhD, Rice University

**Melissa Wolfe**

PhD, Ohio State University

## Affiliated Directors and Curators, Pulitzer Arts Foundation

**Cara Starke**

Director  
MA, Williams College

**Tamara Schenkenberg**

Curator  
PhD, University of Wisconsin–Madison

**Stephanie Weissberg**

Curator  
MA, New York University

## Degree Requirements

Applicants for admission to the graduate program are normally expected to have completed 18 units of undergraduate study in art history. However, the department welcomes applications from students with less background in art history who show strong preparation in such fields as classics, history, philosophy, literature, anthropology, and Asian studies.

## Master of Arts in Art History and Archaeology

### Requirements for the AM degree

Requirements for this program normally involve 12 courses taken over the course of four semesters, including the required graduate seminar (Methods in Art History) as well as a capstone course in the fourth semester in which the candidate revises two seminar papers for presentation to the faculty as qualifying papers. In addition, students must pass a reading proficiency exam in a modern foreign language (or exempt this requirement through graded courses in the language). For students in Asian art, this language should be an Asian language. Students in ancient art may be required to demonstrate reading

knowledge in an ancient language. Students continuing through the PhD are strongly advised to demonstrate reading proficiency in a second modern foreign language before the start of their fifth semester in their graduate program.

## PhD in Art History and Archaeology

### Requirements for the PhD degree

Students completing their AM degree at Washington University and continuing as PhD students will have two or three more semesters of course work, normally in the form of three seminars plus the Comprehensive Exam Preparation courses (three courses) and the Dissertation Prospectus course. To be admitted to PhD candidacy, a student must also demonstrate reading proficiency in a second modern foreign language, pass the Comprehensive Exam, and successfully defend the Dissertation Prospectus. Students in ancient art and Asian art may have additional language requirements.

Thus, by the end of the seventh semester of graduate study at Washington University, students will normally have achieved the following, at a minimum:

- Completed all required courses;
- Demonstrated reading proficiency in no fewer than two modern foreign languages;
- Passed the Comprehensive Exam in the major area;
- Passed the Comprehensive Exam in the minor area (or have exempted this requirement through related course work);
- Determined a three-person Research Advisory Committee for the dissertation; and
- Successfully defended the Dissertation Prospectus.

Students admitted to the PhD program who have an approved master's degree from another university will normally take courses at Washington University for four or five semesters, including the Comprehensive Exam Preparation courses and the Dissertation Prospectus course. Thus, these students will normally complete all of the requirements for PhD candidacy listed above by the end of the fifth semester of graduate study at Washington University.