Art History

Overview
As an art history major, you explore the aesthetic qualities of art through the framework of a piece’s historical, social, political, economic and religious contexts. We offer a wide range of courses in European, American and non-Western art and architecture and you learn, in part, by closely observing and handling objects. We manage several on-campus collections, including 1,600 prints and drawings in the Wetmore Collection, 200 Chinese paintings in the Chu-Griffis Asian Art Collection and a sizeable number of modern and contemporary sculptures. You might also work as an intern or collaborate on exhibitions, events and educational programs at the nearby Lyman Allyn Art Museum, the Florence Griswold Museum or one of dozens of major museums in New York.

International Opportunities and Study Abroad
Most art history majors spend a semester studying art abroad. We are closely affiliated with programs in Florence and Rome, and other options include Vietnam, India, China, Denmark, France, England and Germany. Recent interns have worked at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Museum of Contemporary Art in Beijing, Newport Art Museum, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Special Opportunities
You can pursue a topic in great depth through an independent study or honors thesis. Recent honors theses have focused on exhibitions of Italian Futurism, the political role of modern art in post-colonial Senegal and the history of Connecticut College’s architecture. Two architectural historians support a separate interdisciplinary major in architectural studies. We also offer a certificate program in museum studies.
Faculty

Joseph Alchermes, Associate Professor of Art History, Director of Architectural Studies Program
B.A., Wesleyan University; M.A., Ph.D., Institute of Fine Arts, NYU
Roman art; Early Christian and Byzantine art; medieval architecture; Islamic art and architecture

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
Asian art history; Contemporary Chinese art; gender in Chinese art and society; Silk Road archaeology; art market and collecting

Robert Baldwin, Associate Professor of Art History
B.A., New York University; Ph.D., Harvard University
Late Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque art, early modern cultural studies; Mercantile culture in Renaissance art and literature; Landscape in European art and literature, 1350-1920; Music in European art, literature, and society, 1400-1700; Gender and art, 1300-1930; Post-Impressionism

Karen Gonzalez Rice, Sue and Eugene Mercy Assistant Professor of Art History
B.A., M.A., University of Texas at Austin; Ph.D., Duke University
Contemporary art (1945-present); experimental art; performance studies; contemporary art and the body; American studies; contemporary art in America; religion in contemporary art; trauma studies; art and ethics

Stephen Fan, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Architecture
A.B., Harvard College; M.Arch., Harvard Graduate School of Design
Architectural design; geography; race and architecture; community engagement

Christopher B. Steiner, Lucy C. McDonnell ’22 Professor of Art History and Anthropology; Chair of Art History Department; 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; images of race and ethnicity in film and visual culture; outsider museums and visionary art; censorship, museum controversies and ethics

Emily C. Morash, Visiting Assistant Instructor
B.A., Smith College; M.Arch., History, University of Virginia; Ph.D. Candidate, Brown University
Modern and contemporary architecture; Italian architecture; American architecture; architecture and media

Abigail Van Slyck, Dayton Professor of Art History, Dean of the Faculty
Smith College, A.B.; Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
American architecture; gender issues in architecture; vernacular architecture and cultural landscape studies; spaces of childhood; library architecture

Selected Courses

Chinese Art and Religion; African Art; Islamic Art; Classical Mythology in Western Art; High Renaissance Art in Italy; Nineteenth-Century Art; History of Photography; Pop Art; Domestic Architecture in the United States; the Architecture of Connecticut College; Contemporary Architecture; Museum Censorship and Ethics; Costume History; Imagining Otherness in Visual Culture.

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College educates students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society. A leader in the liberal arts since 1911, the College is home to nationally ranked programs for internships, community action, arts and technology, environmental studies and international studies. Our beautiful 750-acre arboretum campus is located in the historic New England seaport community of New London, Conn.