

Master of Arts in History of Art

KU offers a wide range of graduate art history courses, exploring visual and material cultures of Europe, the Americas, and East Asia while engaging in discussion of methodological and theoretical models. Students who are interested in pursuing graduate degrees that emphasize international and/or transnational modern and contemporary art should follow the European and American/Global Modern and Contemporary concentration.

The M.A. provides students with a broad and deep knowledge of the visual arts, as well as study of the basic concepts, theories, and methods of the discipline. The M.A. may be pursued as a terminal degree or as preparation for subsequent doctoral studies.

Admission to Graduate Studies

Admission Requirements

- All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>) policy.
- Bachelor's degree: A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees) from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.
- English proficiency: Proof of English proficiency (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency. For applicants to online programs, Full proficiency is required.

Admission to the M.A.

Admission requirements for this program follow Graduate Studies' Admissions Policy. (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>)

Application deadlines:

- January 5 for fall admission
- October 1 for spring admission

If January 5 or October 1 falls on a weekend or holiday, we will extend the deadline to the following business day.

Required application materials:

1. Three letters of recommendation (preferably from art history professors). The application system will send your recommenders an email containing the instructions for submitting their letters once you have entered their contact information.
2. A chronological list of art history courses completed that includes (1) the number of credit hours, (2) the instructor's name, and (3) the grade received. Applicants typically have completed no fewer than 18 credit hours of art history coursework.
3. Résumé or curriculum vitae
4. A statement of personal and educational interests and career objectives. We appreciate this opportunity to learn more about you.

Feel free to discuss any personal, educational, economic, cultural, and/or social experiences that have helped shape you as a candidate. Please address how the graduate program/faculty in Art History at KU would help you to achieve your goals. Do not exceed 750 words.

5. A writing sample, preferably from an art history course that you feel best represents your research, writing, and critical thinking skills. Your text (not including the bibliography, endnotes, and images) should be between 10-20 pages.
6. Official transcripts (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/apply/#section366>), or copies of official transcripts, from all post-secondary institutions

M.A. Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Core Course		
HA 719	Art Histories: Theory and Methodology	3
Concentration Requirements		27
The below course lists outline the requirements for the European and American/Global Modern and Contemporary Art and East Asian Art concentrations.		
Total Hours		30

European and American/Global Modern and Contemporary Art Concentration

Code	Title	Hours
The student develops a unique plan of study in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies according to the established distribution requirements. At least 21 credit hours must be taken in art history. Of the required 9 courses, at least 7 must be art history seminars (700 level or above); of the 7, at least 2 must be numbered 800 level or above. HA 719 counts toward the seminar requirement.		
The student must take at least 1 art history course numbered 500 or above in 3 of the following 4 areas. A course cannot fulfill multiple distribution requirements.		

1. 400-1400: Europe and the Mediterranean

HA 505	Special Study: _____ course	Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 506	Early Medieval and Romanesque Art	
HA 507	Gothic Art	
HA 510	Medieval Manuscripts and Early Printed Books	
HA 517	Directed Readings	Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 525	Aegean Archaeology and Art	
HA 526	Greek Archaeology and Art	
HA 529	Archaeology and Art of Ancient Egypt and the Near East	
HA 537	Roman Archaeology and Art	
HA 538	Pompeii and Herculaneum	
HA 592	Special Study in Ancient Art: _____	
HA 593	Special Study in Medieval Art: _____	
HA 706	Seminar: _____	Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 707	Directed Readings	Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 898	Franklin Murphy Seminar in Art History: _____	Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 906	Seminar: _____	Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 907	Directed Readings	Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 925	Seminar in Medieval Art: _____	

2. 1300-1700: Europe

HA 505	Special Study: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 517	Directed Readings Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 528	The Spatial Arts of Urban Italy
HA 535	Renaissance Architecture in Italy
HA 576	Art in the Age of Rubens, Rembrandt and Vermeer: Northern Baroque
HA 595	Special Study in Baroque Art: _____
HA 706	Seminar: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 707	Directed Readings Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 898	Franklin Murphy Seminar in Art History: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 906	Seminar: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 907	Directed Readings Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 940	Seminar in 17th Century European Art: _____

3. 1700-1900: Europe or America

HA 505	Special Study: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 517	Directed Readings Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 533	Rococo to Realism: Painting in Europe c. 1750-1848
HA 534	Impressionism and Post-Impressionism: 1848-1900
HA 570	Art of the United States
HA 580	History of Photography
HA 706	Seminar: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 707	Directed Readings Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 898	Franklin Murphy Seminar in Art History: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 906	Seminar: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 907	Directed Readings Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 955	Seminar in 19th Century European Art: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 965	Seminar in American Art: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course

4. Post-1900: Global Modern and Contemporary

HA 505	Special Study: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 517	Directed Readings Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 543	Special Study in 20th/21st-Century Art: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 544	Manga: Histories and Theories
HA 564	European Art, 1900-1945
HA 566	Art From 1945 to the 1980s: Modernism to Post- Modernism
HA 567	Contemporary Art
HA 580	History of Photography
HA 588	Modern and Contemporary Visual Arts of Japan
HA 591	Special Study in Asian Art: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 597	Special Study in Modern Art: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 706	Seminar: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course

HA 707	Directed Readings Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 760	Proseminar in Korean Art: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 788	Proseminar in Japanese Art: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 898	Franklin Murphy Seminar in Art History: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 906	Seminar: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 907	Directed Readings Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 965	Seminar in American Art: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 990	Seminar in Japanese Art: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course
HA 995	Seminar in Korean Art: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course

East Asian Art Concentration

Code	Title	Hours
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The student develops a unique plan of study in consultation with the Graduate Advisor for East Asian Art according to the established distribution requirements. At least 21 credit hours must be taken in art history. Of the required 9 courses, at least 5 must be art history seminars (700 level or above); of the 5, at least 2 must be numbered 800 level or above. HA 719 counts toward the seminar requirement.

The student must take a balanced distribution of graduate-level classes in Chinese, Korean, and Japanese art history.

HA 505	Special Study: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course	
HA 517	Directed Readings Dependent on the topic of the course	
HA 540	Special Study in Asian Art Before 1900: _____	
HA 543	Special Study in 20th/21st-Century Art: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course	
HA 544	Manga: Histories and Theories	
HA 545	Early Chinese Art	
HA 546	Chinese Sculpture	
HA 547	Ceramics of East Asia	
HA 554	Japanese Prints	
HA 561	Buddhist Art of Korea	
HA 562	Ceramics of Korea	
HA 585	The Art of Buddhism	
HA 586	Japanese Painting	
HA 587	Japanese Sculpture	
HA 588	Modern and Contemporary Visual Arts of Japan	
HA 591	Special Study in Asian Art: _____	
HA 706	Seminar: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course	
HA 707	Directed Readings Dependent on the topic of the course	
HA 760	Proseminar in Korean Art: _____	
HA 788	Proseminar in Japanese Art: _____	
HA 789	Proseminar in Chinese Art: _____	
HA 898	Franklin Murphy Seminar in Art History: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course	
HA 906	Seminar: _____ Dependent on the topic of the course	
HA 907	Directed Readings Dependent on the topic of the course	
HA 980	Seminar in Chinese Art: _____	

HA 990	Seminar in Japanese Art: _____
HA 995	Seminar in Korean Art: _____

- complete quality primary/archival and secondary research.
- speak clearly, coherently, articulately, and persuasively.
- construct in writing a clear, coherent, and persuasive scholarly argument.
- use art historical methodologies and/or relevant critical theories.
- demonstrate mastery of relevant knowledge in the field of art history (M.A. exam).

Foreign Language Requirement

M.A. students are expected to have a reading knowledge of one appropriate foreign language (typically a modern European language or Chinese, Japanese or Korean). Note that a native speaker of a language other than English may use the native language to fulfill a language requirement only if the language is considered to be an appropriate research tool for that student's program of study. Proficiency must be demonstrated before the M.A. exam may be taken.

Proficiency may be demonstrated by passing a proficiency exam or by enrolling at the appropriate level in a foreign language and completing the fourth semester course with a grade of B or better. Language courses numbered above 500 may count toward the 30 credit hours required for the M.A. with approval from the appropriate advisor.

Written M.A. Examination

A general written examination (in European and American/Global Modern and Contemporary Art or East Asian Art) must be passed to earn the M.A. degree. The student will write answers to two essay questions and is expected to incorporate discussion of the relevant art-historical scholarship and/or debates. The successful essay will respond thoughtfully to the question and present examples that display the student's breadth and depth of art-historical knowledge.

The M.A. exam is graded independently by three faculty readers without knowledge of the student's identity. Each essay will be graded for its accuracy, clarity, ingenuity, and cogency. The student must pass both essays to pass the exam.

Continuation to the Ph.D.

M.A. and M.A./Ph.D. students who wish to be considered for admission to the Ph.D. program must complete and sign the Petition for Continuation in the Ph.D. Program form, which will be distributed at the M.A. exam. It is expected that such students will already have expressed this interest to a potential major field advisor and received that faculty member's support.

The student must pass the M.A. exam in order for the petition to be considered by the graduate faculty. After receiving departmental approval for the petition and completing all M.A. degree requirements, the student will automatically be entered into the Ph.D. program. Students who do not submit the petition at the time of the M.A. exam will need to formally reapply for admission to the art history graduate program.

Handbook for Graduate Students

A detailed presentation of departmental degree requirements and regulations is included in the department's Graduate Student Handbook (<https://arthistory.ku.edu/graduate-student-handbook/>).

Graduate Policy

Students are encouraged to review Graduate Studies' policies (<https://policy.ku.edu/office/Graduate-Studies/>) that apply to M.A. degree programs for information about other requirements that may apply.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- demonstrate mastery of course material.
- read, critically analyze, and use archival/primary, contextual, and scholarly literature.