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WELCOME TO THE ART DEPARTMENT!

Art majors at Skidmore engage in an intensive art program within the context of a liberal arts education. Our program offers a rich and diverse range of courses across the disciplines of art making and art history.

There are ten disciplines within the art curriculum: Ceramics, Communication Design, Drawing, Digital Media, Fiber Arts, Jewelry and Metals, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, and Sculpture. Working with processes, materials and concepts, you’ll learn a formal visual language, activate your creative process, and refine your critical judgement.

Skidmore College has been accredited by NASAD (National Association of Schools of Art and Design) since 1970. This guide is intended to help answer questions, prepare you for an exciting experience and guide you through an art major.

This guide is written by students in collaboration with faculty.
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SCHEDULE YOUR CLASSES
PLAN IT OUT!

Get advice from faculty members in art. Once you have decided on an art major you will submit a form to change advisors from the one you were given at the start of your first year to a faculty member in an art area that interests you.

Make sure to check your schedule with your advisor so that you don’t miss any all college requirements and stay on track for your major. Studio courses typically meet for three hours twice a week. Courses are work intensive so try to schedule no more than two studio courses per semester during your first and sophomore years and no more than three during your junior and senior years.

As a general rule it is valuable to take many exploratory, introductive courses in the beginning of your college career to see which area you are drawn to. It is also smart to take general college requirements early onto make connections to many ways of knowing that will support your focus on an art concentration during your junior and senior years.

Certain classes fill up really quickly so make sure you are on top of which classes you want to sign up for and make a tentative plan for your semesters. If you get waitlisted for a class you really want then you should email the professor immediately to see what your options are.

USE YOUR RESOURCES!
READ, EXPLORE, CHALLENGE

There are many resources on campus and online for art majors! The library is filled with books and editorials covering all fields not to mention the interlibrary loan program that gives students access to the wealth of resources beyond campus.

STUDY AND SUCCESS TIPS
CREATIVE TIME MANAGEMENT

In order to complete assignments to the best of your abilities, it is important to get a jump start on them as quickly as possible. Most of the time you will have several assignments due at the same time so it is beneficial to not let deadlines slide till the last minute.

Make the most of class time where your professor and classmates can help you. Spend a good amount of time brainstorming, sketching, researching, and doing preliminary work. It is imperative that an idea is fleshed out and considered from all sides before diving in to the execution because this will most often produce higher quality creative work.

GET INVOLVED
LETS GET SOCIAL!

There are many student organizations on campus dedicated to art such as Pro-Arts, Line Magazine, Foundry Club, LINE Art Review, Photography Club and a variety of others. In addition there are always talks, lectures, and exhibits throughout the year centered around art that are beneficial for students to attend.

Case Gallery is an exhibition space run by students for students. The Tang Museum features programming by students and student activities on Thursday evenings.
ATTEND ALL CLASSES!
MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR OPPORTUNITY

Every professor will have their own rules about attendance but as art classes are lengthy, missing even one means that you will spend time playing catchup. Absences can be detrimental to grades.

If you do need to miss a class, give your professor the earliest notice possible. Work closely with your professor to make up work as soon as possible.

CRITIQUES
FEEDBACK TIME

In every art class you will be expected to participate in critiques in which everyone will present their work to the class and receive constructive criticism. These critiques are a great opportunity to improve your work and gain experience looking critically at others’ work.

Be sure to give objective, honest, and helpful feedback to fellow students. It is easy to take unfavorable critiques personally but remember that in the long run your art will improve because of them.

WORK 24/7
SECURE ACCESS TO STUDIOS

Our studios are open around the clock to students who are enrolled in Art courses. Students have secure swipe card access to Saisselin Art Center and the specific studios they are doing coursework in. You can work in the studios any time class is not in session! The building is unlocked from 7 am to 11 pm; after that, use your swipe card. Please don’t prop open doors.

SAVE YOUR WORK
BACK IT UP!

Save all assignments especially successful ones. You’ll be thankful later when it comes to creating your portfolio or website. It’s good to keep a good record of your work online as well with photographs or files on your Skidmore Box account which can be found at skidmore.box.com.

A USB disc is helpful. If you are working in digital media you should invest in a portable hard drive to save and protect your files.

PORTFOLIOS
EXHIBIT YOUR SKILLS

Your portfolio is one of the most important things you will produce as an artist. It is a culmination of your work and can take the form of a website, book, or pdf. The quality of your portfolio is an important factor in finding employment since it will show future employers what you are capable of. Make sure you include work that shows breadth and professionalism.

THE TANG MUSEUM

The Tang provides opportunities to get involved with museum practices, offering credit bearing internships with experiences such as curating exhibitions, writing for the curatorial department, conducting research for collections, and creating lessons for outreach programs to area schools and libraries. The Tang collection is an excellent resource.
LIST OF CONCENTRATIONS:
- Ceramics
- Communication Design
- Drawing
- Digital Media
- Fibers
- Jewelry and Metals
- Painting
- Photography
- Printmaking
- Sculpture

CONCENTRATION: Complete four courses (minimum) within one of the following disciplines: ceramics, communication design, drawing, digital media, fibers, jewelry and metals, painting, photography, printmaking, or sculpture. At least one course must be at the 300 level.

SECONDARY EMPHASIS: Complete two courses (minimum) within a single discipline outside of the primary concentration.

ART HISTORY: Three courses, at least 3 credits each, to include:
  a. At least one must be designated as either non-Western or Cultural Diversity
  b. At least one must be at the 200 or 300 level

Recommended: A balance between Western and non-Western Art History courses

CAPSTONE: successful completion of the Senior Thesis Exhibition and Reflective Essay.

As preparation for the exhibit, senior majors will be required to meet as a group, with department faculty, three times during the senior year. Group meetings will discuss philosophy, aesthetics, logistics, the artist statement, and effective planning for the exhibit.

ART HISTORY: The study of art history is essential to an art major. The department encourages students to take additional art history courses beyond the three required courses.

STUDIO FEES: All studio courses including Advanced Studio Problems and Independent Study carry laboratory fees (see course descriptions). In addition, students must purchase consumable materials and personal supplies.

DRAWING: Complete Drawing, AR 133, or equivalent

EXPLORATION: Complete six courses, each from a different studio area.

Complete three of the following:
  - Painting (AR 134 or AR 201)
  - Photography (AR 229)
  - Communication Design (AR 136 or AR 209)
  - Digital Media (AR 243)

Complete three of the following:
  - Printmaking (AR 228, AR 342 or AR 350)
  - Sculpture (AR 108, AR 132 or AR 251)
  - Ceramics (AR 211)
  - Jewelry and Metals (AR 219)
  - Fiber Arts (AR 214, AR 215 or AR 216)

The major requires a minimum of thirteen studio art courses and three art history courses for a total of sixteen courses, totaling at least 60 credit hours.
COURSE AVAILABILITY: The department is committed to having students experience a variety of media. However, space is limited, and, therefore students cannot be guaranteed enrollment in specific courses during any given semester. As soon as you are confident about your choice of program, you should declare your major no later than the end of your Sophomore year.

INDEPENDENT STUDY is an opportunity for qualified senior students to pursue advanced level projects within a discipline, under the guidance of a Department of Art faculty member.

AR 371A is a two credit independent study, which counts towards the total of 60 credits for the major, but does not count towards the 13 required studio art courses (at least three credits are needed to count as a course.) Prerequisite: Previous 300-level study within the discipline. Permission of instructor and department chair required.

AR 371B is a four credit independent study, which will count toward the major as a course. Prerequisite: Completion of the most advanced level course in the discipline. Permission of instructor and department chair required.

Please note: Only two independent studies may be counted towards the major.

THE ART MINOR: Any six studio art courses and two art history courses. Students design an art minor in consultation with the chair of the Department of Art for program approval. An art minor can be an excellent addition to majors in disciplines such as Art History, Anthropology, Environmental Science, English, Management and Business or Psychology.

MEDIA AND FILM STUDIES MINOR: The Media and Film Studies minor is a common pairing with the Art Major. It allows students to explore the function and structure of written, aural, and visual communication systems; to obtain a theoretical and contextual grounding in media and film studies; and to practice the application of current and developing forms of media technology related to communication. The program involves interdisciplinary study across the arts, humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences.

BE AN ENTREPRENEURIAL ARTIST: The Arts Administration minor offers courses in which students gain experience building skills for developing, managing, and initiating careers as art practitioners. The Entrepreneurial Artist Initiative provides networking opportunities.

DOUBLE COUNTING OF COURSES BETWEEN ART AND ART HISTORY: Students double-majoring in art and art history can double-count up to three courses between art and art history (and no other courses between or among minors). Students majoring in art and minoring in art history can double-count a maximum of two courses between art and art history (and no other courses between or among other minors).
The Senior Thesis Exhibition is the culminating experience of the art major. The exhibition is a group exhibition required of all senior art majors and takes place in the Tang Museum. The purpose of the exhibition is to celebrate and assess the accomplishments of art majors in studio practice. Students will work closely with Faculty to develop the body of work they will exhibit. Although the exhibition is not credit bearing, a passing grade (S/U) is required to graduate.

CRITERIA
Your exhibition should demonstrate maturity in thought, execution, and presentation. Plan to exhibit a select group of art works that represent the highest level of quality, depth of inquiry, and best critical judgment that you have achieved during the last year of work in your advanced courses at Skidmore.

PRACTICAL CONCERNS
Preparation: Work in the studio with full energy, sense of purpose, and commitment. Actively make work, building on your best ideas. Bring pieces to full resolution. When you have strong pieces of work, begin making selections for the exhibition. Consult with individual faculty members concerning questions of selection and presentation. Weigh the guidance you receive and make your own final decisions.

PRESENTATION: The presentation of your work for the Senior Thesis Exhibition is a major element in the way it is evaluated. High quality presentation is essential. Work that is framed, hung, cased or placed well will show the work to its best advantage. It should be noted that costs can run high for this portion of the process, plan ahead and apply for student opportunity funds.

TIMING: As you make the work, develop your total conception for the piece, which will include its presentation. Plan ahead to consider your needs and prepare for unexpected situations by working in advance of your deadlines. Don’t delay important preparation until the week before your installation date!

DO YOUR HOMEWORK: Explore local resources and internet sites to find the best presentation materials at the most economical price. Talk to your faculty members about options for the presentation of specific work.

A NOTE ABOUT FRAMERS: Framers will do as little or as much of the work of framing the pieces as you request. They can take the pieces and totally prepare them for hanging or they could prepare parts for you to assemble yourself. Most frame shops require two to three weeks to complete a job. Rush jobs may be granted at additional cost.

A NOTE ABOUT ORDERING: If you plan to order from a catalogue or on line, please allow adequate time for back orders and shipping. Make sure your order is complete and accurate.

ALLOTMENT OF SPACE: The Senior Thesis Exhibition spaces in the Tang are organized within a range of 8 to 12 feet. Wall partitions in the Payne Room are 8-foot-high and 4-foot-wide. The exhibition committee assigns space within an eight to twelve-foot range, based on need and availability.
SAISSELIN DIRECTORY

FIRST FLOOR
Ceramics
Fiber Arts
Jewelry and Metals
Printmaking
Sculpture
Faculty Offices

SECOND FLOOR
Art office
Communication Design
Digital Media
Faculty Offices
Photography
Schick Art Gallery

THIRD FLOOR
Drawing
Painting
Faculty Offices
MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

SCHICK ART GALLERY
Saisselin Art Building, second floor
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
rshepard@skidmore.edu
518-580-5049

TANG TEACHING MUSEUM
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518-580-8080

THE HYDE COLLECTION
161 Warren Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801
518-792-1761

UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM
University at Albany, State University of New York
1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12222
518-442-3300

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY AND ART
125 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12210
www.albanyinstitute.org

LARAC (Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council)
7 Lapham Place, Glens Falls, NY 12801
Located on Glens Falls City Park
518-798-1144

The Laffer Gallery
96 Broad Street
Schuylerville, NY 12871
518-695-3181

COLLAR WORKS
621 River Street
Troy, NY 12180
collarworks.org
518-285-0765

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM
222 Madison Avenue
Albany, NY 12230
nysm.nysed.gov

OPALKA GALLERY
140 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208
opalka.sage.edu

MASS MOCA
87 Marshall Street
North Adams, MA 01247
massmoca.org
413.662.2111
ART SUPPLIES

SKIDMORE SHOP
Case Center, Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518-580-5490

SOAVE FAIRE
449 Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518-587-8448

A.C. MOORE
3037 NY-50, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518-788-9160

ARLENE’S IN ALBANY
57 Fuller Rd, Albany, NY 12205
518-482-8881

ALLERDICE
41 Walworth Street
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518-584-5533

DICK BLICK
www.dickblick.com

CHEAP JOES
www.cheapjoes.com

UCHTRECHT
www.uchtrecht.com
OPPORTUNITIES

SEE BEYOND
SEE-Beyond Awards invite students to explore new techniques, technologies, or modes of inquiry or expression; to apply their academic-year learning to real-world challenges; and to clarify the interrelationship between their educational and post-baccalaureate goals.

Awardees will receive a $4,000 stipend and funds may be used at the student’s discretion to cover participation fees or tuition, travel expenses, and summer room and board. SEE-Beyond Awards may be used to access opportunities anywhere in the world, except in countries with State Department travel warnings or advisories.

Interested and qualified students submit a brief application to their academic department and/or program that includes a proposal describing their anticipated summer experience and how it fits their educational goals at Skidmore and beyond, as well as their experience level. Departments then select nominees to put forward into a college-wide competition.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITY FUNDS
Skidmore College offers several opportunities for students to receive grants in support of research, creative projects, and travel to present at conferences or juried exhibitions. These grants include Student Opportunity Project Funds, Travel to Present Awards, and Treuhaft Art Technology Grants. We also administer the Levine Internship Award, an award that supports internship experiences in American government, politics, and law. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis according to the quality of the proposal and the importance of the proposed activity to the student’s academic plan. All awards are assessed by the Associate Dean of the Faculty and a faculty review panel.

TRUEHAFT ART TECHNOLOGY GRANT
The Jeffrey and Cynthia Treuhaft Fund for Art Technology was established in 1999. This fund is designed to provide technology in support of student opportunities to work with faculty in new and innovative ways in any art form or medium. Project funds can support purchases of hardware and software for the College or provide other kinds of technological support for a wide range of projects.

POST-GRAD INTERNSHIP FUND AWARD
The Post-Grad Internship Fund Award gives $15,000 to a graduating senior from any major to pursue a six-month, full time internship. Criteria includes that the internship must be unpaid and related to specific career aspirations. Two winners will be chosen by a selection committee to receive the funding.

SUMMER EXPERIENCE FUND
The Summer Experience Fund gives students the opportunity to pursue experiences that will make them competitive candidates in today’s job markets. With a financial award, Skidmore students have more freedom to go beyond an ordinary summer job or internship. Instead, they can think creatively and pursue a transformative experience.

SUMMER COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH
Provides students with a unique opportunity to assist faculty in research and creating original work. The program offers students the chance to spend 5, 8, or 10 weeks in the studio immersed in making, to gain hands on appreciation for professional practice.
Almost 60% of Skidmore students study abroad. There are a variety of off-campus study programs approved by the Art Department. Programs vary in length from a semester to a year, and several institutions offer summer programs as well. For more information visit the OCSE homepage or the office on the second floor of Starbuck Center.

ARCADIA UNIVERSITY: BURREN COLLEGE OF ART
Located in Ballyvaughan, a small, picturesque village in rural Ireland, the Burren College of Art offers exceptional instruction in drawing, painting, sculpture and photography.

IFSA- GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART
GSA is the college of choice for leading-edge art study in Scotland’s most cosmopolitan city. Recognized for its international role in educating artists, designers and architects, GSA is one of the few free-standing art schools remaining in Europe. With a history of distinguished alumni, including Robbie Coltrane, Alison Watt, and Douglas Gordon, GSA can help you find your inspiration, as well.

IES-AMSTERDAM
Our Study in Amsterdam Program takes advantage of the city’s unique balance of history and contemporary culture, and lets you structure your studies at the prestigious Universiteit van Amsterdam and at the IES Abroad Center. Several courses include hands-on components to help you explore the city of Amsterdam and its surroundings while learning about the city’s past and present.

SACI - FLORENCE: SEMESTER/ACADEMIC YEAR
The extensive range of studio arts, design, conservation, art history, and Italian culture and language courses provides our students with the means to meet their individual educational needs while connecting them with the rich cultural heritage of Italy.

SKIDMORE IN LONDON:
UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS, LONDON
University of the Arts London is Europe’s largest university for art, design, fashion, communications and the performing arts. The University is comprised of 6 internationally renowned Colleges, each with their own style, academic offerings, and location.

SKIDMORE IN PARIS:
LIBERAL ARTS, LANGUAGE & BUSINESS
This program is designed for students at all levels of French language skills (beginner to advanced) to study in Paris, taking courses taught in French or English. The program is available in the fall semester, spring semester, or for the full-year, and strives to integrate them as fully as possible into the academic, cultural, and social life of Paris.

SKIDMORE IN SPAIN
Skidmore in Spain, run in conjunction with Tufts University, offers you amazing opportunities and access to Spanish culture. It is designed for students with high-intermediate or advanced knowledge of Spanish language, and strives to integrate students into the life of Madrid through courses at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid or the Universidad de Alcalá de Henares. It also offers customized global internships and volunteer opportunities to help meet your academic and professional goals.

STUDY IN THE US
There are also opportunities to study at other colleges and universities in the United States.