

# Studio Art

## Learning Goals

1. To possess a high degree of visual literacy and intellectual curiosity about art and culture.
2. To understand art from the experience of making it with tools informed from the study of art history and contemporary practice.
3. To be able to relate knowledge of art to larger intellectual and cultural discourse within the liberal arts.
4. To connect the practice of art making and visual communication to the greater culture beyond Middlebury.
5. To develop skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking, and new media and to understand and apply fundamental principles of these disciplines.
6. To demonstrate in senior work an understanding of art making through comprehension of the history of art and its contemporary practice.
7. To develop critical-reasoning skills in senior work and to learn to articulate these in one-on-one and group critique sessions.
8. To independently advance one or a series of intellectual ideas by creating a body of visual artwork that codifies a thesis.
9. To gain a greater understanding of self and place in the larger world through oral and written analysis, technical revision, and public exhibition of these results.

## About the major

The program in studio art is dedicated to teaching liberal arts students to express themselves in the plastic arts through visual media. Our program welcomes all Middlebury students: those who wish to sample small experiences in studio art as well as students making studio art the central focus of their studies. Our faculty is composed of distinguished artists devoted to the idea that creativity, imaginative thinking, and personal expression are vitally important in the lives of all people.

Our core curriculum centers on drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture with a broad array of exciting materials and processes. From large-format photography to welding steel and melting glass, our courses challenge you to think in ways you never have. Each year we also present cutting-edge courses offered by visiting artists in residence, and whether digitally silk screening their own clothes or carving ice sculpture, studio students are guided to make art an engaging contemporary aesthetic and have cultural meaning.

Our faculty provides close, individualized instruction within spacious, well-equipped studio facilities. Experimentation and a spirit of invention are encouraged. Intense study and focused work is required, along with a sense of adventure. We thrive on innovative problem solving.

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**“Studio art is a small department, so as a major, I had incredible access to the faculty and the facilities. I had a lot of freedom to explore ideas independently, but I always had the support of my close community of classmates and professors to work through any obstacles. These experiences combined with the rest of my liberal arts coursework prepared me beautifully for a career as a graphic designer.”**

—Carey Bass '99  
*Senior Designer, Middlebury College*

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## Reasons you might choose this major

- You make art, you study it, you breathe it—or you find yourself wanting to.
- You are interested in continuing to develop your voice and vision in the medium of your choosing.
- You are interested in learning about the historical and cultural trends of art, theory, and connections with other disciplines.
- You want or need a space for creativity and challenge.
- You see yourself wanting a foundation grounded in liberal arts learning for a variety of paths.



## 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 studio art 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:

National Museum of Mexican Fine Arts	Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
LeRoy Neiman Center for Print Studies	Edgewater Gallery
Pierogi Gallery	Museum of Byzantine Culture
S1 Gallery	State Street Media
The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center	NYU Tisch Summer Intensive Program
Zea Mays Printmaking	Franconia Sculpture Park
Shelburne Museum	Literary Review
Whitney Museum of American Art	Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill
J. Paul Getty Museum	ArtLA
Women's Rights Project (ACLU)	Electronic Arts
Family Violence Law Center	

### . . . 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](https://go/midd2midd)

Columbia Sportswear, <i>Senior Designer</i>	RZI LLC International Trade and Consulting, <i>President and General Manager</i>
WB Games San Francisco, <i>Associate Producer</i>	Smithsonian American Art Museum, <i>Senior Designer</i>
N3TWORK INC, <i>Character Art Director</i>	Design Within Reach, <i>Account Executive</i>
Nasher Sculpture Center, <i>Chief Curator</i>	EatingWell Media Group, <i>Senior Digital Editor</i>
Lucki Designs Inc., <i>Coowner, Set Designer</i>	Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, <i>Senior Historical Preservation Specialist</i>
BBC/London, <i>Creative Director</i>	Marriott International Inc., <i>Senior Design Director</i>
Squarespac, <i>Director of Brand Marketing</i>	Comcast Spectator, <i>Vice President and Deputy General Counsel</i>
Marianne Boesky Gallery, <i>Gallery Owner</i>	Women's Marketing, <i>Vice President, Analytics</i>
IDL Worldwide, <i>Industrial Designer</i>	Many of our alumni in Studio Art are also self-employed as artists and designers.
The Art Fund, <i>London Regional Chairman</i>	
Vermont Studio Center, Inc., <i>Operations Director</i>	
Innovation Endeavors, <i>Partner</i>	
Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, <i>President</i>	