

Art history

Essentials

Taught programmes

MA degrees

Art History
Art History and Museum Curating
Art History and Museum Curating with
Photography

Research programmes

MPhil, PhD Art History

Admissions requirements

For information on overseas qualifications that meet the admissions requirements, refer to pages 156-157

MA

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in art history or another relevant humanities or social science discipline

MPhil and PhD

A Masters degree in art history or a related discipline such as history, architecture, English, archaeology, anthropology or cultural studies, and proof of engagement with art history at an advanced level

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5, with not less than 6.5 in Writing and 6.0 in the other sections. Internet TOEFL with 92 overall, with 21 in Listening, 22 in Reading, 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For more information and alternative English language requirements, refer to page 156

Fees

Refer to pages 158-159 for information on fees

Further information

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The Wyne (National Trust) in Hampshire, a 16th-century house studied extensively by Professor Maurice Howard. We have had excellent rates of success in obtaining AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Awards with museums and heritage organisations such as the National Trust

- Rated in the top 3 in the UK for research in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). 100 per cent of our research was rated as recognised internationally or higher, with 70 per cent rated as internationally excellent or higher, and 45 per cent rated as world leading.

- Art history at Sussex is ranked 5th in the UK in *The Times Good University Guide 2012* and 6th in *The Complete University Guide 2011-12*.

- The skills of our faculty represent a unique array across European and American art and culture with an interest in material culture.

- Art history at Sussex has strong links with museums and galleries, both locally and nationally. MA students benefit from the opportunity to study with curators from the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) as part of the V&A/Sussex Exchange Programme.

- For MA and research students alike, art history at Sussex provides a friendly and stimulating environment for the exchange of ideas, in which intellectual life and scholarly endeavour thrive.

- Art history graduates have gone on to find employment in Higher Education, publishing, the art market, conservation and museum management.

Taught programmes

MA in Art History

1 year full time/2 years part time

This MA looks at global perspectives in the history of art, concentrating on the art object, its appearance, reception and manufacture. In the core course Objects and Methods, you share a common taught experience, examining methods and theories relating to themes such as material culture, globalisation, space, historiography and museology.

Career opportunities

Our graduates have gone on to pursue careers at the V&A, the Charleston Trust, the National Trust and at the BBC.

Programme structure

The core course is complemented by three options selected from those on offer in any one year, which may include Art and the Interior

- Art and Travel
- Body and Society
- Creating the Court
- Modernity in Europe and America
- Objects of Art
- Photography and 20th-Century Visual Culture
- Power of Images in Byzantium.

You may, with the agreement of the programme convenor, take an option from another humanities postgraduate programme.

Full-time students work on the dissertation in the third term, and part-time students in the third and sixth terms.

Assessment

You are assessed by term papers and a dissertation of 20,000 words.

MA in Art History and Museum Curating 1 year full time/2 years part time

This MA aims to cultivate an understanding of curatorial skills relevant in a museum context and required of museum curatorial staff throughout the field. You will study with staff in collections such as the V&A, Tate, British Museum, National Maritime Museum, National Portrait Gallery, Charleston Trust and the Royal Pavilion.

Career opportunities

You will develop skills in acquiring knowledge about collections and objects, communicating about objects in a variety of formats, and project management.

Programme structure

A Museum Curating Skills course, with seminars at Sussex and at local and national collections, is taken with a core course, Objects and Methods. In addition, the course Visual and Material Cultures focuses on the specialist expertise of a V&A curator who teaches using the V&A's collections as a basis for study. Other courses are taught by academic faculty around specific museum collections. The programme also offers the opportunity to pursue a placement scheme with national and local institutions. You may, with the agreement of the programme convenor, take an option from another art history or humanities postgraduate programme.

Full-time students work on the dissertation in the third term, and part-time students in the third and sixth terms.

Assessment

You are assessed by term papers and a dissertation of 20,000 words.

MA in Art History and Museum Curating with Photography

1 year full time/2 years part time

This MA enables you to develop academic skills relating to research methods in art history with a specific focus on photography, and to develop curatorial skills required by museum curators.

You gain hands-on experience in a museum setting working with curators in local and national collections. You will also study with faculty and curators in international, national and regional institutions, such as the V&A, the Tate, the Brighton Museum & Art Gallery, Ditchling Museum, The Towner and Charleston House.

Career opportunities

You will gain knowledge about objects and collections, specifically in the context of photography, and develop a critical awareness of museum practices. This MA will also enhance your communications skills, enabling you to present your work to a professional standard in a range of formats, as well help you develop your project and resource management skills.

Programme structure

Autumn term: Museum Skills 1 – Objects and Methods.

Spring term: Museum Skills 2 – Photography and 20th-Century Visual Culture.

Summer term and vacation: this programme offers you the opportunity to pursue a placement scheme with photography collections leading to your dissertation/work report.

Assessment

You are assessed by term papers and a dissertation of 20,000 words.

Research programmes

We offer research supervision in the history of art and architecture. Special areas of interest include the history of the visual arts and architecture of western Europe in the early modern and modern periods, Byzantine art, Renaissance art, 18th-century art, British and North American art of the 20th century, and contemporary visual culture, especially photography.

Across periods of interest, we share a focus on the object as the starting point of analysis, attention to issues of methodology, historiography and critical theory, and engagement with questions of material and visual culture.

Training in research skills and methodologies is provided.

Recent thesis titles

From mimesis to metaphor: images of the Holocaust in contemporary photographic and installation art

Light in early Byzantium. The Church of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople

Narrative and figurative imagery in the English domestic interior c1558-c1640

On relocating contemporary Chinese art

Remains in light: identity and photography in self-portraiture

Representing rebellion: visual aspects of counter-insurgency in colonial India

Studies in the symbolism and spirituality of the Arts and Crafts Movement

The crown and the jewel: images of royalty and vicerealty in the making of imperial India and Britain

The fashions of the Florentine court: wearing, buying and making clothing, 1560-1620

Career opportunities

Our graduates have gone on to careers in Higher Education, publishing, the art market, conservation and museum management.

Specialist facilities

Facilities include a well-equipped slide library containing over 100,000 colour transparencies, an extensive database of digital images, access to computing and word-processing training, and a library well stocked with secondary literature in the discipline and with online access to the British Library and other repositories.

You are encouraged, where appropriate, to take advantage of local sites of art-historical interest: extensive collections in the Royal Pavilion and the museums of Brighton & Hove; local country houses such as Petworth and Firle; and the Bloomsbury Collection and the Charleston Trust.

Academic activities

A regular research seminar, to which outside speakers are invited, provides a major forum for debate. You are also encouraged to attend seminars in other disciplines such as history, English, philosophy and anthropology.

The Department of Art History is linked to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London through an exchange programme that extends and enhances the research and teaching expertise of both institutions. Each year a member of staff from the museum teaches at Sussex, while a member of the University faculty undertakes research based on the museum collections.



Researchers in the Centre for Byzantine Cultural History are working with international colleagues on an interdisciplinary project investigating how, when and where glass tesserae, the building blocks of mosaics, like this (above), were made. As well as providing insights into artistic practices of the Byzantium era, this will contribute to wider debates about the nature of trade and exchange within the Mediterranean during this period and into our understanding of political and social changes within the Mediterranean world (refer to page 9 for more details)

The Department of Art History plays a part in the Centre for Visual Fields, the Centre for Early Modern Studies and the Centre for Byzantine Cultural History. These form foci for a range of lectures, conferences and funded research projects.

Faculty research interests

These cover a broad chronological spread, from Byzantium to the present, and a wide range of interests, from 20th-century photography to women art critics, Tudor architecture, and art and travel.

Research interests are briefly described below and on the right. For more detailed information, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/arthistory

Meaghan Clarke 19th- and early 20th-century painting, photography and print culture in Europe and North America.

Flora Dennis Visual culture of 15th- and 16th-century Italy; domestic interiors. Editor of *Approaching the Renaissance Interior: Sources, Methodologies, Debates* (2007).

Professor Maurice Howard Tudor art and architecture; French architecture 1500-1600; the history of ornament. Author of *The Building of Elizabethan and Jacobean England* (2008).

Professor Liz James Classical and Byzantine art, light and colour, gender. Editor of *Art and Text in Byzantine Culture* (2007).

Professor David Alan Mellor 20th-century painting, film and photography; cultural and visual representation. Author of *No Such Thing as Society* (2008).

Michelle O'Malley Italian Renaissance painting, commissioning, consumption and production.

Geoffrey Quilley 18th-century art, travel and empire. Author of *Art and the British Empire* (2007).

Associated faculty

Vibhuti Sachdev Associate Fellow: architectural theory, contemporary architectural practice and urban design in India.

A seminar held at the Brighton Museum & Art Gallery. Most of our MA courses involve working with museum collections

