

# New York University Bulletin



UNDERGRADUATE 2010-2012

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# Art

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**Jesse Bransford**

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**Preparing Artists and Educators to Shape a New Century**

Now, more than ever, images have become a site where truth is contested and social space is defined. Boundaries between media are being challenged, as handmade marks and objects merge with computer screens and virtual realities. In the Department of Art and Art Professions, we mix the rich visual traditions of the past with emerging forms and ideas, encouraging students to envision fresh new ways of making art. Balancing cutting-edge technical training against a backdrop of aesthetic approaches ranging from painting to mixed media and multicultural theory, the Studio Art Program immerses students directly in the issues confronting the art world itself. Here, the vast resources of a renowned University combine with an outstanding art faculty to prepare students for careers in the real-time art world in ways that far exceed the scope of more narrowly defined programs. By combining critical thinking with a broad range of formal skills, we enable our graduates not only to keep pace with change, but to instigate it.

**Study in the Center of the International Art World**

New York City is the central laboratory for the research and development of urban art and culture. Leading artists live, work, and teach here alongside the most influential galleries and museums in the world. NYU's campus, located in the heart of this vibrant community, allows you to participate in the excitement of important exhibitions, performances, lectures, and events as they happen. Through internships, you work with experienced professionals in a wide variety of disciplines. In the classroom, you study with acclaimed artists and educators, all of whom continue to practice in the field. Whether you are creating public sculpture with a faculty member just back from Europe or participating in an internship at a Chelsea gallery, your education here will be like no other.

**Artists and the Liberal Arts**

Images define our world, and because artists, as the creators of images, participate in the invention of visual history, it is essential

that they have a rich and diverse educational background. As you learn to give form to the imagination of your time, NYU has the resources to help you discover and interpret the meaning within your work. Core courses in the liberal arts provide you with a broad base of knowledge in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences, stressing an interdisciplinary approach that complements your major. This understanding will strengthen your artistic insight as well as your ability to think critically within a diverse and challenging social context. You are prepared with the skills and confidence to succeed in the exciting and highly competitive global art world.

**Distinguished Faculty**

Faculty members in the Department of Art and Art Professions have deep ties to the New York art community, as well as strong national and international reputations. Working closely with undergraduates is Professor Jesse Bransford, director of the undergraduate art program and a practicing artist whose works have been exhibited internationally in galleries and museums including the

Carnegie Museum of Art, the UCLA Hammer Museum, and the P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center. Professor Kevin McCoy is an artist working with video, electronics, and sculpture. His work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and other museums in the United States and Europe. Professor John Torreano is a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, with showings of his paintings and sculptures at the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, and the Corcoran Gallery in Washington. Professor Sue de Beer is an artist who uses video, photographs, and performance to explore the connections between media and cultural phenomena. She has exhibited her work internationally in such venues as the New Museum of Contemporary Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

### **B.F.A. Program in Studio Art**

Pursuing a career in the arts is an exhilarating and challenging endeavor. Rules in the art world are largely made to be broken, and the curriculum that best prepares young artists to succeed in this field is one

that encourages innovation and self-reliance over predictable approaches. Experience with a wide range of materials and techniques allows you to express your ideas fluently. At the same time, a thorough grounding in the history and theory of art is essential to your artistic career, as it gives you the tools needed to evaluate your own work within the context of a larger culture.

The school's program begins freshman year with an ambitious series of interdisciplinary studio courses in experimental drawing, sculpture, photography, video art, and/or digital art. Art history and seminar courses in the first two years expose you to a wide range of ideas and practices. In the sophomore and junior years, you mix art courses with classes in the liberal arts. You will also begin to explore your own artistic concerns through the development of an individual body of work in undergraduate projects courses. Many students participate in internships during the junior and senior years, and at least one semester of study abroad is encouraged during the sophomore or junior year. In the senior year, you take the course Art, Culture, and Society, which inte-

grates your liberal arts studies with your artistic practice, culminating in a written thesis. With special permission you may also enroll in Senior Studio, which includes the use of studio space and participation in an exhibition in one of our student galleries.

You may also choose a minor concentration from NYU's vast offerings, incorporating other fields such as art history, music, psychology, literature, or anthropology into

your study of art.

Special resources include NYU's Grey Art Gallery, the department's 80 Washington Square East Galleries, and the Rosenberg Gallery, as well as the Visiting Artists/Curators Lecture Series and the city's extraordinary wealth of museums, galleries, and artists' studios.

### **Portfolio Review**

Admission to the B.F.A. Program in Studio Art is by review of your artist state-



ment and portfolio. Guidelines for submission can be found at [steinhardt.nyu.edu/art](http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/art).

### A Community of Artists

Small studio classes encourage close relationships with your teachers and peers and ensure much individual attention within the larger NYU community. Through lectures, gallery and museum visits, reading and writing assignments, and student presentations, you engage with the dialogues that change and define the arts.

A dynamic series of public programs, including lectures, performances, panels, symposia, and video screenings, enhances knowledge gained in the classroom and studio. Visiting artists and scholars provide students with the opportunity to hear and see different points of view about concept development, art-making practice, and career building, in both classroom and critique settings. Recent visitors have included Marina Abramovic, Vito Acconci, Alex Bag, Suzaan Boettger, Olaf Breuning, Patty Chang, Lynne Cook, Feri Daftari, Dan Graham, Jim Hodges, Roni Horn, Scott Hug, Isaac Julien, Shamim Momin, Peter

Plagens, Laurie Simmons, Rirkrit Tiravanija, and Andrea Zittel.

### Fundamentals: The First Year

Your immersion in a series of intensive studio courses allows you to explore many forms and philosophies of art-making simultaneously, giving you an unusually wide array of skills and languages to express your ideas. You use traditional and nontraditional materials and techniques in a variety of projects, which range from figure drawing to experimental sculpture, performance, photography, video, and digital imaging. At the end of the first year, you are better prepared to make, observe, and analyze your own artwork and the work of others; you become more disciplined in your ability to sustain long periods of creative concentration; and you gain a much wider view of the many ways in which artists contribute to society.

### Art Theory and Critical Studies Sequence

Beginning with Art and Contemporary Culture I and II, and continuing with Art Since 1945 and Contemporary Art History, you will be immersed in the debates and images that

have charted the course of visual culture from antiquity to current gallery exhibitions. The courses Visual Arts Praxis and Art, Culture, and Society explore personal expression in relation to history and critical thought. These courses integrate ideas and visual practice, incorporating artists' projects and cultural criticism on an equal basis. Students also choose an art history elective from a selection of courses offered in the College of Arts and Science.

### Studio Courses

The B.F.A. Program in Studio Art offers course sequences in the following area concentrations: painting, drawing, and printmaking; sculpture and craft arts (ceramics, light metals, and glass); and art in media (photography, digital art, video art). After your first year, you are required to complete 12 points in one of these concentrations. You also have the option to take electives from all the studio areas.

### Interdisciplinary Projects Courses

After freshman year, you may apply to take interdisciplinary projects courses. These classes are conceptually driven, using the idea

of praxis—the combination of theory and practice—to explore ideas by employing both visual and intellectual methods. Through readings, films, slide lectures, visiting speakers, and field trips, you explore the broader social and theoretical dimensions of visual culture. Students produce artwork in media of their own choice related to such topics as sex and contemporary art, autobiography, art and activism, and anarchy and the imagination.

### Special Senior Studio and Exhibition Opportunities

At the end of your junior year, you may apply to participate in a special year-long course designed to help selected students further their studio practice as exhibiting artists. In addition to participating in individual and group critiques, you will meet independently in your studio work space with two senior mentors and visiting artists. Over the course of the year, you develop a cohesive body of work as well as a written thesis outlining the ideas and contexts that drive your creative process. In the fall, you participate in a group exhibition, and in the spring, you participate in a two- to four-per-

son exhibition in one of the student galleries.

### Study Abroad and Global Art Track Options

After your first year, you are encouraged to enroll for at least one semester in one of the art-enriched study abroad sites sponsored by New York University. These programs are NYU in Ghana, where students work with a vibrant mix of contemporary artists and traditional craftspeople, and NYU in Berlin, which is home to the most innovative contemporary art scene in Europe. Other sites include Florence, Paris, London, Prague, Shanghai, Buenos Aires, Tel Aviv, and Madrid.

The Global Art Track is a specially designed program for sophomores and juniors to spend two semesters abroad in Berlin and Ghana. At these two sites, you will work with NYU faculty and local artists who introduce you to the local art scene and help you to understand the differences in global cultures that are influencing contemporary art. These sites have enhanced art facilities where you are able to produce and exhibit your work as well as engage with

artists, critics, and galleries in an international environment. You are able to stay on track with your B.F.A. curriculum, and on your return, you exhibit your work in one of the art department galleries as well as engage in a Global Arts Integrated Seminar in your senior year.

### Internship Opportunities in Studio Art

You can elect internships for credit by advisement through the Undergraduate Internship course. In this course, you are assisted in finding individualized placements with recognized artists, museums, galleries, and nonprofit or commercial businesses within the visual arts. You work closely with the internship coordinator to assess your progress and define learning goals. A small sampling of the more than 300 internship settings available in prior years follows below.

**Artists' Studios:** Vito Acconci, Kiki Smith, Takashi Murakami, Janine Antoni, Lyle Ashton Harris, Beverly Semmes, Petah Coyne, Brad Kahlhamer, Ursula Von Rydingsvard, Lynne Yamamoto, Shirley Kanada, Peter Campus, Donald Sultan, Haim Steinbach,

Jeanne Silverthorne, Lucio Pozzi, Suzanne McClelland, Paul Pfeiffer.

**Galleries:** Brook Alexander Gallery, Marianne Boesky Gallery, Exit Art, Franklin Furnace, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, Sean Kelly, The Kitchen, Marborough Galleries, Postmasters, Printed Matter, Sonnabend Gallery, Team Gallery, Jack Tilton Gallery, White Columns.

**Museums:** American Museum of the Moving Image, American Craft Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Guggenheim Museum, P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, Whitney Museum of American Art.

**Organizations:** *Elle* magazine, Cynthia Rowley, Betsey Johnson, Issey Miyake, *Saturday Night Live*, Fox Five TV, MTV, New York Department of Cultural Affairs, New-York Historical Society, Jim Henson Productions, Disney Theatre Productions, Ralph Lauren Associates, Time Warner, Inc.

**Dual Degree Program:** B.F.A. Studio Art/M.A. Teaching Art, All Grades

If you are interested in teaching art in public and private schools, you can

begin to take graduate-level education courses, by advisement, in your senior year. By volunteering to work with children in community-based organizations, you are able to make an informed decision about pursuing teaching art as a profession. Beginning your education with a strong focus in studio art, you experience firsthand the artist's creative process. In the undergraduate liberal arts courses, you gain an extended perspective on the world of ideas and the role that aesthetic experience plays in cultural history. Upon graduation from the B.F.A. program, students who are accepted into the Master's Dual Degree Program in Teaching Art, All Grades, can accelerate the completion of their graduate degree.

The Master's Degree Program in Art Education is designed to provide advanced professional training for the artist-teacher. Grounded in practice, this program draws on critical theory in art and education. Through a sequence of core courses, you examine the philosophical, political, sociological, and historical issues related to teaching art and learn to

develop socially and culturally relevant art curricula. Simultaneously, you complete the requirements for teacher certification through the master's program and can teach art from kindergarten to grade 12. You will be prepared to teach art not only in schools, but also in museums, community-based programs, and other alternative educational sites.

### Other Study Options

Students in the Studio Art Program pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and can work in painting, drawing, and printmaking; sculpture and craft arts (ceramics, glass, light metals); and art in media (photography, digital art, video art).

**Minor:** Students may also minor in another area such as art history, psychology, or creative writing, to name just a few.

**Intersession Study:** Students may take advantage of NYU winter and summer courses to accelerate their studies.

**Independent Study:** Independent study is designed by the student and a faculty member to investigate an area or field of specialization not normally offered in scheduled course offerings. It is an opportunity to work one-on-one with a full-time faculty member to complete directed reading, a creative project, and/or supervised research.

### Another Program to See:

- Media, Culture, and Communication

## YOUR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

### STUDIO ART

You are prepared to produce your own artwork while finding employment as a gallery or studio assistant, researcher or archivist, designer for the Internet, photo lab technician, graphic designer, model maker, ceramist, or media production assistant, as well as a myriad of other entry-level positions in museums, auction houses, community centers, publications, nonprofit public and private arts organizations, arts-related businesses, and independent artist studios.

Students who are committed to furthering their education in the arts or teaching, or entering a professionally related field such as art therapy or arts administration, pursue appropriate graduate degree programs on completion of the B.F.A.

Undergraduate students can begin to take selected graduate-level education courses during their senior year and apply to the B.F.A. Studio Art/M.A. Art Education Dual Degree Program. Upon graduation from the undergraduate program, students who are accepted into this five-year, dual degree program can accelerate the completion of their master's degree in art education.

### HELPING YOU START YOUR CAREER

Our extensive student internships give you a head start in the job market. Many interns go on to paid positions upon graduation, and others use the professional skills and contacts to pursue positions that would be inaccessible without work experience. Our outstanding faculty, alumni, and the many visiting artists and critics you will meet during your studies are excellent resources for advice on entering the working world of the practicing artist.

Recent graduates are employed in areas such as the following:

- Freelance artist
- Studio manager
- Photographer
- Art director
- Production designer
- Photo archivist
- Curator
- Assistant gallery director
- Assistant coordinator of museum education
- Admissions counselor for arts college
- Television production coordinator
- Art teacher, public or private school, community center, museum
- Art therapist
- Exhibitions designer
- Fashion designer
- Graphic designer
- Digital designer
- Internship coordinator for arts college

## STUDIO ART

The 128-point curriculum in studio art combines 42 points of liberal arts courses with 86 points in studio art

that include drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, crafts arts (ceramics, glass, light metals), photography,

digital and video art, interdisciplinary projects, art history, and critical theory and 18 points of unrestricted elec-

tives in other areas of interest within the University.

### SAMPLE CURRICULUM WORKSHEET

#### Freshman Year 36 Points

<b>FALL SEMESTER</b>	Fundamentals of Media I. E90.●●●● . . . . .4	<b>SPRING SEMESTER</b>	Fundamentals of Media II. E90.●●●● . . . . .4
<b>LIBERAL ARTS</b>	(Digital Art, Photography, or Video Art)	<b>LIBERAL ARTS</b>	(Digital Art, Photography, or Video Art)
Writing the Essay. V40.0100 . . . .4	Art and Contemporary Culture I. E94.0037 . . . . .2	The Advanced College Essay. E52.0110 . . . . .4	Art and Contemporary Culture II. E94.0038 . . . . .2
<b>MAJOR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b> <u>18</u>	<b>MAJOR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b> <u>18</u>
New Student Seminar. E03.0001 0		Fundamentals of Drawing II. E90.0108 . . . . .4	
Fundamentals of Drawing I. E90.0107 . . . . .4		Fundamentals of Sculpture II. E90.0212 . . . . .4	
Fundamentals of Sculpture I. E90.0211 . . . . .4			

#### Sophomore Year 30 Points

<b>FALL SEMESTER</b>	<b>MAJOR</b>	<b>SPRING SEMESTER</b>	<b>MAJOR</b>
<b>LIBERAL ARTS</b>	Visual Arts Praxis. E90.0900 . . . . .4	<b>LIBERAL ARTS</b>	Studio Concentration. E90.●●●● . . . . .4
Foundations of Contemporary Culture: Texts and Ideas. V55.04●● . . . . .4	Studio Concentration. E90.●●●● . . . . .4	Foundations of Contemporary Culture: Cultures and Contexts. V55.05●● . . . . .4	Unrestricted Elective . . . . .4
Art Since 1945. E94.0051 . . . . .3	<b>TOTAL</b> <u>15</u>	Contemporary Art. E94.0052 . . . .3	<b>TOTAL</b> <u>15</u>

#### Junior Year 32 Points

<b>FALL SEMESTER</b> <b>(STUDY ABROAD)</b>	<b>MAJOR</b>	<b>SPRING SEMESTER</b>	
<b>LIBERAL ARTS</b>	Department Elective. E90.●●●● . . . . .4	<b>LIBERAL ARTS</b>	Interdisciplinary Projects. E90.19●● . . . . .3
Liberal Arts Requirement: Foreign Language . . . . .4	Unrestricted Elective . . . . .4	Liberal Arts Requirement: Psychology or Natural Science . .4	Department Elective: Internship. E90.1010 . . . . .3
Art History Elective . . . . .4	<b>TOTAL</b> <u>16</u>	<b>MAJOR</b>	Unrestricted Elective . . . . .2
		Studio Concentration. E90.●●●● . . . . .4	<b>TOTAL</b> <u>16</u>

#### Senior Year 30 Points

<b>FALL SEMESTER</b>	<b>MAJOR</b>	<b>SPRING SEMESTER</b>	<b>MAJOR</b>
<b>LIBERAL ARTS</b>	Department Elective: Internship. E90.1010 . . . . .3	<b>LIBERAL ARTS</b>	Interdisciplinary Projects: Senior Studio. E90.1902 . . . . .4
Liberal Arts Requirement: Mathematics . . . . .4	Unrestricted Elective . . . . .4	Integrated Liberal Arts: Art, Culture, and Society. E94.1095 . . . . .4	Department Elective: Internship. E90.1010 . . . . .3
<b>MAJOR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b> <u>15</u>		Unrestricted Elective . . . . .4
Interdisciplinary Projects: Senior Studio. E90.1901 . . . . .4			<b>TOTAL</b> <u>15</u>

**GRAND TOTAL: 128 Points**