MFA in Art

The School of Art & Art History offers fine arts graduate study in the areas of Media, Studio, and Visual Communications. The MFA program focuses study on a particular emphasis within the various categories. Studio concentrations are in sculpture, ceramics, painting or printmaking. Media includes concentrations in film, video or photography. Visual Communication focuses largely on graphic design but also includes work in digital multimedia. The MFA program is intended to prepare students for careers as professional artists and designers and as the terminal degree, provides qualifications required to teach in higher education.

The MFA program is primarily a studio residency program occasionally requiring structured classroom instruction. Students in the MFA program must be self-motivated and self-disciplined, working under the direction of faculty advisors. Students participate in regularly scheduled critiques and performance evaluations by a faculty committee. Graduate students are encouraged to develop their own creative direction within the context of contemporary culture, theory and history. They are expected to develop new skills and encouraged to build on existing ones. Successful students will demonstrate proficiency, self-confidence and professionalism within their discipline.

The MFA is a 60 credit hour degree requiring a minimum of two years residency although most students take three years to complete the program. The degree culminates with an MFA exhibition, a written document based on the thesis proposal that accompanies the exhibition and a public oral defense presented to the entire faculty. The degree consists of 3 credit hours of Graduate Seminar, 9 hours of graduate level Art History courses, 25 hours of graduate area specialization, 18 hours of graduate electives, and 5 hours comprising the thesis and exhibition in the final semester. Transfer students are eligible to apply up to 15 hours towards the degree upon approval of the faculty and graduate liaison.

Students accepted into the program are eligible for competitive Graduate Assistantships and scholarships. Assistantships include generous 9 month stipends that currently start at $9585 and provide partial tuition waivers for both resident & non-resident students. GA appointments are generally awarded for the duration of the candidate’s study for up to three years, but appointments are based on regular performance evaluations. MFA candidates are also provided studio space for up to three years. Rarely are students allowed to extend their study beyond 3 years and the program generally does not provide financial support or studio space for student extensions.

Applications are due January 15th each year for fall admission. MFA students are not accepted to begin in the spring semester. Applications must be made to both the university and the School of Art & Art History. International students must complete TOEFL requirements if applicable.

Additional information regarding graduate studies, admissions, scholarships and financial aid can be found at the University of Oklahoma Graduate College.

Professor, Jonathan Hils serves at the MFA director and Graduate Liaison. Prospective students may contact him at hils@ou.edu or call 405.325.3217 with questions or to schedule a meeting. Additionally, it is suggested that students consult area faculty about program expectations, discuss creative emphasis and review portfolios.

http://art.ou.edu
University of Oklahoma School of Art & Art History
Application Form for Graduate Study
M.F.A. Program (please designate ONE area of emphasis)

☐ Ceramics  ☐ Painting  ☐ Media (photography/film/video/intermedia)
☐ Sculpture  ☐ Printmaking  ☐ Visual Communications

DEADLINE FOR FALL ADMISSION:
JANUARY 15
*There is no spring admission for the M.F.A. program

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Last Name ___________________________ First Name ___________________________
Street Address ___________________________ City ___________________________
State _______ Zip Code _______ Country ___________________________
Telephone ___________________________ Secondary phone ___________________________
Email address ___________________________

REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS:

☐ 1-2 PAGE LETTER OF INTENT
   Please address your objectives for pursuing graduate study, career goals, and any relevant information that pertains to your preparation for graduate study.

☐ PORTFOLIO : 15-20 IMAGES
   Please see the “MFA Visual Materials Formatting” form.

☐ CURRENT RESUME
   List exhibitions, awards, grants received, and art related work experience

☐ 3 REFERENCE FORMS
   Please use the reference form at the end of this packet. Print or make copies for each referee.

☐ I have submitted a separate application for the University of Oklahoma Graduate admissions (http://www.ou.edu/admissions/home.html)

University admissions application requirements include:
> Official transcripts for B.F.A. degree in Art or similar baccalaureate degree in a related field. (must be completed before fall admission). Transcripts are sent directly to university admissions as directed - DO NOT include transcripts with this MFA application.
> TOEFL scores, if applicable (INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS). International students receiving a B.F.A. degree from a U.S. college or university are not required to submit TOEFL scores.

FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES:

All students accepted into the M.F.A. program will be considered for financial support either through competitive fellowships, graduate teaching assistantships, or student hourly staff positions unless otherwise declined below.

☐ I DO NOT wish to be considered for any funding support through the School of Art & Art History

* Separate university scholarship applications can be found here: http://www.financialaid.ou.edu/
* Separate university fellowship applications are also available for graduate students.
* School of Art & Art History scholarships applications are due March 1st each year for the following fall.

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM AND REQUIRED MATERIALS TO:
SCHOOL OF ART & ART HISTORY
ATTN: GRADUATE LIAISON
520 PARRINGTON OVAL, RM. 202
NORMAN, OK 73019
DIGITAL IMAGES SUBMISSION on CD:

1. Clearly label & title CD with applicant NAME and ADDRESS. Name the disc as follows:

2. All image submissions MUST be placed in a single FOLDER titled as follows:

3. In the appropriate order for viewing by the committee, assign each file name in the folder as follows 1-20:

  APPLICANT NAME-1, APPLICANT NAME-2, APPLICANT NAME-3 etc…….
4. Still image/graphic files must be submitted as a standard JPEG or PDF format (5 MB max. per file). Powerpoint or Keynote files are acceptable.
5. Files must be Mac OS compatible
6. Label the image so that the following information is visible when viewed: your name, medium, dimensions, & year of completion.

**TIME BASED WORKS MAY BE SUBMITTED ON DVD (Film/Video/Visual Communications):** Submissions should be organized to fit on ONE DVD. Up to 10 individual works may be included. Works may be submitted in their entirety or as clips/segments. Please be sure that MENU items link correctly and work on both a computer and DVD player. Please include appropriate titling and brief synopsis with each work within the DVD itself or on a separate description sheet. DVD-R format is preferred. DVD discs should be clearly labeled with your name, address and contact phone or email.
M.F.A. VISUAL MATERIALS FORMAT
PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION : IMAGE LIST FOR SLIDES/DIGITAL FILES
Submit with your application materials. Numbers should correspond to the digital file #

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University of Oklahoma School of Art & Art History
Graduate Program Reference Form

Each application must include 3 reference forms. Applicants should supply this form to individuals who can comment on the applicant’s qualifications, preparedness, and maturity to pursue graduate studies. This form should be mailed directly to the Graduate Liaison at the address listed below. Deadline for the receipt of these documents is January 15 for fall admissions and October 1 for spring admissions (MA & PhD only)

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

Last Name
First Name

Street Address

City State Zip Code Country

Telephone Secondary phone Email address

Program: [ ] Master of Fine Art, Visual Art [ ] Master of Art, Art History [ ] PhD, Art History

Recommender’s information:

Name
Title

Institution / Affiliation Street address

City State Zip Phone

Email

Under the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, you may waive your rights to access this letter of recommendation and have recommendation documents held confidentially by the School of Art & Art History. You are not required to make such a waiver for admission or scholarship consideration. Please indicate whether you reserve your right to access this recommendation by selecting one statement below. You must select one option.

[ ] I waive my rights to access this recommendation [ ] I reserve my rights to access this recommendation

Signature Date

You may provide additional comments or observations by attaching a letter (preferably on institutional letterhead) to this form. Although the applicant may have waived their rights to access this form, under certain circumstances this reference may be subject to disclosure by the University of Oklahoma.

1. How long have you known the applicant? 
2. Describe the nature of your relationship to the applicant 
3. How well do you know the applicant? [ ] very well [ ] well [ ] casually

EVALUATION: please rate the applicant in comparison to other individuals/students. If you are unable to assess the applicant, please mark N/A

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<th>Knowledge of the field of study</th>
<th>Top 5%</th>
<th>Top 10%</th>
<th>Top 25%</th>
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<td>Foreign language aptitude (MA/PhD program)</td>
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**Recommendation:** considering the applicant's abilities, accomplishments, academic record, determination and potential, indicate your recommendation of this applicant by selecting one of the following:

- Strongest recommendation  
- Recommend  
- Recommend with reservation  
- Do not recommend  

Please provide additional information or comments you feel necessary for the School of Art & Art History to assess this graduate applicant. You may choose to attach a separate letter to this form commenting on the potential of this candidate to succeed in a graduate program.

Please enclose this reference form and attached recommendation letter (if applicable) in a sealed envelope with the recommender's signature signed across the envelope flap. Reference forms must be mailed separately from the application and received by the School of Art & Art History before the application deadlines.

**RECOMMENDER INFORMATION:**

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**Mailing address:** University of Oklahoma  
School of Art & Art History  
ATTN: Graduate Liaison  
520 Parrington Oval, RM. 202  
Norman OK 73019-3011  
USA