ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Art & Art History department at Washington College affirms the intrinsic value of making and understanding art as a means of engaging ethically with the world through a process of open inquiry, interdisciplinary exploration, and ambitious thinking.

CONCENTRATIONS

The department offers majors and minors in both Studio Art and Art History.

• **Studio Art**: The Studio Art curriculum emphasizes contemporary artistic thought and practice through rigorous, interdisciplinary investigation of artistic media, techniques, and approaches. Courses are structured to lessen the boundaries between artistic disciplines and to facilitate conceptual depth and fluidity between artistic media. Through experimentation, research, critique, and dialogue, our students engage the world at large while contemplating humanistic concerns. Students who choose a concentration in Studio Art experience small, hands-on courses led by an active faculty of practicing professional artists. Classes are interactive and are designed to facilitate collaboration, both among students and between students and faculty mentors.

• **Art History**: The Art History faculty and curriculum provide students with the critical and methodological tools needed to analyze visual culture and its role in history. The study of art history provides a significant contribution to a liberal arts education, especially in a world increasingly shaped by the circulation and exchange of visual information and images. Students who choose a concentration in Art History benefit from a firm grounding in art historical methods, issues, and theories. The Art History concentration enables students to develop modes of critical seeing and a greater awareness of historical and cultural diversity. The ability to understand the effects and possibilities of images and visual data extends beyond the classroom and equips art history students for a broad range of careers and pursuits after graduation.

THESIS

• **Studio Art**: The Senior Capstone Experience (SCE) is an approved year-long studio research project, successful completion of which will demonstrate not only extensive knowledge of the medium or media involved but, more importantly, the ability to think critically, conduct research, and produce independently a substantial body of work. The final culminating requirement of the SCE is a spring exhibition conceived and produced throughout the fall and spring of the senior year.

• **Art History**: Either a comprehensive examination or, in the case of those who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher in the major, an Art History thesis, or curating an exhibition of works of art or other artifacts.

STUDY ABROAD

Between 2013 and 2018, eight Art & Art History students spent one or two semesters abroad. The most popular destinations chosen by these students were:

• University College Cork, Ireland
• University of St. Andrews, Scotland, United Kingdom

However, these are not your only choices. The following partner universities also have courses that may be compatible with your degree:

• Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
• China Studies Institute, China
• American University in Cairo, Egypt
• University of Hull, England, United Kingdom
• Université d’Artois, France*
• Université Grenoble Alpes, France*
• Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz, Germany*
• Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Germany*
• Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel
• Leiden University, The Netherlands
• Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Peru*
• Rhodes University, South Africa
• Universidad Nebrija, Spain*

*Requires language proficiency (300 level) in either French, Spanish, or German

INTERNSHIPS

Internship opportunities for Art & Art History students include both internships in Kohl Gallery and external opportunities at regional art museums available exclusively for Washington College students. Some of these include:

• Smithsonian American Art Museum
• Chadds Ford Historical Society
• National Museum of Women in the Arts
• Virginia Museum of Fine Art
• The Museum of Arts and Design
• The Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts

*Requires language proficiency (300 level) in either French, Spanish, or German
WHY ART & ART HISTORY AT WASHINGTON COLLEGE?

1. **We embrace interdisciplinary possibilities, both in the liberal arts setting that Washington College provides and in contemporary society.**

Our classes and experiential learning opportunities prepare students for graduate studies and professional careers as artists, scholars, arts administrators, policymakers, activists, creative business owners, and solution-finders. We expose students to critical thinking and unconventional, nonlinear problem-solving approaches, preparing them to enter the world as creative thinkers capable of adding fresh insight to any field.

2. **Washington College has galleries and Project Spaces to showcase student work.**

The Kohl Gallery, located on the Washington College campus in the Gibson Center for the Arts, fosters the study and understanding of art through a diverse range of exhibitions and public programs. Embracing its liberal arts context, the Kohl Gallery endeavors to present fresh perspectives on historical and contemporary art and to promote interdisciplinary conversations about historical, social, and cultural issues of significance to the community of Washington College, Chestertown, and beyond.

China Hutch Projects is a new, offsite curatorial project space situated in the dining room of a rented 1940s bungalow in Chestertown. Curated by Assistant Professor of Art Julie Wills, China Hutch features artists and artworks that respond to domestic space in their concepts, materials, or conditions of making.

SANDBOX is a Washington College initiative designed to foster collaboration between the creative arts and sciences. Established through initial funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, SANDBOX seeks to uncover a freshness of vision through the juxtaposition of interdisciplinary approaches—using processes that others may not see.

3. **Our students further benefit from the College's close proximity to museums and art centers in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York, with a field trip to a major art museum offered each semester.**

RECENT STUDENT WORK