Connecticut College

Julia McGinley

Art

Q: Why Connecticut College?
A: I knew I wanted to study art, but I also wanted a strong liberal arts education. I was searching for a college where I could be exposed to many avenues of learning, and to a diverse community of individuals with a variety of interests.

Q: Why did you decide to study art?
A: I am fortunate to come from a family of artists who have supported my passion from a young age. The department is what ultimately led me to where I am today. I was drawn to the tight-knit community of faculty and students and felt both challenged and encouraged.

Q: What was your most challenging or rewarding class?
A: Color Theory. The assignments taught me valuable technical skills I’ve applied to all of my art classes. Group projects were an opportunity to practice collaboration, and critiques and discussions were effective and insightful. The demanding coursework improved my time management and prepared me for the self-discipline and work ethic I needed for my independent study and thesis.

Q: Did you study abroad?
A: I went to Cape Town, South Africa, 2014 Design Capital of the World. I was fascinated by its rich social and political history. I took studio art, art history and gender studies courses at the University of Cape Town.

Overview

As an art major, you embark on a journey of visual investigation to develop your technical expertise and visual communication skills. The journey starts with courses in design and foundation-level drawing and culminates in the ideas and concepts you express in the Senior Thesis Exhibition. Our faculty are dedicated teachers and active artists. They expose you to a variety of artistic philosophies and professional practices. You can experiment or concentrate in a broad range of studio disciplines including ceramics, graphic design, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture.

Facilities

Cummings Arts Center has generous studios, darkrooms, computer laboratories and galleries supporting diverse disciplines. We also have newly renovated studios in sculpture, ceramics and printmaking and a new white-box gallery for student exhibitions and special projects. As a senior, you have a studio that is yours 24 hours a day, seven days a week for your thesis project.

Special Opportunities

Opportunities for collaboration abound. For example, professors Pamela Marks (art) and Marc Zimmer (chemistry) collaborated with art major Julia McGinley ’14 to develop illustrations for a children’s book on bioluminescence. And art professors Andrea Wollensak and Denise Pelletier collaborated with the computer science and botany departments to create courses investigating common themes and concepts. The Arboretum, greenhouse and Caroline Black Garden were the locus for the investigations.

Visiting Artists

The Dayton Artist-in-Residence and Weissman Visiting Artist programs make it possible for you to work on campus with leading national and international artists in workshops, studio classes and exhibitions. Visitors have included Maya Lin, Faith Ringgold, Sol LeWitt, Elena Sisto, John Cohen and Henry Horenstein. You also will have access to internships, retreats and trips to major art centers.
Faculty

Nadav Assor, Assistant Professor of Art
B.F.A., The Midrasha School of Arts, Beit Berl College, Israel; M.F.A., School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Expanded media; art and technology; interdisciplinary fine arts; arts education

Pamela J. Marks, Associate Professor of Art
B.F.A., University of Illinois; M.F.A., University of Arizona
Painting; drawing; color studies: theory and applications

Andrea Wollensak, Professor of Art; Judith Ammerman ‘60 Director, Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology
B.F.A., University of Michigan; M.F.A., Yale University
Social design and collaborative community ventures; Mapping and visualizing data; Digital poetics; Site-specific installation works

Gregory Bailey, Associate Professor of Art
B.A., Sonoma State University; M.F.A., University of Hartford
Sculpture; mold making and casting; ceramic shell foundry process; welding and fabrication; wood construction; installation art

Timothy McDowell, Professor of Art
B.F.A., Midwestern State University; M.F.A., The University of Arizona
Lithography; woodcut; monotype; etching, engraving and collograph; cyanotype; photomechanical image making

Chris Barnard, Assistant Professor of Art
B.A., Yale University; M.F.A., University of Southern California
Painting; drawing; two-dimensional art; art history; U.S. militarization and imperialism; critical discourse in contemporary art

Ted Hendrickson, Associate Professor of Art
B.A., M.F.A., University of Connecticut; M.A.T., Rhode Island School of Design
Photography

Denise Pelletier, Professor of Art; Chair of the Art Department
B.F.A., University of Connecticut; M.F.A., Alfred University
Ceramics; sculpture, site-specific art

Selected Courses

Concepts in Two Dimensions; Concepts in Three Dimensions; Concepts in Digital Process; Sculpture Workshop: Beyond the Object; Design Studies; Ceramic Sculpture: Moldmaking and Casting; Drawing: Methods; Printmaking: Exploration of Imagery Through Process; Color Studies: Theory and Applications; Large Format Painting; Sound Art; Experimental 3D; Science of Art: Rendering Through Optics

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a private, highly selective liberal arts college with 1,850 students and more than 40 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities, and the option for students to self-design majors. The College offers a high level of intellectual challenge, and a campus culture that supports students to tailor their educational experience to their own interests and goals. A four-year career development program teaches students how to translate a liberal arts degree into a first job or graduate school admission.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A MAJOR IN ART?

Animator, Pixar Studios
Exhibition Specialist, Bronx Zoo
Modeler, Dreamworks
Antique Motor Bike Builder, Eastern Fabrications
Art Teacher, Bangor School District
Visual Collections Archivist, Pixar Studios
Senior Creative Director, Crate and Barrel
Fine Arts Conservator, Philadelphia Museum of Art
Photostylist, Home Shopping Network
Web Designer, The Hartford
Art Director, The New York Times
Associate Professor of Art, Furman University
Character Artist, Riot Games
Design Director, Web MD
Interior Design Consultant, Honeywell
Visual Merchandiser, Reebok

EXAMPLES OF STUDENT RESEARCH IN ART

Hannah Plishtin ’13
A merging of an art honors thesis with an Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology senior project consisting of watercolor paintings and video installation, exemplifying how analog and digital mediums can unite to more deeply understand a subject. Won the first place Leo & Ann Higdon Art Award.

Colin Forsyth ’15
Modeling a 3D Historical Rendition: Process & Product

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.CONNCOLL.EDU/ACADEMICS/