

History of Art and Architecture

Learning Goals

1. To develop the ability to think critically by questioning works of art and architecture and developing arguments about the circumstances of their production and meaning.
2. To learn to build extended arguments based upon composite evidence: visual, historical, and textual.
3. To engage creative research problems that, over time, yield new insights into art, architecture, history, and culture.
4. To become a strong, convincing writer through the use of a variety of approaches in writing about the history of the arts, architecture, and visual culture.
5. To become highly skilled at presenting works through oral, public presentations.

About the major

Art expresses the depth and breadth of what it means to be human. Through courses covering many time periods and cultures, art history students learn how art is made and how it relates to social, theoretical, and historical issues and circumstances. The art history faculty are experts in many fields and pride themselves on being lively lecturers and active scholars. In many classes, art history students examine works of art directly at the Middlebury College Museum of Art.

Learning continues outside the classroom. From department dinners with major art history rock stars and field trips to Boston and New York, to openings at the Middlebury College Museum of Art and student gallery talks in the "Off the Wall" lecture series, opportunities abound. Many art history majors participate in the Museum Assistants Program (MAP), belong to the Student Friends of the Art Museum (FOAM), and work as interns at the museum or at local arts institutions.

"Learning how to take criticism and use it constructively to better our designs is incredibly useful when we need to adapt to best meet our clients' needs. That is a mindset that I began to develop during those History of Art and Architecture studio presentations that we all take part in."

—Jamie McKenna '09
Owner and Founder, Imhotep Design

Reasons you might choose this major

- You have a deep love of art, history, and museums. For you, art is a fascinating human activity that extends to the earliest forms of visual communication.
- You are fascinated by other times and cultures, and you see art as key to understanding them.
- You are intrigued by our increasingly visual world, and you wish to develop a high level of visual literacy.
- You are interested in a discipline that will hone your critical thinking, analytical, and written and visual skills, which will prepare you for careers in the arts as well as in other fields.



Translating Learning into Professional Competencies

Throughout your time at Middlebury, you will develop and enhance the following core professional competencies, skills, and dispositions highly valued by employers that will prepare you for leadership and success in any given field:

Critical Thinking: Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems.

Oral/Written Communications: Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms.

Teamwork/Collaboration: Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers from diverse backgrounds.

Leadership: Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.

Professionalism/Work Ethic: Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits.

Global/Intercultural Fluency: Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions.

Digital Technology: Leverage existing digital technologies ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

Career Management: Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional development.

Where history of art and architecture majors go

Applying your learning through internships . . .

Students pursue internships and research in a variety of fields, enabling them to apply their liberal arts learning in real-world settings. Internships, research, and self-directed projects enrich your academic experience and help prepare you for life after Middlebury. Students have interned or done research at the following:

Julia Miner Studio

Smithsonian National Museum of American History

511 Gallery

NYU Yeronisos Island Excavation and Field School

Sterling Ruby's Studio

Edgewater Gallery

MiRó Comunicazione

Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts at the Legion of Honor

Kimbell Art Museum

Old Stone Museum

Philadelphia Museum of Art

J. Paul Getty Center

National Public Radio (NPR)

MuseumWorks

Spencer Stuart

Harper's Bazaar

Startup Uganda

Sotheby's

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Shelburne Museum

. . . leading to meaningful, dynamic, and engaging career paths.

See just some of the many interesting ways our graduates have applied their liberal arts learning to engage the world. If you want to see what other Middlebury alumni are doing now, log into Midd2Midd and search by major. go/midd2midd

Prodigious (Publicis Groupe Subsidiary),
CEO North America

LinkedIn, *Senior Account Executive*

Harvard Magazine, *Design & Integrated Marketing Manager*

The Museum of Modern Art,
Assistant Curator-Drawings and Prints

New York Rangers, *Director of European Scouting*

lululemon athletica, *Community & Culture Brand Strategy*

Metropolitan Museum of Art,
Educator for Academic Programs

Jenkins Johnson Gallery, *Director*

Waterworks Visual Art Center,
Education Coordination

New York Society Library, *Special Collections Librarian*

Save the Children U.S., *Manager, Global Development*

Masterpiece International Ltd.,
Gallery Services

Jo Malone London, *Executive Director of Store Design-Global*

Teleflora, *VP of Ecommerce*

Collective Hotels & Retreats, *Head of Business Development*

Artsy, *Staff Writer and Editor*

The New Yorker Productions,
Associate Producer

Google, *Google Cultural Institute*

Sotheby's Auction House, *Senior Administrator*

Deloitte, *Strategy & Operations Analyst*