

Art History and Studio Art

“Art is about experience, and Cornell provides chances for students to engage with art and culture instead of just memorizing specific images and dates. When we have a final exam in a Modern Art art history course, the class travels to museums to view art on-site and students answer questions about the works in front of them.”

Christina Penn-Goetsch, Professor of Art History

Cornell College offers majors in Art History and Studio Art, with numerous options for independent studies to tailor an education to each student's interests. The art department has a twofold approach to art education: it teaches students to make art and respond to art. Its faculty teach art principles that apply to any media and will not go out of date. Its lessons are broad, they run deep, and they will last a lifetime. Cornell art and art history students become tomorrow's leaders as artists, educators, architects, curators, lawyers, production supervisors, and art administrators. They are articulate and creative, they can read analytically, write with clarity, and communicate verbally.

The art history faculty presents a broad variety of topics within the discipline. Topics include the arts and architecture of Antiquity in the Mediterranean, in the Renaissance and Baroque Italy, and in Modern and Postmodern art. These topics are supplemented by courses addressing the global arts of West Africa, African American art and the Diaspora, and Transnational Feminist art. Art history students have particularly rich opportunities for off-campus experiences, with study-abroad programs regularly in Italy. These courses are supplemented by those that also address more local topics like African American art and American Indian art. This breadth is an advantage as graduate schools and employers increasingly demonstrate a preference for broad undergraduate coursework that addresses cross-cultural experiences.

BENEFITS OF ONE COURSE AT A TIME

The One Course At A Time curriculum provides our art history and studio art majors unparalleled focus on their work, and the ability to get the experience of what it is like to work as an art historian or artist. Classes frequently take daylong field trips to the Chicago Art Institute and the Des Moines Art Center. If an appropriate exhibition is on display, it would not be unusual for classes to visit the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis or the Milwaukee Museum of Art. One Course makes these types of field trips possible when a semester plan would not.

Art historians can learn the challenges of mounting exhibitions addressing any number of cultures and topics through real examples. Students in the African Art class were assigned to read selected articles about the history of collecting and displaying African art. Then the class visited the display of African art at the Art Institute of Chicago and compared the installation to that of the Western European and North American art. That evening, students listened to how the curator of the African and Native American art collections at the Detroit Institute of Art reorganized their exhibition spaces. Because of the flexibility of One Course At A Time, this class, in two days, gained a better understanding of the display of African art, with specific examples from written research, interviews, and on-site observations.

Studio art classes address a wide variety of media that extends beyond photography, sculpture, drawing, and painting. Popular classes include collage and assemblage, installation, performance art, and video. Ceramics classes engage students in utilitarian design and casting, along with more standard slab construction and

Faculty Bios & Courses

SUSANNAH BIONDO-GEMMELL
Associate Professor of Studio Art

Teaches courses in 3D studio basics, ceramics, sculpture, casting, and drawing. Her studio interests include ceramic material experimentation and investigation of the ceramic firing process. Recent exhibitions include shows at the Archie Bray Foundation, the TAG Gallery, the San Diego Museum of the Living Artist, and the Lux Center for the Arts. M.F.A., New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University; B.F.A., Washington University.

CHRISTINA MORRIS PENN-GOETSCH

Professor of Art History
Teaches courses in art history and is committed to teaching the love of art through the examination of material culture from various peoples and periods. Her classroom teaching is supplemented by formal papers presented nationally and internationally, as well as curated exhibitions. Much of her research focuses on gender studies and the art and architecture of early modern Europe, as well as questions of identity in contemporary art. She regularly leads trips to Rome and was a study leader for Smithsonian Journey tours to Sicily and Southern Italy in 2013-14. Ph.D. and M.A., University of Iowa; B.A., University of Virginia.

TONY PLAUT

Professor of Studio Art
Teaches painting, drawing, collage, and studio art seminar. Works include assemblages made from wood and found materials; mechanical sculptures featuring hand-cranked phonographs; and oil paint on canvas borrowing from the surrealist legacy of biomorphic abstraction. Plaut's work can be viewed at tonyplaut.com. He has exhibited widely throughout the Midwest, with major shows occurring in Chicago and Des Moines. M.F.A., University of Chicago; B.S.S., Cornell College.

standard modeling. The sculpture lessons often include 3D digital design processes.

Studio artists work in a space that is devoted to their class, meaning they can leave out their paints or other supplies during the entire Block. Faculty often assign 24-hour McWethy building passes to art majors, and even occasionally to studio class members, so that they can return at any time of the day or night to work on their projects.

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

The Senior Thesis project is a yearlong project where students engage in sustained research in art history or sustained creative work. Art historians are expected to make an original contribution to the discipline through a senior paper, public presentation, and oral defense. Senior studio art majors receive their own studio spaces and put on senior thesis exhibitions consisting of entirely fresh bodies of work in the mediums of their choice. Studio majors propose their exhibitions before the department faculty, mount the exhibitions, and advertise and defend their shows in front of the art and art history professors.

FACILITIES

The Art Department has exclusive use of McWethy Hall, which features large, up-to-date classrooms, a darkroom, wet room, carpentry shop, and ceramics studio. McWethy Hall is also home to the Peter Paul Luce Gallery, which hosts major exhibitions and senior thesis shows. An annex provides space for a computerized kiln and a foundry, and all senior art majors enjoy private studios with secure 24-hour access as they prepare their senior thesis exhibitions.

ART AWARDS

Art awards range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Portfolios of 5 to 15 pieces of work must be postmarked by Nov. 1 or within one month of applying to Cornell if after Nov. 1. They may be submitted via a ZeeMee portfolio link (zeemee.com), as email attachments, as a PowerPoint, on a CD, DVD, flash drive, or as original work.

INTERNSHIPS

Recent majors have completed internships at the National Museum of American History, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Mexican Museum in Los Angeles, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, Philbrook Museum in Tulsa, Puerto Rican Museum of Art, Rochester Art Center, and Russian Icon Museum in Boston.

AFTER CORNELL

ALUMNI CAREERS

Guest services, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (Class of 2016)

Academic outreach coordinator, Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Class of 2015)

Gallery assistant, Douglas Dawson Gallery, Chicago, Illinois (Class of 2013)

Marketing director, Mind Over Matter Studio Method, Chesterton, Indiana (Class of 2013)

Sales associate, Carré d'artistes, Sedona, Arizona (Class of 2012)

Installation technician, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois (Class of 2012)

Costume coordinator, "Gotham" (Season 4), New York City, New York (Class of 2011)

Representative, Christie's Auction House; programs coordinator, Photography Department, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois (Class of 2011)

Exhibition development coordinator, Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma, (Class of 2010)

 See the Cornell College Department of Art and Art History on Facebook for more updates.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

STUDIO ART:

M.Arch., Washington University, St. Louis (Class of 2015)

M.F.A., Marland Institute of the College of Art, Baltimore, Maryland (Class of 2014)

M.Arch., Rensselaer Polytechnic, Troy, New York (Class of 2014)

M.F.A., Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Georgia (Class of 2013)

M.F.A., Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan (Class of 2012)

ART HISTORY:

M.A., Fashion Institute of New York, New York City (Class of 2016)

M.A., University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Class of 2016)

M.A., San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California (Class of 2015)

M.A., University of Saint Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota (Class of 2014)

M.A., Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan (Class of 2013)

M.A., University of Indiana, Bloomington, Indiana (Class of 2013)

SUSAN COLEMAN

Gallery Coordinator and Lecturer in Studio Art

Coordinates Cornell's Luce Gallery and teaches Drawing I and Studio Basics. Her drawings and paintings focus on nature as a living source, habitat, and sustenance, both physical and spiritual. Coleman's work can be seen at First Brick Art Gallery in Mount Vernon and Chait Galleries in Iowa City. M.A. and M.F.A., University of Iowa; B.F.A., Webster University.

ERIN DALY

Visiting Lecturer in Art History

Teaches art history of the ancient Mediterranean world. Daly is currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Chicago. Her research interests include the art and archaeology of ancient Greece and the Near East, as well as issues of the reception and display of ancient art in 18th- and 19th-century Europe. She makes frequent trips to Greece for her research, and during the summer of 2017 she will participate in the Archaeology of Rural Cyprus Project. This season's excavation examines the material and environmental dynamics of Archaic and Classical rural settlements on Cyprus. M.A., University of Chicago, M.A., University of Notre Dame; B.A., Cornell College.

SANDY DYAS

Lecturer in Studio Art

Teaches courses in photography, performance art (Intermedia), and video. Photography courses include film and darkroom work, as well as digital photography. Dyas received first place in the Dubuque Museum of Art's fourth Biennial competition in 2013 and an honorable mention at the New York Center for Photographic Art. Dyas' work can be viewed at sandydyas.com. B.F.A., M.A., M.F.A., Intermedia and Video Art, Photography, University of Iowa.