

# FINE ARTS

Bryn Mawr College's partnership with Haverford College allows students to major in Fine Arts and take courses in Fine Arts at Haverford College. In the Fine Arts Department, the focus is on the individual. Studio classes are small, and students from beginners to majors receive individual instruction.

Every student is encouraged to develop the physical and critical skills necessary to create art. The philosophy of the department is that observational skills are the cornerstone of all visual art disciplines. Cognition and processing information are key skills for any discipline—in the humanities or the sciences—and for this reason art at Haverford is specifically geared towards enhancing visual perception. Such finely tuned skills can benefit anyone professionally and personally.

The fine arts courses offered by the department are structured to accomplish the following:

- For students not majoring in fine arts: to develop a visual perception of form and to present knowledge and understanding of it in works of art.
- For students intending to major or to minor in fine arts: beyond the foregoing, to promote thinking in visual terms and to foster the skills needed to give expression to these in a coherent body of art works.

About 20 percent of Haverford students take fine arts courses while enrolled in the College. The students who major in fine arts and wish to continue their education are usually accepted at the professional graduate art school of their choice. Our alumni are distinguished professionals, active in the visual creative arts and allied fields.

## Learning Goals

All fine arts studio courses are designed for students to obtain motor skills, theoretical and critical thinking, and problem solving necessary to create art to the student's fullest ability along with developing their own original ideas and concepts. Students achieve these goals in individual interactions such as critiques and hands-on instruction in small classroom settings. These educational goals are augmented by outside speakers, visiting artists, exhibitions and non-studio courses in visual culture sponsored by the department or taught by its faculty.

Haverford's Institutional Learning Goals are available on the President's website, at <http://hav.to/learninggoals> (<http://hav.to/learninggoals/>).

## Curriculum Disciplines

The fine arts program at Haverford centers around five disciplines: drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, and sculpture.

Each discipline is offered at both the introductory and advanced levels, exposing students to the rigors and processes of each medium. Students get the benefit of learning about the tradition and the practice in the introductory courses, and then utilize and alter those ideas and tools in the advanced courses.

Students are encouraged to channel multi-disciplinary interests and ideas in their work, and to find an identity and voice through the medium, as well as producing work that is relevant to them.

- **Drawing** is typically viewed as practice or a preparatory exercise for a more "finalized" project (i.e. painting, sculpture, printmaking,

installation), and as the definition of art becomes ever-changing, drawing by contemporary standards includes sketches and everything in between as final works. Especially with the influx of street art and illustration, sketches, lists, and doodles are taken both seriously and as final art forms. Drawing at Haverford introduces and expands the traditional drawing practice to working self-sufficiently and exploring aesthetic notions in a variety of mediums: ink, pencil, charcoal, pen, pastel, markers, mixed media, etc.

- Traditionally rooted in narration, religion, and history the practice of **painting** is a mode of expression using different styles and mediums. Oil, acrylic, ink and mixed media are the tools to experiment with different painting styles and compositions. Painting at Haverford aims to guide students through the formative practices as well as encouraging exploration. The painting program is rigorous with intensive work and weekly student critiques. Students have classroom opportunity to work figuratively and paint from live models, work within the elements outside in Haverford's sprawling landscape, and also encouraged to challenge and take ideas further conceptually. With distinguished guest artists and lecturers visiting from other academic institutions, students are exposed to many views and interpretations of art making, inspiration, and the painting process.
- **Printmaking** is an interdisciplinary art form that has its own unique style as intaglio, lithography, relief, monotype, and silkscreen. Digital printmaking in lithography, intaglio, and silkscreen are taught along with traditional methods. Students are encouraged to combine printmaking with other mediums and extend their ideas from 2D to 3D including installation. Multi-media approaches are strongly recommended in advanced levels.
- **Printmaking** requires an intensive discipline. Patience is essential. Focus and attention are unavoidable. It is an art form based on chemistry and math. It has a long history that they must be aware of in order to create their own works. Furthermore, it is visual. No thoughts or philosophy can "be" a print even though it requires them all. Regardless of level, students are individual artists; they are respected to create their own work with an excellence in commitment that leads them to great achievements.
- The purpose of **photography** instruction at Haverford is to allow students to develop a personal body of work using photographic materials.
- A sequence of courses is offered from Foundation Photography for students with little or no knowledge to Advanced Photography in which students produce books and exhibitions. Emphasis is placed on producing photographs, which express both form and emotion through mastery of materials and acquisition of the intellectual and critical traditions of photography. The former is accomplished by technical critiques of student work in negative, digital and print formats. The latter is accomplished through reading and studying of the history of photography, theory and criticism, photographic monographs and original prints.
- The facilities for the study of photography include up-to-date and well-equipped darkrooms for chemical and digital photography. The photography book collection in Magill Library is one of the finest in the country. The photographic print collection contains over 5,000 original photographs. It is encyclopedic and contains works from Hill and Adamson at the dawn of the beginning of photography to contemporary works by Andres Serrano and Laurie Simmons. These exceptional resources support small classes that allow for personal attention and instruction from the professor and staff.

- The **sculpture** concentration at Haverford offers students the opportunity to explore the three-dimensional media with a broad range of materials and processes. Classes are designed to engage the visual language through a process of critical analysis and discovery while providing a structured environment that allows students to acquire dexterity with a comprehensive set of three-dimensional skills. At the introductory level students are introduced to fundamental three-dimensional techniques and through sequential classes they gain proficiency in a skill set that culminates with sophisticated sculptural concepts and fabrication methods at the advanced level.

The sculpture facilities include a wood shop, metal fabrication equipment, and a large-scale foundry for bronze casting. Students are introduced to wood and metal working techniques, modeling and casting skills, and digital fabrication methods. The sculpture concentration's focus on conceptual investigation and in-depth technical education, in conjunction with well-equipped foundry facilities, provides students the setting to foster creativity and work through artistic curiosity.

## Coursework and Studio Work

The 100-level "Introductory or Foundation" courses consist of half-semester courses. Although one half-semester is not sufficient for a beginning student to master a given medium, it offers ample time for acquiring a medium's basic skills. In each discipline, the student learns to see and to coordinate their increasing skills of interpretation and expression to create individual art works.

The 200-level courses are "Materials and Techniques" courses. Having gained a solid basis from the foundation courses, the student chooses a medium to pursue in depth for a semester. At this level, we encourage the student to explore the various materials and their uses to create a refined and distinctive body of work. In the 300-level "Experimental Studio" courses, the student uses the acquired knowledge of materials and techniques to further express and broaden their artistic vision and ideas.

We encourage students to spend time on their own work outside of class in the fine arts building. Adjacent faculty studios encourage this informal contact, which is invaluable in learning the discipline of creating art. This type of contact and mentoring is an important aspect of a student's education in our department.

## Study Abroad

Credits from Study Abroad or from Outside the Fine Arts Department

Majors can take one 200-level course outside of a major's concentration and any art history/theory/criticism or visual culture courses, subject to approval by the chair of the Fine Arts Department before the course is taken.

Minors can take one 200-level course outside of a minor's area of study and one art history/theory/criticism or visual culture course, subject to approval by the chair of the Fine Arts Department before the course is taken.

## Facilities

See the departmental web page for a description of art studios, galleries, and other special facilities for this program.

## Major Requirements

Fine Arts majors are required to concentrate in one of the following: drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture, as detailed here:

- Four 100-level foundation courses in each discipline.
- Two different 200-level courses outside the area of concentration in the major.
- Two 200-level courses and one 300-level course within the students chosen focal area within Fine Arts.
- Three art history/theory/criticism or visual studies courses (as approved by major advisor).
- Senior Departmental Studies (ARTS H499).
- For majors intending to do graduate work, we strongly recommend that they take an additional 300-level studio course within their area of concentration and an additional art history course at Bryn Mawr.

## Senior Project

In preparation for the senior thesis exhibition students attend 499 Senior Departmental Studies (ARTS H499, prerequisite 300 course in student's concentration such as drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, or sculpture) on a weekly basis. This two-semester, two-credit course provides students with a structured environment to develop a body of work that is presented in the form of an exhibition at the Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery. The scope of the senior thesis exhibition accomplishes the process of selecting works to be included in the exhibition, determining the layout of the works, and installing the works in the Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery. Students participate in the planning of the opening reception for their thesis exhibition, which is advertised to a broad audience. During the opening, they present their work to a general audience and are available to answer questions from guests. After the gallery opening, the Fine Arts Department faculty schedules a full departmental review of the work presented by each student. During the review each student articulates a formal presentation of their work and students are asked to respond to questions and comments put forth by the faculty.

## Senior Project Learning Goals

Seniors are expected to create a coherent body of work that demonstrates proficiency in the use of their chosen concentration, develop content and articulate ideas with a personal and effective visual language and present their work in a professionally installed gallery exhibition, e.g. in the Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery, Atrium Gallery, or Alcove Gallery. In addition to presenting visual works, majors are expected to articulate the content and context of their work in a written statement, which is on display with their work along with researches on visual art and artists that are related to their own work. These educational goals are augmented by outside speakers, visiting artists, exhibitions and non-studio courses in visual culture sponsored by the department or taught by its faculty.

## Senior Project Assessment

Each thesis project is evaluated by the Faculty members who are also their concentration advisors using the following categories:

- Original ideas and creativity.
- Proficiency in their chosen concentration.
- Quality of the project.
- Active discussion and participation during group critiques by departmental full faculty, which forms in the beginning, midterm,

and final week, and weekly group critique and research in addition to individual meetings with the faculty members.

- Progress in their project.
- Research on related sources, e.g. professional artist works and digital presentation.
- Attendance.

## Minor Requirements

- Minors must take four 100-level foundation courses in different disciplines.
- Two 200-level courses and one 300-level course within the student's chosen focal area within fine arts.
- One art history/theory/criticism or visual culture course.

### ARTS H101D Arts Foundation-Drawing (2-D) (0.5 Unit)

A seven-week introductory course for students with little or no experience in drawing. Students will first learn how to see with a painter's eye. Composition, perspective, proportion, light, form, picture plane and other fundamentals will be studied. We will work from live models, still life, landscape, imagination and masterwork. Enrollment Limit: 15 Lottery Preference: Fine Arts majors and minors

### ARTS H103D Arts Foundation-Photography (0.5 Unit)

This is a half-semester course to introduce the craft and artistry of photography to students with some or no skills in photography. Students learn how to develop negatives, print enlargements, and printing techniques such as burning, dodging, and exposure time. This class also requires a two-hour workshop. The day and time of the workshop will be determined during the first class. Offered in the first quarter. Enrollment Limit: 12

### ARTS H104D Arts Foundation - Sculpture (0.5 Unit)

This is a seven-week, half semester course designed to provide an introduction to three dimensional concepts and techniques. Skills associated with organizing and constructing three-dimensional form will be addressed through a series of projects within a contemporary context. The first projects will focus on basic three-dimensional concepts, while later projects will allow for greater individual self-expression and exploration. Various fabrication skills including construction, modeling, basic mold making, and casting will be demonstrated in class. All fabrication techniques will be covered in detail in class, and no prior experience is required to successfully complete this course. Enrollment Limit: 15 Lottery Preference: Fine Arts majors and minors

### ARTS H106D Arts Foundation-Drawing (0.5 Unit)

This is a seven week introductory level course designed to provide an overview of basic drawing techniques addressing line, form, space, and composition. Various drawing methods will be introduced in class, and students will gain experience in drawing by working from still life, models, and architecture. Enrollment Limit: 16

### ARTS H107D Arts Foundation-Painting (0.5 Unit)

A seven-week introductory course for students with little or no experience in painting. Students will be first introduced to the handling of basic tools, materials and techniques. We will study the color theory such as interaction of color, value & color, warm & cool, complementary colors, optical mixture, texture, surface quality. We will work from live model, still life, landscape, imagination and masterwork. Enrollment Limit: 12 Lottery Preference: Fine Arts majors and minors

### ARTS H108E Arts Foundation-Photography (0.5 Unit)

This is a half-semester course to introduce the craft and artistry of photography to students with some or no skills in photography. Students learn how to develop negatives, print enlargements, and printing techniques such as burning, dodging, and exposure time. This class also requires a two-hour workshop. The day and time of the workshop will be determined during the first class. Offered in the second quarter. Enrollment Limit: 15 Lottery Preference: Fine Arts majors and minors

### ARTS H121H Foundation Printmaking- Relief (0.5 Unit)

### ARTS H124D Foundation Printmaking: Monotype (0.5 Unit)

Basic printmaking techniques in Monotype medium. Painterly methods, direct drawing, stencils, and brayer techniques for beginners in printmaking will be taught. Color, form, shape, and composition in 2-D format will be explored. Individual and group critiques will be employed. Enrollment Limit: 15

### ARTS H224 Computer and Printmaking (1 Unit)

Computer-generated images and printmaking techniques. Students will create photographic, computer processed, and directly drawn images on lithographic polyester plates and zinc etching plates. Classwork will be divided between the computer lab and the printmaking studio to create images using both image processing software and traditional printmaking methods, including lithography, etching, and silk-screen. Broad experimental approaches to printmaking and computer techniques will be encouraged. Individual and group critiques will be employed. enrollment limit: 12 Lottery Preference: Fine Arts Major and Minors

### ARTS H225 Lithography: Materials and Techniques (1 Unit)

An intermediate course covering B/W and Color Lithography in plates. Combined methods with other printmaking techniques such as Paper lithography and Monotype are explored during the course along with photographic approaches. Editioning of images is required along with experimental ones. Development of technical skills in traditional Lithography and personal visual study are necessary with successful creative solutions. A strong body of work following a specific theme is required. Individual discussions and group critiques are held periodically. Additional research on the history of printmaking is requested.

### ARTS H233A Painting: Materials and Techniques (1 Unit)

Students are encouraged to experiment with various painting techniques and materials in order to develop a personal approach to self-expression. We will emphasize form, color, texture, and the relationship among them; influences of various techniques upon the expression of a work; the characteristics and limitations of different media. Students will work from observation, conceptual ideas and imagination. Course includes drawing projects, individual and group crits, slide lectures, museum and gallery visits. Lottery Preference: Fine Arts majors and minors Enrollment Limit: 12

### ARTS H250 Theory and Practice of Exhibition: Objects, Images, Texts, Events (1 Unit)

An introduction to the theory and practice of exhibition and display. This course will supply students with the analytic tools necessary to understand how exhibitions work and give them practical experience making arguments with objects, images, texts, and events.

### ARTS H322B Experimental Studio: Printmaking: Lithography (1 Unit)

An advanced course exploring traditional and experimental lithographic printmaking techniques in multiple plates and stones. Two- and three-dimensional and design and drawing exploration in color also are addressed. During the semester, students use multiple-plate and stone lithography in colors. Registration, color separation, and edition are taught at an advanced level. Combining other mediums can be explored

individually. Development of technical skills of the Lithographic process with personal visual study is necessary and creative and experimental approaches are highly encouraged. A strong body of work following a specific theme is required. Individual discussions and group critiques are held periodically. Additional research on the history of printmaking is requested. Prerequisite(s): One course in printmaking or instructor consent Enrollment Limit: 15

**ARTS H333A Experimental Studio: Painting (1 Unit)**

Students will build on the work done in 200 level courses to develop further their individual approach to painting. Students are expected to create projects that demonstrate the unique character of their chosen media in making their own art. Completed projects will be exhibited at the end of semester. Class will include weekly crits, museum visits, visiting artists' lecture and crits. Each student will present a 15- minute slide talk and discussion of either their own work or the work of artists who influenced them. Enrollment Limit: 12

**ARTS H343A Experimental Studio: Sculpture (1 Unit)**

In this studio course the student is encouraged to experiment with ideas and techniques with the purpose of developing his or her individual form of expression. It is expected that the student will already have a sound knowledge of the craft and aesthetics of sculpture. Advanced three-dimensional concepts and fabrication techniques including bronze casting will be introduced in class. May be repeated for credit. Enrollment Limit: 12

**ARTS H351A Experimental Studio Photography (1 Unit)**

Students produce an extended sequence of their work in either book or exhibition format using black and white or color photographic materials. The sequence and scale of the photographic prints are determined by the nature of the student's work. Weekly classroom critiques, supplemented by an extensive investigation of classic photographic picture books and related critical texts guide students to the completion of their course work. This two semester course consists of the book project first semester and the exhibition project second semester. At the end of each semester the student may exhibit his/her project.

**ARTS H460A Teaching Assistant (0.5 Unit)**

**ARTS H480B Independent Study (1 Unit)**

This course gives the advanced student the opportunity to experiment with concepts and ideas, and to explore in depth her or his talent. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. (staff)

**ARTS H499A Senior Departmental Studies (1 Unit)**

The student reviews the depth and extent of experience gained, and in so doing creates a coherent body of work expressive of the student's insights and skills. At the end of the senior year the student is expected to produce a show of his or her work.