



VirginiaTech

College of Architecture  
and Urban Studies

School of Visual Arts  
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Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
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August 2, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

The School of Visual Arts is requesting that the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) with Studio Art concentration be revised for the graduating class of 2021. It is requested that the BFA be titled "Bachelor of Fine Arts, **Major in Studio Art**," thereby discontinuing the Studio Art concentration. It is the goal of the School of Visual Arts to discontinue all concentrations **under the BFA degree** and have those incorporated into the name of our majors.

No additional resources are needed for the proposed new major.

Kathryn Clarke Albright  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
Professor of Architecture



# VirginiaTech

College of Architecture  
and Urban Studies

School of Visual Arts  
**SOVA**

203 Draper Road (0103)  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
540/231-5547 Fax: 540/231-5761  
[www.art.vt.edu](http://www.art.vt.edu)

October 16, 2018

Dear Members of the CAUS Curriculum Committee,

The School of Visual Arts is requesting the following changes to its BFA degree programs:

1. keep the BFA degree under the present CIP code (Art Studies, General 500701)
2. eliminate the existing ART majors in the BFA degree
3. eliminate the major concentration options in: Studio Art, Creative Technologies, and Visual Communication Design under the BFA degree
4. create new majors under the BFA degree in Studio Art, Creative Technologies, and Graphic Design.

The attached proposed 2021 check sheet for the Bachelor of Fine Arts, Major in Studio Art is submitted in requirement for the change of all BFA degree programs in the School of Visual Arts from concentrations to majors. The Studio Art major will require no additional resources.

Sincerely,

Michelle Moseley-Christian  
Associate Director of Academics, School of Visual Arts

Cc: Kevin Concannon  
Director, School of Visual Arts

*Invent the Future*

## **JUSTIFICATION & TRANSITION PLAN**

### **General Remarks:**

The purpose of restructuring the School of Visual Arts curriculum:

1. There is a need to change from the current admissions and portfolio review processes within the School of Visual Arts (SOVA)—which presently admits students to a general Bachelor of Fine Arts degree—to a system that enables students to directly enter specific disciplinary majors (i.e. Studio Art, Graphic Design, and Creative Technologies).
2. Each disciplinary program within SOVA wishes to plan a more strategic and streamlined curriculum within the broad Bachelor of Fine Arts designation.
3. We anticipate that separate majors will lead to higher student enrollment, in and out of state, since students would know their acceptance into a particular discipline at the time of admission.
4. This proposed change allows graduates of SOVA to have their specialized area of study show on their diploma, rather than the more ambiguous ART designation as their major.
5. This will help alumni feel more connected to their particular discipline rather than a broader BFA.
6. Distinct majors would elevate the visibility of all areas of study within the BFA and thus ensure more clarity for incoming students.

Our overall vision is to establish specialized yet flexible disciplinary majors that sustain a competitive, reputable, and highly regarded Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

### **Proposed Bachelor of Fine Arts, Major in Studio Art**

#### **1. Purpose**

In general, replacing the Studio Art major concentration with the Major in Studio Art will enhance the perceived value of the program among faculty, prospective and current students, alumni, and potential employers. It formalizes the tripartite division of the BFA's areas of study existing in practice but not in name. In addition, this change aligns with current practices at the majority of Virginia Tech's 25 SCHEV-approved peer institutions.

Creating the Major in Studio Art also strengthens the disciplinary profile of SOVA's curriculum in this area. The major will effectively provide students with a robust education in practice-based 2-D and 3-D (drawing, painting, sculpture, and photography), as well as prepare them for careers in these fields.

## **2. Justification**

The proposed Major in Studio Art in the School of Visual Arts reflects the department's decision to elevate some of the existing major concentrations in practice-based media. The three concentrations within the BFA are already well-enrolled and well-subscribed. This change seeks to bolster—practically as well as administratively—the profile, identity, and disciplinary thrust of each area of study.

As stated above, the creation of the major will have a significant positive impact on recruitment, admission, and retention efforts. Anecdotal evidence from program chairs and advising staff repeatedly affirms that students entering the program prefer to be accepted directly into a specific major, rather than under the general ART designation.

## **3. Relevance**

As stated in the University's mission statement, Virginia Tech "is a public land-grant university serving the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation...Through its focus on teaching and learning...the university creates, conveys, and applies knowledge to expand personal growth and opportunity." The Studio Art major seeks to prepare students for a fast-growing industry and a variety of careers within the arts.

More specifically, the major will equip emerging artists with critical thinking skills, visual and cultural literacy, and tools to communicate their ideas. It promotes the professional skills and habits necessary to build and sustain a self-directed studio practice. Moreover, the major aims to aid artists' preparation for the digitally enhanced world by integrating emerging technologies into a contemporary fine arts experience. Students have access to cutting edge technologies like laser cutters, CNC routers and 3D printers, and are taught in an environment that encourages them to explore these tools in conjunction with traditional media.

## **4. Required resources**

No additional resources are required at present. However, if student numbers increase significantly, some additional resource may be required in terms of faculty, graduate student assistants, and advising as well as administrative assistance in order to maintain the quality and equal to accreditation standards in the field. With increased enrollment, there would also be a need for additional classroom space and equipment.

## **5. Proposed Changes**

The number of credit hours required for the revised BFA will remain at 120 credit hours. However, the Studio Art Major Requirements are increased from 15 to 27 credit hours, to intensify the discipline-specific classes required. To accommodate this shift, Restrictive Electives and Free Electives are decreased in credit hours from 39 to 9, and 9 to 6, respectively.

Ceramics courses are omitted, since our ceramics professor has retired, and insufficient course offerings in this medium are presently available.

Portfolio Review has been reconceived as a part of SOVA's admissions process and therefore is omitted as a departmental benchmark from the Satisfactory Progress Towards the Degree section at the end of the check sheet. Additionally, this section now contains language requiring students earn a C- or better in their Foundations courses and successfully complete a BFA exhibition.

Finally, a statement on double-counting credit hours in major and for the Art History Minor has been added.

## **6. Transition Plan**

Students currently enrolled in the Studio Art concentration will have through calendar year 2022 to graduate, and the Studio Art concentration will be discontinued Fall 2022. Students eligible to graduate in 2021 or later will be affected by the discontinuation of the Studio Art concentration and approval of the new Studio Art major. Our plan to integrate the new major is as follows:

Existing students graduating in, or prior to, calendar year 2022 may follow the Studio Art concentration check sheet for the year in which they plan to graduate, or beginning in Spring 2020 enrolled in the BFA degree, new Studio ART major. The first graduation calendar year for students enrolled in the BFA degree, Studio Art major will be 2021.

The first group of incoming students admitted to the BFA degree, new Studio Art major is anticipated for Fall 2020. The admissions process for Spring 2020 will include an electronic portfolio review as part of the departmental requirements for consideration. Students will be accepted directly into the Studio Art major based, in part, on their portfolios.

## **7. Communication to Students, Faculty, and Staff**

Students will be informed of this change in a number of ways. Information will be shared with VT admissions and the CAUS as well as its Director of Advising. Information and literature on the new major will be posted on the School of Visual Arts website and distributed at future recruitment events. Instructors, advisors, and administration will also communicate this information during the First Year Experience class, Foundations classes, and in the junior and senior level courses. Email notification will be sent to involved students enrolled in the School of Visual Arts.

Additionally, meetings will be held by the Studio Art instructors to inform students and answer any questions regarding curriculum changes.

Faculty and staff will be informed of this change at School business meetings, executive

committee meetings, and program meetings.

The major change will be communicated to the wider University community via the advising teams for each college (including University Studies), SOVA website, and VT admissions in order to ensure any interested internal and external transfers are aware.

**College of Architecture and Urban Studies**  
**Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art**  
**Major: Studio Art**  
**For Students Graduating in Calendar Year 2021**

<b>Curriculum for Liberal Education Requirements</b>			<b>36</b>
Area 1:	Writing and Discourse		3____, 3____
Area 2:	Ideas, Cultural Traditions and Values	<i>(not ART courses)</i>	3____, 3____
Area 3:	Society and Human Behavior		3____, 3____
Area 4:	Scientific Reasoning and Discovery		3____, 3____
Area 5:	Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning		3____, 3____
Area 6:	Creativity and the Aesthetic Experience: ART 2385 Survey of the History of Western Art	<i>spring semester only</i>	3____
Area 7:	Critical Issues in a Global Context		3____
<b>Core Bachelor of Fine Arts Requirements</b>			<b>21</b>
ART 1204	Principles of Art & Design I		3____
ART 1404	Drawing I		3____
ART 1604	Principles of New Media Art & Design		3____
ART 1414	Drawing II: Life Drawing	<i>pre: 1204, 1404, 1604</i>	3____
ART 2386	Survey of the History of Western Art		3____
ART 4575	Adv. Visual Communication Design	<i>pre: 3566</i>	3____
	– or –		
ART 4894	Senior Studio	<i>must have senior standing in Studio or CT</i>	3____
ART 4576	Adv. Visual Communication Design	<i>pre: 4575</i>	3____
	– or –		
ART 4894	Senior Studio	<i>must have senior standing in Studio or CT</i>	3____
<b>Studio Art Major Requirements</b>			<b>27</b>
ART 1214	Principles of Art & Design II	<i>pre: 1204, 1404</i>	3____
ART 3854	Professional Studio Practices (fall semester only)	<i>pre: BFA majors only</i>	3____
ART XXXX	Art History Elective (Any 3000-4000 level course from list D below)		3____
ART XXXX	Art History Elective (Any 3000-4000 level course from list D below)		3____
ART 3784	European and American Art Since 1900 (fall semester only)	<i>pre: 2386, fall semester only</i>	3____
ART 2524	Introduction to Painting	<i>pre 1204, 1404, 1604</i>	3____
ART 2554	Introduction to Sculpture	<i>pre 1204, 1404, 1604</i>	3____
ART 2664	Digital Photography	<i>pre 1604</i>	3____
ART 2514	Drawing Concepts	<i>pre 1414</i>	3____
<b>Restrictive Electives</b>			<b>30</b>
ART 2XXX	Studio Art Elective (2000-level course required from list A below)		3____
ART 3XXX	Studio Art Elective (3000-level course required from list B below)		3____
ART 3XXX	Studio Art Elective (3000-level course required from list B below)		3____
ART 3XXX	Studio Art Elective (3000-level course required from list B below)		3____
ART 3XXX	Studio Art Elective (3000-level course required from list B below)		3____
ART 4XXX	Studio Art Elective (4000-level course required form list C below)		3____
ART 4XXX	Studio Art Elective (4000-level course required form list C below)		3____
ART 4XXX	Studio Art Elective (4000-level course required form list C below)		3____
ART 4XXX	Studio Art Elective (4000-level course required form list C below)		3____
ART XXXX	Studio Art Elective (Any 2000-4000 level course from list A, B or C below)		3____

<b>Free Electives</b>	<b>6</b>
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_____	_____	3	_____
_____	_____	3	_____

<b>TOTAL CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION</b>	<b>120</b>
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**List of approved Elective Courses:**

**List A: 2XXX Studio Art Elective Course Options (3 credits)**

ART 2604	Intro to New Media Art	<i>pre 1604</i>	3	_____
ART 2704	3D Computer Animation	<i>pre 1204, 1404, 1604</i>	3	_____

**List B: 3XXX Studio Art Elective Course Options (12 credits)**

ART 3514	Topics in Drawing	<i>pre: 1414 or 2514</i>	3	_____
ART 3524	Topics in Painting Media	<i>pre: 2524</i>	3	_____
ART 3554	Topics in Sculpture	<i>pre: 2554</i>	3	_____
ART 3564	Topics in Photography	<i>pre: 2664</i>	3	_____
ART 3604	Topics in New Media Art	<i>pre: 2604</i>	3	_____
ART 3704	Topics in Computer Animation	<i>pre: 2704</i>	3	_____

**List C: 4XXX Studio Art Elective Course Options (12 credits)**

ART 4504	Topics in Multi-Media Studio	<i>pre: (1414, 1604) or (1504, 1514, 2504)</i>	3	_____
ART 4514	Interarts Studio	<i>pre: 3000-level ART course or departmental approval</i>	3	_____
ART 4524	Pictorial Arts Studio	<i>pre: 3524 or 3514</i>	3	_____
ART 4534	Topics in Applied Art and Design Studio	<i>pre: 3544</i>	3	_____
ART 4544	Computer Animation Studio	<i>pre: 3704</i>	3	_____
ART 4554	Spatial Arts Studio	<i>pre: 3554</i>	3	_____
ART 4564	Exhibition Design and Display	<i>pre: 3000-level ART course</i>	3	_____
ART 4804	New Media Art Theory	<i>pre: 2385, 2386</i>	3	_____

**List D: 3XXX-4XXX Art History Elective Course Options**

ART 3004	Topics in Art History	<i>pre: 2385, 2386</i>	3	_____
ART 3054	Islamic Art and Architecture		3	_____
ART 3064	Arts of China and Japan		3	_____
ART 3074	Egyptian Art and Architecture		3	_____
ART 3084	Greek Art and Architecture	<i>pre: 2385</i>	3	_____
ART 3174	Introduction to Archaeology	<i>pre: 2385</i>	3	_____
ART 3184	Roman Art & Architecture	<i>pre: 2385</i>	3	_____
ART 3284	Medieval Art & Architecture	<i>pre: 2385</i>	3	_____
ART 3384	Renaissance Art & Architecture	<i>pre: 2386</i>	3	_____
ART 3484	Baroque and Rococo Art & Architecture	<i>pre: 2386</i>	3	_____
ART 3584	19th Century Art	<i>pre: 2386</i>	3	_____
ART 3674	History of Photography	<i>pre: 2386</i>	3	_____
ART 3684	Survey of African American Art	<i>pre: 2386 or AFST 2774</i>	3	_____
ART 3774	History of Modern Graphic Design	<i>pre: 2386</i>	3	_____
ART 3884	American Art to 1914	<i>pre: 2386</i>	3	_____
ART 4384	Topics in Art History	<i>pre: 2386</i>		

**Curriculum for Liberal Education Requirements**

Students are responsible for completing the Curriculum for Liberal Education requirements that are in effect when they enter the university. The university requires students to complete course work from all seven areas of the Curriculum for Liberal Education.

**GPA Requirements**



Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA. In-major GPA requires a grade of C- or better to successfully complete a Studio Art course. In-major GPA is calculated on all ART courses.

### **Satisfactory Progress Toward Degree**

The University requires every department to establish benchmarks by which their majors can demonstrate that they are making satisfactory progress toward a degree. In addition to the University requirement for satisfactory progress (See Satisfactory Progress in Academics chapter of Undergraduate Catalogue), in the case of the Studio Art major, these benchmarks are:

1. Students must maintain a C- or better in required Foundations courses (1204, 1404, 1604, 1214, 1414).
2. Upon having attempted 72 semester hours (including transfer, AP, advanced standing and credit by exam) a Studio Art student must have completed at least 6 credits towards this major with a 2.0 overall GPA and have a minimum 2.0 in-major GPA.
3. Students must successfully complete their BFA exhibition (ART 4894).

### **Prerequisites**

This check sheet contains elective courses that may have prerequisites not listed on this checksheet. Please see your advisor or consult the Undergraduate Course Catalog for more information.

### **Foreign Language Requirement**

Students who do not successfully complete at least two units of a single foreign language, classical language or American Sign Language during high school must successfully complete six semester hours of a single college level foreign language or classical language at the college level. Such semester hours are in addition to those normally required for graduation. Please see the undergraduate catalogue for details.

### **Double-Counting**

No more than 50% of the graded course credits required for Minor: Art History may be double-counted by a student also enrolled in Major: Studio Art.

**College of Architecture and Urban Studies  
Bachelor of Fine Arts  
Major Concentration: Studio Art  
For Students Graduating in Spring 2019**

<b>Curriculum for Liberal Education Requirements</b>	<b>36</b>
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Area 1:	Writing and Discourse	3 __, 3 __
Area 2:	Ideas, Cultural Traditions and Values	3 __, 3 __
Area 3:	Society and Human Behavior	3 __, 3 __
Area 4:	Scientific Reasoning and Discovery	3 __, 3 __
Area 5:	Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning	3 __, 3 __
Area 6:	Creativity and the Aesthetic Experience:	
	ART 2385 Survey of the History of Western Art I	3 __
Area 7:	Critical Issues in a Global Context	3 __

<b>Core Bachelor of Fine Arts Requirements</b>	<b>21</b>
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ART 1204	Principles of Art & Design I	3 __
ART 1404	Drawing I	3 __
ART 1604	Principles of New Media Art & Design	3 __
ART 1414	Drawing II: Life Drawing	3 __
ART 2386	Survey of the History of Western Art I	3 __
ART 4894	Senior Studio	3 __
	--or--	--or--
ART 4575	Adv. Visual Communication Design I	3 __
ART 4894	Senior Studio	3 __
	--or--	--or--
ART 4576	Adv. Visual Communication Design II	3 __

<b>Studio Art Requirements</b>	<b>15</b>
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ART 1214	Principles of Art & Design II	3 __
ART 3854	Professional Studio Practices (fall semester only)	3 __
ART XXXX	Art History Elective (Any 3000-4000 level course from list D below)	3 __
ART XXXX	Art History Elective (Any 3000-4000 level course from list D below)	3 __
ART 3784	European and American Art Since 1900 (fall semester only)	3 __

<b>Restrictive Electives</b>	<b>39</b>
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ART 2XXX	Studio Art Elective (2000-level course required from list A1 below)	3 __
ART 2XXX	Studio Art Elective (2000-level course required from list A1 below)	3 __
ART 2XXX	Studio Art Elective (2000-level course required from list A1 below)	3 __
ART 2XXX	Studio Art Elective (2000-level course required from list A2 below)	3 __
ART 3XXX	Studio Art Elective (3000-level course required from list B below)	3 __
ART 3XXX	Studio Art Elective (3000-level course required from list B below)	3 __
ART 3XXX	Studio Art Elective (3000-level course required from list B below)	3 __
ART 3XXX	Studio Art Elective (3000-level course required from list B below)	3 __
ART 4XXX	Studio Art Elective (4000-level course required from list C below)	3 __
ART 4XXX	Studio Art Elective (4000-level course required from list C below)	3 __
ART 4XXX	Studio Art Elective (4000-level course required from list C below)	3 __
ART 4XXX	Studio Art Elective (4000-level course required from list C below)	3 __
ART XXXX	Studio Art Elective (Any 2000-4000 level course from list A, B or C below)	3 __

<b>Free Electives</b>	<b>9</b>
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		3 __
		3 __
		3 __

**TOTAL CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION**

120

**List of approved Elective Courses:**

**List A1: 2XXX Studio Art Elective Course Options (9 credits)**

ART 2524	Introduction to Painting	<i>pre 1204, 1404, 1604</i>
ART 2554	Introduction to Sculpture	<i>pre 1204, 1404, 1604</i>
ART 2664	Digital Photography	<i>pre 1604</i>

**List A2: 2XXX Studio Art Elective Course Options (3 credits)**

ART 2544	Ceramics I	<i>pre 1204, 1404, 1604</i>
ART 2604	Intro New Media Art	<i>pre 1604</i>
ART 2644	Ceramics II	<i>pre 2544</i>
ART 2704	3D Computer Animation	<i>pre 1204, 1404, 1604</i>

**List B: 3XXX Studio Art Elective Course Options (12 credits)**

ART 3514	Topics in Drawing	<i>pre: 1414 or 2514</i>
ART 3524	Topics in Painting Media	<i>pre: 2524</i>
ART 3544	Topics in Ceramics	<i>pre: 2644</i>
ART 3554	Topics in Sculpture	<i>pre: 2554</i>
ART 3564	Topics in Photography	<i>pre: 2664</i>
ART 3604	Topics in New Media Art	<i>pre: 2604</i>
ART 3704	Topics in Computer Animation	<i>pre: 2704</i>

**List C: 4XXX Studio Art Elective Course Options (12 credits)**

ART 4504	Topics in Multi-Media Studio	<i>pre: 1414, 1604</i>
ART 4514	Interarts Studio	<i>pre: 3000-level ART course or departmental approval</i>
ART 4524	Pictorial Arts Studio	<i>pre: 3524 or 3514</i>
ART 4534	Topics in Applied and Design Studio	<i>pre: 3544</i>
ART 4544	Computer Animation Studio	<i>pre: 3704</i>
ART 4554	Spatial Arts Studio	<i>pre: 3554</i>
ART 4564	Exhibition Design and Display	<i>pre: 3000-level ART course</i>
ART 4804	New Media Theory	<i>pre: 3604, 2385, 2386 or permission of instructor</i>

**List D: 3XXX-4XXX Art History Elective Course Options**

ART 3004	Topics in Art History	
ART 3054	Islamic Art and Architecture	
ART 3064	The Arts of China and Japan	
ART 3074	Egyptian Art and Architecture	<i>pre: 2385 or permission of instructor</i>
ART 3084	Greek Art and Architecture	<i>pre: 2385 or permission of instructor</i>
ART 3174	Topics in Archaeology	<i>pre: 2385 or permission of instructor</i>
ART 3184	Roman Art & Architecture	<i>pre: 2385 or permission of instructor</i>
ART 3284	Medieval Art & Architecture	<i>pre: 2385 or permission of instructor</i>
ART 3384	Renaissance Art & Architecture	<i>pre: 2386 or permission of instructor</i>
ART 3484	Baroque Art & Architecture	<i>pre: 2386 or permission of instructor</i>
ART 3584	19th Century Art	<i>pre: 2386 or permission of instructor</i>
ART 3674	History of Photography	<i>pre: 2386 or permission of instructor</i>
ART 3684	African American Art	<i>pre: 2386 or permission of instructor</i>
ART 3774	History of Modern Graphic Design	<i>pre: 2386 or permission of instructor</i>
ART 3884	American Art to 1914	<i>pre: 2386 or permission of instructor</i>
ART 4384	Topics in Art History	<i>pre: vary according to topic, see instructor</i>

**Curriculum for Liberal Education Requirements**

Students are responsible for completing the Curriculum for Liberal Education requirements that are in effect when they enter the university. The university requires students to complete course work from all seven areas of the Curriculum for Liberal Education.

#### **GPA Requirements**

Students must maintain an overall 2.0 GPA and a 2.0 in-major GPA. In-major GPA is calculated on all ART courses.

#### **Satisfactory Progress Toward Degree**

The University requires every department to establish benchmarks by which their majors can demonstrate that they are making satisfactory progress toward a degree. In addition to the university requirement for satisfactory progress (See Satisfactory Progress in Academics chapter of Undergraduate Catalogue), in the case of the Studio Art concentration, these benchmarks are:

1. Students must successfully pass portfolio review in either Studio Art or Visual Communication Design to take any course above Art 1604.
2. Upon having attempted 72 semester hours (including transfer, AP, advanced standing and credit by exam) a Studio Art student must have completed at least 6 credits towards this major with a 2.0 overall GPA and have a minimum 2.0 in-major GPA.

#### **Prerequisites**

This check sheet contains elective courses that may have prerequisites not listed on this checksheet. Please see your advisor or consult the Undergraduate Course Catalog for more information.

#### **Foreign Language Requirement**

Students who do not successfully complete at least two units of a single foreign language, classical language or American Sign Language during high school must successfully complete six semester hours of a single college level foreign language or classical language at the college level. Such semester hours are in addition to those normally required for graduation. Please see the undergraduate catalogue for details.