University of Houston
School of Art

bachelor of fine arts  Painting

The painting and drawing program provides students with the critical, formal, conceptual and technical skills necessary to develop work which is timely, relevant and unique. The diverse practice of our students mirrors the complexity and ever-expanding definition of what “painting” is and can be. We facilitate the intellectual processes and practical making of work, as defined by the needs, interests and affinities of each individual artist/student.

Classroom instruction at every level includes the introduction and use of tools, techniques, vocabulary, and concepts of contemporary painting and drawing. All classes also incorporate group and individual critiques in the support and development of each student's work. Classroom instruction is complemented and supported by an active lecture program consisting of visiting artists and art critics.

careers. Our most dedicated graduates enjoy vibrant and dynamic careers making and exhibiting art. For these artists, the BFA degree is only the beginning of a lifetime of dedication to the profession and to their education. The learning environment shifts to private studios in cities across the country. Graduates become part of the tradition of art, contributing to the cultural vitality of Houston and other great art centers.

Many find employment in fine art related fields in institutions such as museums, galleries, and non-profit spaces; and in support industries including art handling, documentation, and preservation. Others complete teaching certification requirements through the College of Education and teach in public school systems. Students who are interested in teaching at the college level must earn an MA or MFA degree.

mandated studio art courses

FUNDAMENTALS: 4 COURSES. 2 open selections, plus

ART 1301 Fundamentals of Drawing

An introduction to the fundamental elements of drawing: line, value, perception, perspective, positive/negative space, and composition. These elements will be addressed through still life work, interior space, and the human figure. Students will use both wet and dry media and are expected to leave the course with the ability to translate three-dimensional objects into two-dimensional drawings.

ART 1304 Fundamentals of Painting

Provides intensive and comprehensive academic training in traditional painting media and technique. Class work is observational and done primarily from working with still life. Also addressed are the formal issues of figure/ground, color, materiality and composition.

RELATED ARTS: 10 COURSES. 8 open selections, plus

ART 3300 Intermediate Drawing

Builds on the principals introduced in fundamentals of drawing while emphasizing the view of drawing as an expressive image-making method. This course also treats the definition of drawing as elastic and inclusive, introducing collaborative projects and non-traditional media (paint, collage, photomechanical elements, and sculptural elements).

ART 3304 Intermediate Painting

Refines student’s technical skills, and introduces analytic and interpretative problem solving.

Related Arts Prerequisites

1. Before an intermediate level course can be taken, the corresponding fundamentals level course must have been completed.
2. Before an advanced level course can be taken, the corresponding intermediate level course must have been completed.
MAJOR CONCENTRATION

Junior and Senior Painting is the Major Concentration of the Painting Area degree plan. Students admitted into the major concentration sections of painting courses (known as “the block”) enroll in three concurrent courses for three consecutive semesters. This is an intensive course of study requiring students to be in their studios Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30-5:30 for the three semesters of enrollment. The course is team-taught by two faculty members who direct the coursework with an emphasis on experimentation and conceptualization in the context of contemporary painting. The goal of this course of study is to create a self-critical and individualized artist with a highly developed body of work.

major concentration competitive portfolio review

Admission into the Major Concentration is determined by competitive portfolio review and approval of the painting faculty. The review is held in November of the fall semester and April of the spring semester, and the three-semester cycle of coursework begins the following semester.

Transfer students may submit for the painting competitive portfolio review without necessarily having fulfilled all of the requirements for submission, in their first semester at UH only.

Students are allowed to participate in the competitive portfolio review for painting no more than two times.

Requirements for portfolio content

Artwork for the portfolio review should include 5-10 actual paintings or other artworks. This portfolio may be supplemented with drawings or photo documentation of other artwork, but this supplement is not required. All work shown in the portfolio review should have been completed in the previous two years. Also required is a written list of all art and art history courses successfully completed at the University of Houston or any other college or university.

Transfer students must show a minimum of 10 works from their previous school which have been completed in the last year.

studio space. Major Concentration students are given 24-hour 7 day a week access to private and semi-private studio space, intensive in-class work time, and critiques from a faculty of professional artists who are also dedicated mentors. The program fosters a dynamic environment that encourages rigorous self-motivated investigation, critical sense, peer-group support, and personal development.

GENERAL INFORMATION

internships/independent study. Painting majors with a studio art GPA of 3.0 or higher are eligible for internships in area museums, alternative spaces and galleries, including DiverseWorks, Artspace, Lawndale Art Center, the Contemporary Arts Museum, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Interns learn about the operation of for-profit and non-profit institutions by working as gallery assistants, curatorial and research assistants, and in educational programming and preparations departments. Students generally earn three Related Arts credits for the successful completion of an internship. Specific information regarding eligibility, requirements and opportunities is available from the painting area at the time of class registration.

admission information. The School of Art follows the standard UH admission requirements and procedures for freshman, transfer and post baccalaureate students, which are available at http://www.uh.edu/admissions. There are no separate admissions requirements for the School of Art bachelor degree programs.

scholarships. The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences is fortunate to have a pool of scholarship funds donated by several individual and business contributors. The amount of award varies according to the particular scholarship, but amounts have been in the range of $500-$2000 per year. Students may apply for these scholarships in the spring semester, and applications are available online at http://www.uh.edu/class/students/undergraduate/financial-support/index.php.

graduate school. Recent painting area BFA students have been accepted into some of the most prestigious graduate programs in art at institutions including Yale University, Columbia University, Parson School of Design, The Art Center College of Design, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and the School of Visual Arts.

Acceptance into graduate school may be highly competitive, and is based upon the quality of one's portfolio as evidenced by image documentation as well as supporting materials, including a personal statement, letters of recommendation and transcripts. Graduate selections committees are generally looking for students whose work demonstrates a high degree of inventiveness, facility, continuity, and contemporary visual literacy.

Applying to graduate school requires planning and organization, and students are advised to begin researching programs at the end of Junior Major Concentration.

Considerations for choosing a graduate program should include the following:

* Quality and reputation of the program and the faculty
* Focus and scope of the curriculum
* Geographic location relative to established cultural institutions
* Facilities
* Availability of scholarships, grants, fellowships and teaching assistantships.

contact information:

To receive more information or to schedule an appointment, contact:

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