

Visual Arts, M.F.A.

(60 credits)

Program Description

The low-residency Visual Arts program at the Institute of Art and Design at New England College challenges and supports students in developing their art both technically and conceptually. Each area of study is constructed with the aim for the student to either immerse themselves in a specific discipline or to explore a range of different creative avenues. Incorporating both studio practice and critical theory, the primary concern of the MFA Visual Arts program is that the student develops a critical awareness of their work to better understand the current social, intellectual and aesthetic conditions that informs their individual creative practice, and effectively situate it within a contemporary context.

Areas of Study

1. Drawing/Painting/Printmaking
2. Photography/Time Based Practices
3. Sculptural Practices/Installation Practices/Ceramics,

Learning Outcomes

Graduate students in Visual Art will:

- Produce original and influential work that is rigorous, conceptual and tailored to the 21st century creative discourse.
- Apply technical skills as appropriate to a student's medium, subject, and conceptual concerns. To this end, demonstrate committed, disciplined studio practice and full engagement in the intentional formal presentation of one's creative work, as relevant to the discipline.
- Demonstrate an ability to actively and fully engage in individual and group discussions, including thoughtful participation, intentional listening, and receptiveness to constructive dialog and critique.
- Demonstrate an understanding of creative work relative to historical and contemporary practice and demonstrate an awareness that the work exists within a broader social context.
- Develop an inventive, individualized, flexible, and entrepreneurial plan for maintaining a sustained practice.
- Participate in cross-disciplinary discourse and practices, engage fully with structured programming as well as with alternative sites and communities, and engage with concepts and entities outside of the immediate artistic and academic boundaries of a specific discipline.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the artist's role as one of local and global citizen. Social and global awareness includes an understanding that power structures operate through all forms of communication-in the creation of meaning and therefore in the making and interpretation of works.
- Establish an aptitude for the communication of ideas through multiple modes of expression, and the intentional consideration of audience. Aptitude includes formal skill as well as an articulation of one's own ideas and creative work as subjective. Communication will demonstrate an ongoing awareness of and consideration for social and cultural contexts.
- Actively consider and respond to issues around appropriation, influence, and source material through one's creative and professional practice. In all academic and creative work, all appropriated words, images, and ideas of others will be fully and clearly identified.

- Engage in critical and creative thinking by demonstrating an ability to assess ideas, research, theories, and/or creative works presented by diverse thinkers and makers, synthesize multiple perspectives into a coherent understanding of a problem, issue, or question, and generate alternative responses, as demonstrated in the coherent presentation of a question, interpretation, or approach in multiple modes or forms.
- Demonstrate expanded formal and conceptual exploration, applying those connections to one's own practice by drawing inspiration and/or differentiation from a wide range of formal strategies and ways of constructing meaning.
- Reflect on behavior with an awareness of one's ethical and social responsibility. This includes active, thoughtful participation in community and advocacy for one's own health and wellness and that of others. Students will demonstrate self-reliance, empathy, and social literacy in their personal, academic, and professional interactions.
- Utilize ethical scholarly practice in creative and academic work.

Courses

[MFV 801 - Graduate Seminar I](#) (4 Credits)

MFV 801 - Graduate Seminar I

This first graduate seminar seeks to place contemporary art in context. Students are given an overview of the primary theoretical and art historical events of the Modernist and Postmodern periods (1950-present). Students are asked to consider that art exists in a social and cultural context. Each student will produce short writing assignments that accompany assigned readings. (4 Credits) Pass/No Record

[MFV 802 - Graduate Seminar II](#) (4 Credits)

MFV 802 - Graduate Seminar II

The second graduate seminar will concentrate on helping students to develop a voice for articulating the relationship of their own practice to key artists and theorists from the 20th century to the present. Students will learn to articulate an understanding that art exists in a sociocultural and political context. In addition to group discussion, students submit short writing assignments as a response to assigned readings. (4 Credits) Pass/No Record

[MFV 803 - Graduate Seminar III](#) (4 Credits)

MFV 803 - Graduate Seminar III

The third seminar explores the role of the artist in contemporary society. Since the beginning of the last century, identity as an artist has been a central cultural concern. Historically, the idea of a fixed/authentic identity has been called into question by a variety of cultural shifts and critical inquiry. The status, role and activity of the artist has likewise shifted under ongoing reappraisals. Students participate in writing assignments and class discussions as well as readings, and video and film viewing. Each student will produce written papers that accompany assigned readings. (4 Credits) Pass/No Record

[MFV 804 - Graduate Seminar IV](#) (4 Credits)

MFV 804 - Graduate Seminar IV

The fourth seminar consists of comprehensive student and faculty led discussions comprising of topics and/or readings that are important to the students individual studio work, and that will assist in the writing of their thesis. In addition; the central ideas regarding the student's practice are solidified from analysis and reflective commentary of peers, mentors, visiting artists, and faculty. Students are required to thoroughly research the work of other artists, movements, or other areas of creative enterprise that have made a substantial impact on their own work. They are also urged to develop a competent response to the critical a questions regarding both context and content in their own practice in advance of their thesis defense. *(4 Credits) Pass/No Record*

[MFV 851 - Studio Component: Visual Arts I \(1 - 8 Credits\)](#)

MFV 851 - Studio Component: Visual Arts I

This first semester studio component will involve the student fulfilling the work goals they created for themselves in discussion with their advisor during the first residency. Goals should include but are not limited to; the number of works to be completed; the type of material and technical skills to be developed; conceptual ideas to be developed; research of concepts, artists and methodologies. Each student will produce short writing assignments that accompany their readings. *(1 - 8 Credits) Repeatable up to 1 time. Pass/No Record*

[MFV 852 - Studio Component: Visual Arts II \(1 - 8 Credits\)](#)

MFV 852 - Studio Component: Visual Arts II

This second semester studio component will involve the student fulfilling the work goals they created for themselves in discussion with their advisor during the second residency. Goals are guided by work completed during the first semester and should include but are to limited to; the number of works to be completed; the type of material and technical skills to be developed; conceptual ideas to be developed; research of concepts, artists and methodologies. Each student will produce short writing assignments that accompany their readings. *(1 - 8 Credits) Repeatable up to 1 time. Pass/No Record*

[MFV 853 - Studio Component: Visual Arts III \(1 - 8 Credits\)](#)

MFV 853 - Studio Component: Visual Arts III

This third semester studio component will involve the student fulfilling the work goals they created for themselves in discussion with their advisor during the third residency. Goals are guided by work completed during the second semester and should include but are not limited to; the number of works to be completed; the type of material and technical skills to be developed; conceptual ideas to be developed; research of concepts, artists and methodologies. Each student will produce short writing assignments that accompany their readings. *(1 - 8 Credits) Repeatable up to 1 time. Pass/No Record*

[MFV 854 - Studio Component: Visual Arts IV \(1 - 8 Credits\)](#)

MFV 854 - Studio Component: Visual Arts IV

This fourth semester studio component will involve the student fulfilling the work goals they created for themselves in discussion with their advisor during the fourth residency. Building on the work created in the last three semester goals should aim the student forward towards the development of a serious body of thesis work and should include but will not be limited to; the number of works to be completed; the type of material and technical skills to be developed; conceptual ideas to be developed; research of concepts, artists and methodologies. Each student will produce short writing assignments that accompany their readings. *(1 - 8 Credits)*
Repeatable up to 1 time. Pass/No Record

[MFV 891 - Elective I](#) *(2 Credits)*

MFV 891 - Elective I

Students take one six-hour elective each residency. These electives are workshop-, studio-, or performance-based and are assigned with the intention of expanding the students artistic practice outside their chosen field of study. Students are encouraged to engage and create in a context outside their traditional studio or classroom. *(2 Credits)* Pass/No Record

[MFV 892 - Elective II](#) *(2 Credits)*

MFV 892 - Elective II

Students take one six-hour elective each residency. These electives are workshop-, studio-, or performance-based and are assigned with the intention of expanding the students artistic practice outside their chosen field of study. Students are encouraged to engage and create in a context outside their traditional studio or classroom. *(2 Credits)* Pass/No Record

[MFV 893 - Elective III](#) *(2 Credits)*

MFV 893 - Elective III

Students take one six-hour elective each residency. These electives are workshop-, studio-, or performance-based and are assigned with the intention of expanding the students artistic practice outside their chosen field of study. Students are encouraged to engage and create in a context outside their traditional studio or classroom. *(2 Credits)* Pass/No Record

[MFV 827 - Professional Practices](#) *(2 Credits)*

MFV 827 - Professional Practices

In this seminar students will explore tactics for creating and sustaining their art profession. Students will finalize a professional portfolio of CV, artist statement, resume, images of their work, business card, as well the development of a website or a blog. Discussion will focus on potential professional opportunities for each individual, now and in the future. Each student will set professional goals and develop skills to succeed in meeting

these goals. (2 Credits) Pass/No Record

[MFV 826 - Thesis Research and Writing](#) (2 Credits)

MFV 826 - Thesis Research and Writing

Students learn to apply the critical understanding of the integration of theory and practice within their own studio practice. Content for this class is driven by student work and research, each student's thesis paper is guided by their interests and work. The thesis is seen as an extended artist statement, a useful document that articulates who they are as artists and an understanding of what context their work strives to operate within. (2 Credits) Pass/No Record

[MFV 894 - Visual Arts Thesis Project](#) (2 Credits)

MFV 894 - Visual Arts Thesis Project

In their the final residency the graduating student will install their Thesis Exhibition in an appropriate and professional manner, and verbally defend their written Thesis and Thesis Exhibition. The student will also have the opportunity to give a 15 minute public artist presentation on their creative practice. (2 Credits) Pass/No Record

[MFV 895 - Final Residency: Exhibition](#) (0 Credits)

MFV 895 - Final Residency: Exhibition

Attendance at and participation in the final residency for Thesis Exhibition. (0 Credits) Pass/No Record

Course Map

- [Visual Arts, M.F.A. Course Map](#)
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Visual Arts, M.F.A. Course Map

- [Back to Visual Arts, MFA Program](#)

Term 1

Residency Term

(7 credits)

- 5 credits of [MFV 851 - Studio Component: Visual Arts I](#) (1 - 8 Credits)
- [MFV 891 - Elective I](#) (2 Credits)

Term 2

(7 credits)

- 3 credits of [MFV 851 - Studio Component: Visual Arts I](#) (1 - 8 Credits)
- [MFV 801 - Graduate Seminar I](#) (4 Credits)

Term 3

Residency Term

(7 credits)

- 5 credits of [MFV 852 - Studio Component: Visual Arts II](#) (1 - 8 Credits)
- [MFV 892 - Elective II](#) (2 Credits)

Term 4

(7 credits)

- 3 credits of [MFV 852 - Studio Component: Visual Arts II](#) (1 - 8 Credits)
- [MFV 802 - Graduate Seminar II](#) (4 Credits)

Term 5

Residency Term

(8 credits)

- 6 credits of [MFV 853 - Studio Component: Visual Arts III](#) (1 - 8 Credits)
- [MFV 893 - Elective III](#) (2 Credits)

Term 6

(8 credits)

- 2 credits of [MFV 853 - Studio Component: Visual Arts III](#) *(1 - 8 Credits)*
- [MFV 803 - Graduate Seminar III](#) *(4 Credits)*
- [MFV 827 - Professional Practices](#) *(2 Credits)*

Term 7

Residency Term

(8 credits)

- 6 credits of [MFV 854 - Studio Component: Visual Arts IV](#) *(1 - 8 Credits)*
- [MFV 826 - Thesis Research and Writing](#) *(2 Credits)*

Term 8

(8 credits)

- 2 credits of [MFV 854 - Studio Component: Visual Arts IV](#) *(1 - 8 Credits)*
- [MFV 804 - Graduate Seminar IV](#) *(4 Credits)*
- [MFV 894 - Visual Arts Thesis Project](#) *(2 Credits)*

Term 9

Residency Term

(0 credits)

- [MFV 895 - Final Residency: Exhibition](#) *(0 Credits)*
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