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 adviser; the research of PhD students is supervised by a Research Advisory Committee, a core group of three members of the faculty. PhD students gain teaching experience within the department or in other programs (as a mentored teaching experience or as instructors of record) as part of their professional preparation.

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 go on to teaching or administrative appointments in colleges and universities; positions as curators, registrars and educators in art museums; and jobs with auction houses, arts publications and art appraisers. Students with the AM degree from the department have pursued doctoral studies at Washington University or in other PhD programs, and they have also taken a variety of positions in arts journalism, art libraries, art advising, secondary school teaching and commercial art galleries.

Phone: 314-935-5270
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Faculty

Chair
Elizabeth C. Childs (http://arthistory.artsci.wustl.edu/people/elizabeth-c-childs/)
Etta and Mark Steinberg Professor of Art History
PhD, Columbia University

Endowed Professor
William E. Wallace (http://arthistory.artsci.wustl.edu/people/william-wallace/)
Barbara Murphy Bryant Distinguished Professor of Art History
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

Lecturer
Esther Gabel (http://arthistory.artsci.wustl.edu/people/esther-gabel-0/)
PhD, University of Cambridge

Postdoctoral Fellow
Joe Sheppard
PhD, Columbia University

Affiliated Faculty
David Freidel (https://anthropology.wustl.edu/people/david-freidel/)
Professor of Archaeology, Department of Anthropology
PhD, Harvard University
Rebecca Messbarger (https://rll.wustl.edu/people/rebecca-messbarger/)
Professor of Italian; History; and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies
PhD, University of Chicago
**Bulletins 2020-21**  
**Art History and Archaeology (01/15/21)**

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**Faculty**

*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**

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

*Sarantis Symeonoglou*  
PhD, Columbia University

*Mark S. Weil*  
E. Desmond Lee Professor Emeritus  
PhD, Columbia University

**Affiliated Curators, Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Washington University**

*Sabine Eckmann*  
Director and Chief Curator  
PhD, University of Erlangen–Nürnberg

*Meredith Malone*  
Associate Curator  
PhD, University of Pennsylvania

**Affiliated Curators and Directors, Saint Louis Art Museum**

*Brent Benjamin*  
Director  
MA, Williams College

*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

*Hannah Klemm*  
PhD, University of Chicago

*Eric Lutz*  
PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara

*Judith Mann*  
PhD, Washington University in St. Louis

*Alexander Brier Marr*  
PhD, University of Rochester

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**Guest Scholars, Pulitzer Foundation**

*Tamara Schenkenberg*  
Curator  
PhD, University of Wisconsin–Madison

*Cara Starke*  
Director  
MA, Williams College

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**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 should be an Asian language. Students in ancient art may be required to demonstrate reading knowledge of an ancient language. Students continuing for the PhD are strongly advised to demonstrate reading proficiency in a second modern foreign language before the start of their fifth semester in the 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 more semesters of course work, normally in the form of three seminars plus Comprehensive Exam Preparation (two courses) and Dissertation Prospectus (one 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 sixth 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 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 fourth semester of graduate study at Washington University.