The Department of Art comprises two programs: art history and visual arts. The major in art history is devoted primarily to the historical and critical study of the visual arts as an embodiment of some of humanity's cultural values and a record of the historical interplay of sensibility, thought, and society. The major in visual arts is intended to encourage a sensitive development of perceptual, creative, and critical abilities in visual expression. The department also offers two interdisciplinary majors: art history and visual arts, and art history and archaeology.

Art history offers courses that examine works of art in their historical, social, religious, and philosophical contexts. Students study not only the formal aesthetic values of these works, but also the ways in which works of art reflect the cultures and the personalities that produced them. Many of the courses are chronological surveys devoted to single periods of history such as the Middle Ages or the Italian Renaissance, while others deal with the art of entire cultures, as in the case of China and Japan. And many courses cut across temporal boundaries to consider subjects of universal or at least cross-cultural significance, such as the interaction of art and science, or the societal role of architecture.

The visual arts program offers courses in architecture, drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, and other media that explore not only the ways in which art can be taught, but what it is that art can teach, whether a student is preparing for a life in visual arts or hoping to gain a more creative, informed, and visually engaged outlook in any field or walk of life.

**Art History Requirements**

The major in art history consists of ten courses, excluding first-year seminars. Required are Introduction to Western Art; one course chosen from specific offerings on ancient art or archaeology; one course in a series on European Renaissance art; one course on modern art; one non-Eurocentric course numbered 110 or higher; one additional 200-level course; two 300-level seminars; and two additional art history courses numbered above 101, one of which may be an independent study. Art history majors are also encouraged to take courses in foreign languages and literature, history, philosophy, religion, and the other arts.

The minor consists of five courses, excluding first-year seminars. Required courses are Introduction to Western Art; two 200-level courses; one 300-level course; and one additional course numbered above 101.

**Visual Arts Requirements**

Eleven courses are required for the major, including Drawing I and II and Painting I and II; four other courses in the visual arts (at least one of which must be numbered 270 or higher) and three courses in art history.

The minor consists of six courses: Drawing I and Painting I; either Drawing II or Painting II; plus two additional studio courses (at least one of which must be numbered 270 or higher); and one course in art history.

**Interdisciplinary Majors**

The interdisciplinary major in art history and visual arts requires the completion of 13 courses, including seven in art history (one of which must be a non-Eurocentric course numbered 103 or higher, and another, a 300-level seminar); and six courses in visual arts.

The major in art history and archaeology

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**Museum of Art**

Bowdoin's Museum of Art consistently enhances the teaching program of the College by allowing students and faculty direct access to important works of art. The museum houses a collection of more than 14,000 objects, ranging from the cultures of the ancient Mediterranean world to work created in the last years of the 20th century.

The 1,200-piece antiquities collection, with Assyrian, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, and Byzantine objects, is the most comprehensive of any small college museum in the country. Holdings in oriental art include objects from China, Japan, Korea, and India.

The collection of Western European art includes Italian and Spanish Baroque and Renaissance paintings. Prints and drawings constitute a major resource, from the Old Masters to the present, with an important and growing representation of 19th- and 20th-century photography. American art, from the colonial period onward, includes works by Feke, Stuart, Copley, Heade, Eakins, Cassatt, Gorky, Wyeth, Sloan, and Rockwell Kent. The Winslow Homer Collection consists of a selection of his paintings, etchings, and wood engravings.

The museum is undergoing comprehensive renovation in 2005–2007, with many major pieces on loan to other museums throughout the country. But during this period, the collections of prints, drawings, and photographs are available for study.

The Pierce Art Library houses a collection of nearly 18,000 volumes, including books, an extensive picture file, art-related journals, museum bulletins, exhibition catalogs, and periodical indexes, as well as monographs.

The Visual Resources Collection consists of more than 130,000 35mm slides representing the history of art.
requires 13 courses, including six art history courses at varying levels; five archaeology courses; either a sixth archaeology course, Ancient Philosophy, or an appropriate religion course; and an advanced independent study project in either art history or archaeology.

### Independent Study and Honors

Independent study is open to art history students, under the close supervision of a faculty member. Students have designed courses of study that allow them to read widely in an area not covered in the current curriculum or to pursue a topic from their formal coursework in greater depth. Students with distinguished records may apply to do honors work. To earn honors in art history, a student must produce a substantial honors thesis at the end of the senior year.

### Studio Resources

Visual arts students at Bowdoin have the opportunity to take classes and do independent work in a variety of studio facilities.

Three main studios, along with prime exhibition space, are located in the Visual Arts Center. Its prominent place on the Bowdoin Quad, the spectacular light from the large windows above, and the expansive views of the campus have nurtured creativity and learning for decades. Painting studios, computer studios, faculty studios, and the photography facilities are located a short distance away in the McLellan Building. Independent studies and advanced studies in visual arts take place in the third-floor painting studios, and typically each student gets his or her own studio space.

The photography facilities include three negative developing rooms, one large darkroom, one matting room with drymount press, and a digital lab. The darkroom features 8 enlargers (each housed in individual workstations). The digital lab has three IMAC G5s, three Epson Perfection 4990 Photo Scanners and three Epson Stylus Photo R2400 Printers with color calibration. Large-format printing is available through Bowdoin’s copy center.

The printmaking studio is located in a renovated carriage house attached to Burnett House, across the street from the Visual Arts Center. The first floor houses two etching presses, a hooded acid and chemical area with a new state-of-the-art ventilation system, work surfaces, and storage areas for student work. The upstairs classroom has a bookbinding bench, work tables, a paper closet, and a turn-of-the-century letterpress for relief printing. This is the printmaking studio’s clean space for critiques and presentations. The sculpture studios are located on the fourth floor of Adams Hall.

### Faculty

- **Meghan Brady**, visiting assistant professor of art, B.A. (Smith), M.F.A. (Boston), teaches courses in drawing and painting.
- **Thomas Cornell**, Richard Steele Professor of Studio Art, B.A. (Amherst), teaches courses in drawing and painting.
- **Pamela M. Fletcher**, assistant professor of art history, A.B. (Bowdoin), M.A., Ph.D. (Columbia), specializes in modern European and contemporary British art.
- **Anna H. Hepler**, visiting assistant professor in art, B.A. ( Oberlin), M.F.A. (Wisconsin–Madison), teaches courses in printmaking.
- **Michael J. Kolster**, assistant professor of art, B.A. (Williams), M.F.A. (Massachusetts College of Art), teaches courses in photography.
- **De-nin Deanna Lee**, assistant professor of art history and Asian studies, B.A. (California–Berkeley), M.A. (Williams), Ph.D. (Stanford), specializes in Asian art.
- **Wiebke N. Theodore**, visiting lecturer in art, B.A. (Barnard), M.Arch. (Columbia), teaches courses in architecture.
- **Susan E. Wegner**, associate professor of art history, A.B. (Wisconsin–Madison), A.M., Ph.D. (Bryn Mawr), specializes in Italian Renaissance and Baroque, and Pre-Columbian, art. She is director of the department’s art history division.
- **Mark C. Wethli**, A. Lefroy Grasseon Professor of Art, B.F.A., M.F.A. (Miami), teaches drawing and painting. Professor Wethli is chair of the department.

### After Bowdoin

Bowdoin art graduates are managing galleries in New York, serving as director of educational programs at the Museum of Modern Art, and working as a sculptor for Industrial Light and Magic, creator of Star Wars and other movies.

Some visual arts majors have had solo and group exhibitions in Boston, New York, Chicago, and other major cities, have illustrated children’s books, and had residencies at art colonies all over the country. Students with an interest in a museum career have earned internships at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the National Gallery, and other major American museums.

Visual arts and art history majors have gone on to graduate programs at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Indiana, and other universities, and some are now teaching at Rhode Island College, Bowdoin, and many public and private schools. Other art and art history majors and minors have gone on to careers in law, business, and medicine.

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**Bowdoin**

For more information about Bowdoin, please write or call:

**Dean of Admissions**

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Brunswick, Maine 04011-8441
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e-mail: admissions@bowdoin.edu

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