HISTORY OF ART

WHY BRYN MAWR?
Bryn Mawr has a distinguished tradition in the study of the visual arts. The College has been cited as one of the few influential institutions that helped establish art history’s place in the American academy. Today, the Department of History of Art at Bryn Mawr offers study in diverse geographic and cultural fields of art history from antiquity through the present, including visual and material culture of China, South Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and the Americas.

RESEARCH AREAS
In their scholarship and teaching, faculty in the History of Art explore diverse media, from painting, architecture, sculpture, prints, and drawings, to textiles, metalwork, manuscripts, mosaic, photography, film, video, and performance and installation art. Their shared commitment to the rigorous sociohistorical contextualization of visual and material culture is invigorated by active engagement with evolving theoretical frameworks, from the early modern foundations of the discipline to the most urgent critical questions shaping the field today. In addition to their active research and publication profiles, faculty pursue curatorial, archival, and digital scholarship regionally, nationally, and internationally.

THE GRADUATE GROUP
Established in 2004, the Graduate Group in Archaeology, Classics, and the History of Art was formed to encourage interdepartmental collaboration and intellectual exchange. The Group was awarded a Challenge Grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities to endow its interdisciplinary seminars (GSems) as well as special fellowships for interdisciplinary study and internships in Philadelphia-area museums.

THE CENTER FOR VISUAL CULTURE
Founded in 1999, the Center for Visual Culture hosts a weekly colloquium featuring presentations by scholars across a wide range of disciplines, as well as talks by visual artists, curators, and theorists. The colloquium serves as a forum for intellectual exchange among department graduate students and faculty in conversation with the broader College and regional academic communities.

CURRICULUM
The curriculum is flexible, broad, and can be tailored to the interests of an individual student. Faculty offer seminars related to their research in areas, including:
- Artful Things in Ancient China
- Gendered Images, Gendered Objects in Byzantium
- Mannerism
- Textiles of South Asia
- Warhol
- Photography and Its Afterlife
- Performances/Black Personhood

Through the Graduate Group, students can take courses in classics and archaeology to supplement their work in the history of art. Students may also enroll in classes at the University of Pennsylvania through a reciprocal enrollment agreement and, by special arrangement, at other regional institutions.

RESEARCH FACILITIES AND RESOURCES
Every graduate student has a fully wired carrel in the award-winning Rhys Carpenter Library. Inaugurated in 1997, Carpenter is a research library for archaeology, classics, and the history of art containing more than 125,000 volumes and 300 periodicals. An additional two million volumes can be accessed through the Tri-College library consortium of Bryn Mawr, Haverford, and Swarthmore Colleges.

Bryn Mawr’s Art and Artifact Collections number more than 50,000 objects. These collections encompass five areas: fine art, which includes paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, and photographs; archaeology; anthropology; decorative arts; and geology. The collections enhance the educational mission of the College and serve as a resource for diverse academic departments, including History of Art.
GRADUATE FACULTY

DAVID CAST
Professor
Renaissance art and the classical tradition.

Sylvia W. Houghteling
Assistant Professor
Global Baroque, South Asian art and material culture.

Homay King
Professor
Film history, global contemporary art with a focus on lensed, time-based media, and theory.

C. C. McKee
Assistant Professor
Colonial art and visual culture of the Atlantic World from the 18th century to the present.

Lisa Saltzman
Professor
Modern and contemporary art; trauma and memory.

Jie Shi
Assistant Professor
Chinese art, archaeology, and material culture.

Alicia Walker
Associate Professor
Byzantine and medieval Islamic art and architecture; intercultural artistic exchange; gender and material culture.

AFFILIATED FACULTY

Jeffrey A. Cohen, Term Professor of Growth and Structure of Cities
History of architecture in the U.S. and Europe, 18th and 19th centuries.

Alice A. Donohue, Professor of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology
History and historiography of classical art.

Timothy Harte, Professor of Russian
20th-century Russian literature, film, and culture.

Min Kyung Lee, Assistant Professor of Growth and Structure of Cities
Architecture and the built environment of Europe and the Americas, 18th to 20th centuries.

Carrrie M. Robbins, Lecturer and Curator for Art and Artifacts
Art theory from the 17th century to the present; photography; museum studies.

Monique Renee Scott, Director of the Undergraduate Program in Museum Studies
Museum studies and diversity.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Students admitted to the graduate program in History of Art receive a fellowship and full tuition award renewable for up to six years. Fellowship stipends range from $23,000-$25,500. Awards for graduate study include a full health insurance grant and additional summer research support. Competitive awards include:
- Areté Fellowship for outstanding applications to any Graduate Group department
- NEH-sponsored Multidisciplinary Fellowships for students conducting graduate work in more than one Graduate Group discipline
- Marguerite N. Farley Fellowship for exceptional international students

LOCATION

Bryn Mawr’s historic campus is just 11 miles west of Philadelphia, the sixth largest city in the United States and home to numerous museums and art institutions including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, the Barnes Foundation, the ICA Philadelphia, and the Slought Foundation.

CONTACT US

For admissions information, visit www.brynmawr.edu/gsas/admissions
For program information, visit www.brynmawr.edu/gsas/graduate-program-history-art
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