

# ART HISTORY, PHD

**Degree:** Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

**Field of Study:** Art History

## Program Overview

Our highly selective doctoral program in art history, founded in 1967 and offered in collaboration with the Cleveland Museum of Art, provides unique training for museum and academic careers. The object-grounded approach to the study of art history, based on the encyclopedic collections of the CMA and other area institutions, affords an exceptional opportunity to fuse the varied practices of the discipline pursued within the museum and the academy. Through study rooted in careful examination of the specific properties and idiosyncrasies of art objects, students can contribute concretely to a broader cultural and theoretical academic discourse. Graduate students are trained in both traditional and newer, theoretically-based art historical approaches in classes taught by faculty renowned for their expertise in a diversity of fields, all of whom maintain an object-oriented approach to teaching and research. Many CMA curators and museum educators hold adjunct faculty positions and teach courses for the program. Classes are frequently held at the CMA, where students have access to the permanent collections and a rotating schedule of exhibitions as well as to the Ingalls Library, the third largest art research library in the United States.

The innovative CWRU-CMA doctoral program in art history trains flexible and creative professionals who have the tools to achieve excellence in museum and academic careers. The pace of the program is accelerated; full funding for five years of tuition in addition to a \$25,000 yearly stipend enables our doctoral students to work full time on their degrees, with the goal of finishing in five to six years. Many aspects of the current curriculum were developed through two generous grants given jointly to CWRU and the CMA in 2013 and 2019 by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation as part of a program to further collaborations between art history graduate programs and art museums.

An MA in art history and reading knowledge of one approved foreign language (such as French, German, Italian, Japanese, or Chinese) are prerequisites. Very rarely, an exceptionally well-prepared applicant may be considered for admission with a BA degree only. Admission preference is given to applicants whose scholarly interests coincide with the interests of a department faculty member, those who wish to focus on distinctive holdings in the collection of the Cleveland Museum of Art, and/or those planning to pursue topics in museum or collecting history or the history of the art market. Admission to the program is made on the basis of academic record and scholarly promise, recommendations, experience, and personal interviews. Applicants must also submit GRE scores and two art history research papers. Students whose MA was awarded more than five years prior to application for admission may be required to pass a qualifying examination and/or foreign language examination administered by the department before being admitted to full standing in the PhD program.

## PhD Policies

For PhD policies and procedures, please review the School of Graduate Studies section of the General Bulletin.

## Program Requirements

| Code   | Title  | Hours     |
|--|--|-----------|
| ARTH 495   | Methodologies of Art History                                 | 3         |
| ARTH 496   | Materials, Methods, and Physical Examination of Works of Art | 3         |
| Four graduate seminars at the 500 level, unless approved otherwise by the director of graduate studies and the student's advisor. At least one seminar must be collection-based, when offered. |  | 12        |
| Six courses at the 400 level or above  |  | 18        |
| ARTH 610A  | Advanced Visual Arts and Museums: Internship I               | 3         |
| ARTH 610B  | Advanced Visual Arts and Museums Internship II               | 3         |
| ARTH 701   | Dissertation Ph.D.   | 18        |
| <b>Total Hours</b>   |  | <b>60</b> |

Doctoral students must demonstrate an ability to read two approved languages other than English useful in art historical research. The general examination cannot be taken until the language requirement is fulfilled either through course work or successfully passing language reading examinations. Doctoral students in Asian art should enter the program with a reading knowledge of at least one Asian language (Chinese, Japanese, or Korean). Prior to taking the comprehensive exam, students must demonstrate reading knowledge of two languages relevant to the student's research interests. The second language is chosen in consultation with a faculty advisor. It may be a modern Asian language, a classical Asian language, or a European language.

Doctoral students are required to pass an oral examination of major and minor fields and a written examination in the form of a research paper of 20-30 pages in length. The topic for the research paper will be set by the examination committee after the oral examination is held; the paper will be due two weeks after the student picks up the assigned topic. A final evaluation will be based on the student's performance in both the written and oral sections of the general examination.