



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Elizabeth Mandel '09

Art History



Q: How did you choose your major?

A: I came to college thinking I would major in government, but my first semester I also took an

art history class. The process of looking at the history of the world through art and images really appealed to me, so I declared art history as my major.

Q: How were your relationships with your professors?

A: My professors went above and beyond to provide me with unique opportunities to learn about art history. How many students can say they have been to dinner multiple times at their professor's house or traveled, all expenses paid, to Greece with a professor to assist with a restoration project?

Q: Did you study abroad?

A: I studied in Florence, Italy, through the College's Study Away Teach Away (SATA) program. My favorite part of the experience was taking a class about the art of Florence, which included many site visits to exhibitions in Florence and the surrounding area.

Q: Where have you interned?

A: I interned at the Child's Gallery and the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), both of which are in Boston. The MFA was in the process of expanding its collection, so I helped plan mock-ups for new galleries. Even though my internships are over, I still do research for one curator who is in the process of writing a book.

Art History

Overview

The art history major is loosely structured to give students the freedom to define their own education. We offer a wide range of courses in African, Asian, Islamic, classical, medieval, Renaissance, Baroque and modern art. Students who want to explore a topic in depth can pursue an independent study or an honors thesis. Recent honors theses have explored Italian futurism, exhibiting Islamic art in 19th-century France and gender issues in the modern bachelor apartment.

Interdisciplinary Studies

Encompassing the arts, humanities and social sciences, art history is more like an interdisciplinary major than a traditional department. Our classes integrate art with vital issues in history, religion, literature, politics, economics and social problems. This inherent breadth encourages students to pursue their passions with great flexibility while making deeper connections with other fields. Two architectural historians support a separate interdisciplinary major in architectural studies within the art history department. We also offer a certificate program in museum studies. Our programs give students the foundation for an array of careers in architecture, historic preservation, teaching, galleries, auction houses, art publishing, corporate collections, and museum work in the areas of education, curation, conservation and administration.

Art Exhibitions

Located two hours from Boston and New York and an hour from Providence, Hartford and New Haven, Connecticut College offers art history students close proximity to dozens of major museums and their art exhibitions. A special bus takes students directly to New York City museums twice a semester.

Study Abroad and Internships

Many art history majors spend a semester studying art in a foreign country. The department is closely affiliated with study-abroad programs in Florence and Rome and our students also go to many other countries including Vietnam, India, China, France, England and Germany. Students are also encouraged to pursue summer internships, which allow them to try different career possibilities and build personal networks. Recent interns have worked at museums such as the Uffizi, Louvre, Frick, Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Faculty

Joseph Alchermes, *Associate Professor of Art History; Chair of Art History Department*

B.A., Wesleyan University; M.A., Ph.D., Institute of Fine Arts, NYU
Late Roman art; early Christian art; Byzantine art; medieval architecture; Islamic art and architecture

Robert Baldwin, *Associate Professor of Art History*

B.A., New York University; Ph.D., Harvard University
Renaissance and Baroque art; early modern cultural studies; mercantile culture in Renaissance art and literature; landscape in Western art 1400-1900; gender in European art 1300-1700

Qiang Ning, *Chu-Niblack Associate Professor of Art History; Curator of the Chu-Griffis Asian Art Collection*

B.A., Sichuan University; M.A., Ph.D., Harvard University
Chinese art and religion; gender in Chinese art and society

Selected Courses

Christian Pilgrimage in the Middle Ages; Gender in European Art: Medieval to Baroque; Nature in Western Art from Middle Ages to Modernity; Art of the American West; Chinese Cinema: Sex, Violence, and Visuality; Imagining Otherness in Visual Culture; Debating Museums; Landscape Architecture; Gender in Architecture; Race and Space

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a highly selective residential liberal arts college with 1,900 students from all over the country and the world. The academic program offers 47 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities as well as innovative interdisciplinary programs. Students engage with dedicated faculty and each other to create a vibrant social, cultural and intellectual community in which learning is valued for its own sake — and individuals' diverse perspectives enrich the experience of all.

Christopher B. Steiner, *Lucy C. McDannel '22 Professor of Art History; Director of the Museum Studies Program*

B.A., M.A., The Johns Hopkins University; M.A., Ph.D., Harvard University
African art; art market and collecting; image of the other in visual culture; offbeat museums and visionary art

Abigail Van Slyck, *Dayton Professor of Art History; Director of the Architectural Studies Program*

A.B., Smith College; Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
American architecture; gender issues in architecture; vernacular architecture and cultural landscape studies; spaces of childhood; library architecture

Barbara Zabel, *Professor of Art History*

B.A., University of Colorado; M.A., University of Texas; Ph.D., University of Virginia
American art; European art of the 20th-century; art and technology in the modern era; gender issues in Modernism

What can you do with a major in art history?

Fred Goetzen '92

Director of communications for Tiffany & Co. in the U.K.

Held various positions at Christie's, including junior specialist in 19th-century European paintings, marketing manager, head of public relations and director of marketing and client advisory services.

Rory O'Dea '99

Ph.D. candidate in art history at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts.

Works as a curatorial intern at the Morgan Library and Museum in Manhattan while also conducting research for a doctoral dissertation on Robert Smithson.

Elizabeth Marwell '05

Assistant registrar of the Forbes Collection in New York City, a public museum and private art collection.

Lizzie Seeman '05

Assistant to the administration in the office of the director at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Working toward an M.A. at Columbia University in art history with a focus on Italian Renaissance art.

For more information, visit
www.conncoll.edu/academics/