



**Art History
Newsletter**

Cal Poly Pomona
College of Environmental Design

Art History at Cal Poly Pomona

We offer the only independent B.A. in Art History in the California State University system in Southern California. There are only two such degrees in the entire CSU. Most campuses instead offer the B.A. in Art with an option in Art History. This distinction gives our students due recognition for their expertise in the field when they apply for employment or to graduate programs.

Our majors study the production, reception, and experience of art, architecture, design, mass media, and other artifacts that manifest visually or tangibly. Art historians may study any period, region, or cultural tradition. Our courses span the globe and every age. We regularly offer courses in areas as diverse as “Contemporary Art,” “Medieval Art,” “Japanese Art,” and “Art and Architecture of India.” Through such courses, students become familiar with significant works and styles, differing ways of interpreting them, and an understanding of the social functions and impacts of visual and material culture.

Students pursuing the B.A. in Art History must practice verbal and written communication as well as skills of interpretation, critical thinking, and research. These are foundations for various career paths. (A summary of common careers for those with a B.A. in Art History is included in this brochure.) To best prepare students for careers, our curriculum requires students to take elective courses to gain additional expertise or a minor most compatible with their goals. The faculty is dedicated to advising our students in this highly personal, yet consequential, process.



Dr. Alison Pearlman (Ph.D., Art History,
University of Chicago, 1997)

Dr. Alison Pearlman has a love of writing and a penchant for interpreting trends in contemporary art, the marketing of culture, and food and restaurant design. What do trends say about the people who create them, those who buy into them, and the cultural conditions that foster the exchanges? Pearlman's books *Unpackaging Art of the 1980s*, *Smart Casual: The Transformation of Gourmet Restaurant Style in America*, and *May We Suggest: Restaurant Menus and the Art of Persuasion* span those interests. Pearlman teaches courses in modern and contemporary art and design history as well as the senior seminar for art history majors. For Pearlman, there is a moment in the senior seminar when the beauty of the art history program culminates and comes into focus: the students present their independent research in a conference-style talk with visual aids, and their peers offer them valuable feedback in a constructive and caring spirit. It is immensely gratifying to see the students reach a level of cultural and historical awareness, critical thought, and professional generosity that will sustain them in any career path.

Faculty



Dr. Karlyn Griffith (Ph.D., Art History,
Florida State University, 2014)

Dr. Karlyn Griffith investigates how layers of meaning are built within the visual world of the Middle Ages, especially in popular culture. This line of inquiry takes Griffith from illustrated manuscripts to the reuse of Roman materials in medieval and early modern objects and spaces. Her recent publications explore the art of the book and analyze illustrated manuscripts as art objects, rather than merely receptacles of information. Griffith's research combines interdisciplinary approaches, such as from literature and archaeology, with traditional art historical practices of stylistic analysis and iconographical interpretation. These methods allow art to be viewed from the perspective of the cultures that made and used particular objects and monuments. They also form the framework of her courses. In class Griffith espouses the discipline of looking. This, combined with analyzing and articulating deductions, is the core of critical thinking. Students hone these skills in her Roman, Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque art and architecture courses. Griffith also coaches students in another important and transferable skill: cogent, persuasive writing. Critical thinking and writing provide the foundation for success not just in college courses, but especially in navigating the inevitable twists in their future career paths.

2019 Senior Projects

Charmia Cabrera

“Isabella d’Este: Questioning the Art Patron’s Modern Status as a Feminist Icon”

Courtney D’Anna

“A Lesbian’s View: Deconstructing the Male Definition of Female Homoeroticism in Antiquity”

Jessica Elisa Dickerson

“Set in Emotion: The Changing Reception of Käthe Kollwitz’s Political Art”

Elainna-Marie Herrera

“Lady Leonardo? The Mona Lisa, Gender Identity, and Sexuality in the Renaissance”

Abby Kolodge

“Interpretations of Tamara De Lempicka: The Fine Line between History and Her Story”

Emily Macias

“#MeToo: What the Modern Movement Has Done with Artemisia Gentileschi”

Alyssa Tamayo

“The Marketing of Mass Extermination: How Nazi Propaganda Primed Its Public for Genocide”

Thuy Vo

“Gender Politics Behind the Scroll: Queen Munjeong’s True Intentions in Restoring Buddhism during the Joseon Dynasty”

Tong Xue

“Experiencing Erotica: The Female Merchant Class Perspective from the Late Ming to the Qing Dynasty”

Student News



(Photo: Student, Atineh Movesian)

Rachel Wilson interns in the Collections Department at the Bowers Museum where she is responsible for the handling, preservation, and organization of the ancient artifacts in the museum. On a daily basis Rachel has the opportunity to work with ancient Non-Western art, including weapons, masks, outfits, and ritual objects, especially from Papua New Guinea and the Pacific, areas of art history she hopes to later specialize in. Rachel recently wrote an essay for the museum’s blog on pottery bowls from different groups in Papua New Guinea. Even though this is her first publication it is the most popular blog post on the website. Rachel observes that this internship and its opportunities have been life changing for her, especially being able to work with objects she has only been able to study in books. She credits attending the Art History Majors Meetings, which cover various career development topics, for inspiring her and providing the resources needed to pursue her dream job.

Student News



Jessica Dickerson is a Student Assistant at Cal Poly Pomona's Kellogg and Huntley Galleries. Jessica is interested in Collections Management and has spent the year working closely with the galleries' entire inventory as well as collections-related administrative tasks. She is also a Gallery Assistant and Special Events Coordinator for the galleries and works on installing art, maintaining the galleries' appearance, and managing attendance. Additionally, in Spring 2019 Jessica had the opportunity to help plan and promote several events associated with the exhibition *Somewhere in Between*.



Elainna Herrera worked this year as a Student Assistant in the Special Collections and Archives of the Cal Poly Pomona University Library. In her job she works with the preservation and organization of rare books and archival materials. This includes assisting department staff with research, retrieving and shelving of rare books and documents, creating posters for upcoming events, completing inventories, and entering data into the Special Collections database. Elainna says the best part of her job is learning how to properly handle fragile materials and what makes certain items "special." Her work in Special Collections and archives will help prepare her to pursue a career in conservation.



Abby Kolodge will be celebrating her graduation by making a "Grand Tour" in Europe this summer. On her trip Abby will see the famous works of art and buildings she has been studying in the classroom at Cal Poly Pomona. She will be visiting museums and monuments in Paris, Florence, and Rome. Abby plans to spend the following year working or volunteering at Los Angeles museums in preparation for applying to graduate programs in Art History, and eventually she hopes to teach Art History.



Atineh Movesian has been volunteering in the Department of Manuscripts at the Getty Museum where she was trained how to handle medieval manuscripts and learned about museum curation and exhibition planning. Atineh was able to translate this experience into the Getty Marrow Undergraduate Summer Internship, which she will hold at the Getty Villa this coming summer. With this opportunity she will learn about exhibition management, installation, and the antiquities-related special exhibitions for which the Villa is famous.

In April Atineh presented her research paper "The Medieval City of Ani: Above and Underground," at UCLA's Undergraduate Colloquium in Armenian Studies, for which she won the Outstanding Research and Presentation prize. In Spring 2019 Atineh also received the Outstanding Student Award for French Language in the English and Modern Languages Department. Atineh, who graduates this May, plans to spend the next year continuing to work on foreign languages, French, Classical Armenian, and Ancient Greek, in preparation for applying to graduate programs in Art History.



Alumni News



Kevin Torres-Spicer is a recipient of numerous prestigious internships and grants during and after his undergraduate career—including the UCLA/A.W. Mellon Foundation 2018 Diversity in Conservation Workshop and a 2019 Getty/California Association of Museums scholarship. Kevin continues to gain significant experience in the field and at the nation's most renowned art institutions. This past year he worked as a Library Conservation Assistant for the UCLA Library and Special Collections where he was able to focus on a range of conservation practices from the rehousing of objects to stabilization of pigments and the recasing and spine consolidation of books, as well as the mending of lacerations, planar deformations, and infills in single pages or within a book. In the summer of 2019, he will do a Paintings Conservation Internship at the Smithsonian Art Museum in Washington, D.C. Kevin's current career goal is to work for Ecuador's Culture and Heritage Department to promulgate the importance of the historical patrimony in South America.

In 2019, **Lauren Livas** (2016) accepted a position as Gallery Attendant at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG). Her prior experience interning at the Corita Art Center and the Museum of Latin American Art and her position as a Visitor Services Associate at The Broad from April 2016 through January 2018 prepared the way. As a Gallery Attendant at LAMAG, she will be responsible for protecting artwork on display, assisting with installation and de-installation of artwork, docenting, and assisting the Director, Curator, and Education Curator with research for future exhibitions.

Tong Xue (2017) graduated CPP with a Landscape Architecture major and an Art History minor. Deciding on a career in art history, Tong prepared for graduate programs in the field by taking the Art History Senior Seminar (AH 4610) in Spring 2019. This spring, Tong was also accepted into New York University's Master of Arts in the History of Art and Archaeology. She will begin the program in Fall 2019



(Photo: 2018 Graduates with Drs. Griffith and Pearlman)

Career Paths

The faculty takes an active role in advising students about their career options. There are many possible paths, and each requires a unique track of preparation. The faculty therefore provides the students with a menu of common career paths and suggests what they can do while obtaining their B.A. in Art History to prepare them and make them competitive. Below is a list of common career paths with a brief explanation of requirements and recommendations for pursuing them:

Curatorships

Required credentials

Typically, a master's degree is required for museum curating. M.A. degrees in Art History, Museum Studies, or Curatorial Studies are relevant.

Recommended while an undergraduate at CPP

Pursue a museum or gallery internship while a senior.

The art history faculty regularly announces and encourages internship opportunities at local museums. But we offer academic credit for only one, a Gallery Assistant Internship supervised by the Curator of the university's Kellogg Art Gallery and Huntley Art Gallery. For the Gallery Assistant Internship at the Kellogg and Huntley galleries, students assist in the research of artists and artworks, art-collection inventory, production of exhibition checklists, art labeling and captioning, cataloguing, archiving and documenting collections, and maintenance of data. The position is ideal for students interested in learning art collections management and other related museum and gallery skills. Required duties also include gallery attendance (greeting patrons, attendance-taking, distributing visitor surveys, providing security for artworks), general gallery maintenance (painting, cleaning, etc.), assisting with installation and de-installation of artworks (help with moving walls, art handling, hanging and presenting artwork, unpacking and packing of artworks, lighting of artworks), assisting with receptions and events, promotion through social media, and some administrative and clerical duties. Majors in art history may be given specialized projects to build further professional skills and expertise.

Scholarships

Required credentials

A Ph.D. in Art History or Visual Studies is required. Depending on the field of specialization, a Ph.D. in Classical Studies or Archaeology may be an appropriate alternative.

Recommended while an undergraduate at CPP

Students may pursue minors offered at CPP that are compatible with their interests in graduate education. The History Minor, for example, is always complementary to art history. Alternatively, since a Ph.D. in Art History or Visual Studies will require an examination in graduate school in two foreign languages, French or German is recommended, additional coursework or a minor in French may be desirable. (To give students a minimum of preparation, the B.A. in Art History already requires a year of French or German.) Students with an interest in the burgeoning field of digital humanities—which includes digital art history, a growing specialization within art history scholarship—may wish instead to pursue the minor in Digital Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts.

Museum Education

Required credentials

An M.A. in Museum Education or Museum Studies is typical.

Recommended while an undergraduate at CPP

Consider pursuing a museum internship while a senior.

Collections Management

Required credentials

Collections managers typically work in museums, but may work in any institution that requires taking care and managing a collection of objects. Librarianship is vast. There are librarians in corporate, public, academic, museum, and government institutions. For collections management, it is common to have an M.A. in Collections Management or a master's degree in Library and Information Science (MLIS). Those wishing to pursue Art Librarianship should additionally pursue an M.A. in Art History. Some graduate programs, such as the Pratt Institute in New York City, ready students for both degrees.

Recommended while an undergraduate at CPP

Students who want to do collections management for museums or other exhibiting art institutions should consider a museum internship while a senior. Those who think they might want to work in libraries should consider interning as a page in a library. They may need to take a college-level course in statistics that includes descriptive and inferential statistics and pass it with at least a C. Admission to the MLIS at UCLA, for example, requires such a course.

Arts Administration

Required credentials

An M.A. in Arts Administration or Arts Management or Art Business (depending on area of interest) is desirable. The Sotheby's Institute of Art at Claremont Graduate University, for example, offers an M.A. in Art Business and an M.A. in Arts Management.

Recommended while an undergraduate at CPP

Consider a minor in Finance, Marketing Management, Business Law, or General Management.

Art Editing and Publishing

Required credentials

With a B.A. in Art History, a student will have a good foundation in the subject area, but will need further development of skills in writing and editing, journalism and publishing. This can be accomplished in many ways, including work experience and education credentials. An M.A. in English, Journalism, or Arts Journalism is a fine option for the latter.

Recommended while an undergraduate at CPP

Consider pursuing an English minor, a Journalism minor, or a double major in English or in Communications.



Art Conservation

Required credentials

An M.A. in Art Conservation or Technical Art History is required.

Recommended while an undergraduate at CPP

Graduate programs in this area may require a record of specific courses taken and/or work experience. For an example, see the UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology's UCLA/Getty M.A. in the Conservation of Archaeological and Ethnographic Materials <http://conservation.ucla.edu/>.

The site lists the following as requirements for admission into the program, in addition to a B.A. in one of the acceptable areas (which includes art history):

Education: A minimum of one academic year (2 semesters or 3 quarters) of study is required in each of the following areas: Archaeology, Cultural Anthropology, or Ethnography; Art History (studies in archaeological or ethnographic materials and/or traditions preferred); General Chemistry (with lab); Organic Chemistry (with lab). One other Science (i.e., Physical Chemistry, Biology, Geology, Physics, etc.) is preferred, but is not essential to be considered for admission.

Experience: Between 200–400 hours (the equivalent of 5 to 10 weeks of full-time work) of documented practical experience in conservation. Appropriate experience (volunteer, paid, or a combination) includes fieldwork, laboratory experience, exhibit preparation, or similar responsibilities performed under the supervision of a professional conservator. A letter of recommendation is required from at least one conservation supervisor.

Art Law

Required credentials

Acquire a J.D. (Juris Doctor degree) specializing in intellectual-property law or, as offered by Duke University, a J.D./M.A. in Law and the History of Art.

Recommended while an undergraduate at CPP

Choose a Political Science Minor, and, from the elective courses, select those pertaining to law. Take the LSAT exam (required for application to law schools).