

Art History & Museum Studies, B.A.

Explore the World Through Art

Cal Poly Humboldt's Art History and Museum Studies program offers students a comprehensive understanding of visual culture from prehistoric times to contemporary works. The curriculum emphasizes critical analysis and interpretation of art within diverse historical, social, and cultural contexts. Students delve into various periods and regions, with particular strengths in the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, Latin America, the United States, and 20th and 21st centuries.

Program Highlights

Interdisciplinary Approach: Combines art history with studio art and language studies to provide a holistic understanding of art creation and its cultural significance.

Museum Studies Component: Focuses on the history, theory, and contemporary functions of museums, offering hands-on experience in museum practices.

Capstone Experience: Students conduct advanced art historical research culminating in a scholarly research paper.

Did you know?

- In our program, students not only learn about works of art, but also about the broad historical and cultural traditions that produced them.
- Students gain practical experience through internships and collaborations with local museums and cultural institutions.
- The program encourages participation in exhibitions and research presentations, fostering professional development.



Academics & Options

Art History & Museum Studies, B.A.

The Art History & Museum Studies curriculum focuses on the analysis and interpretation of art, with a particular emphasis on developing critical thinking and writing skills. The capstone course for the Art History & Museum Studies concentration, the Seminar in Art History, is designed to provide students with a forum to conduct advanced art historical research and to craft a major scholarly research paper.

Art History Minor

The Art History minor offers a broad overview of the history of global art as well as opportunities for deeper study and research in specialized topics of the student's choice.

Museum & Gallery Practices Certificate

This certificate equips students with the necessary skills for pursuing careers as curators, or for further studies in archives and preservation, conservation, museum studies, curatorial studies, and related fields.

The certificate includes specialized tracks for Anthropology, Art, Environmental Science & Management, History, and Native American Studies majors.

After completing introductory coursework, students intern with off-campus museums, galleries and non-profit institutions including the Clarke Historical Museum, Humboldt Natural History Museum, Ink People Center for the Arts, Morris Graves Museum of Art, and National Forest Service.



Careers

Graduates are well-prepared for careers in:

- Museums and Galleries
- Art Conservation
- Cultural Heritage Management
- Education and Academia
- Art Criticism and Journalism



Researching, attention to detail, and memorization: these are three core traits that every art history major has drilled into them, and I use them daily as the Gap Inc. Archivist. The training I received as part of my Art History degree prepared me well for being an Archivist, even though I had no idea at the time that was where life would lead me"

Erin Grady ('13, Art History and Museum Studies)