

## The Admissions Process: MA or PhD in Art History

The deadline is November 15<sup>th</sup> every year for the following fall.

Contact the Graduate Program Coordinator, Carla Nielsen, at [art255@unm.edu](mailto:art255@unm.edu) if you have questions or need assistance.

**Eligibility:** Applicants for admission to the MA program should preferably have an undergraduate major in art history with a minimum of 24 semester hours as well as advanced courses in history, literature, and philosophy. Any deficiencies in this required preparation must be removed during the first year of coursework for the degree. Graduate credit will not be given for courses taken to remove a deficiency, but graduate study courses may be taken concurrently. Candidates for the MA degree will be required to demonstrate a general knowledge of the history of art.

In applying for admission to the doctoral program, the potential candidate is urged to state aims clearly and to specify the field of art history to be investigated. A candidate will not be accepted unless these aims can be realized. Fieldwork and travel will be necessary in support of research at the doctoral level.

Applicants for admission to the Ph.D. program should have an MA in art history, or *exceptional* circumstances as approved by the admitting faculty, in such cognate disciplines as history, anthropology, archeology, or American Studies. Admission to the Ph.D. program without an M.A. in Art History is very rare. Those admitted to the Ph.D. program without the MA in art history may be required to take additional graduate courses beyond the minimum Ph.D. requirement of 48 hours of coursework. Any deficiencies in the required preparation must be removed during the first year of coursework for the degree.

### To apply for the MA or PhD in Art History, you need to submit:

- **Online application fee (\$50 for domestic; \$70 for international)** <https://grad.unm.edu/prospective-students/apply-now.html>
  - For an application fee waiver request (Domestic students), see <https://grad.unm.edu/resources/graduate-students/gs-forms/application-fee-waiver.html>
  - International applicants requesting an application fee waiver should contact Carla Nielsen at [art255@unm.edu](mailto:art255@unm.edu); please submit by October 15 via email: your letter of intent, writing sample, and a brief explanation of why you are requesting the application fee waiver. Please note that requests are granted at the discretion of the department. Unfortunately, we cannot grant all requests for the application fee waiver.
- **Letter of intent**
- **CV or Resume (optional)**
- **Three letters of recommendation**
- **Transcripts** from every college or university you have attended, whether you earned a degree there or not. (Unofficial transcripts must be uploaded during application; official transcripts must be electronically delivered or mailed from the institution to the Admissions Office at [apply@unm.edu](mailto:apply@unm.edu).)
- **A writing sample**, demonstrating your best academic writing. This should be a 7-10 page Art Historical research paper.

All of these requirements should be uploaded on the application website, but official transcripts will still need to be mailed to the Admissions Office.

Please see <http://art.unm.edu> for more information.

**University of New Mexico**  
**Department of Art - Graduate Office**  
**MA in Art History Program Information**

**Graduate Program Coordinator:**

Carla Nielsen  
[art255@unm.edu](mailto:art255@unm.edu)  
505-277-6672  
<https://art.unm.edu/become-a-student/graduate>

**Areas of Emphasis:**

**M.A.:**

Emphasis: Art of the Americas, or a general concentration in Art History

**Ph.D.:**

Emphasis: Modern Latin American Art History, Modern US & Canadian Art History, Native North American Art History, Art & Architecture of the Ancient Americas, Ibero-American Colonial Art History, History of Graphic Arts, History of Photography, History of the Built Environment, Medieval Europe and the Mediterranean

The application deadline is November 15<sup>th</sup> every year for the following fall. Please see the detailed admissions handout for application instructions and details.

**Applicants for admission the MA program should have a minimum of 24 semester hours in the history of art** as well as advanced courses in history, literature, and philosophy. Candidates for the MA degree will be required to demonstrate a general knowledge of the history of art.

**Funding and Tuition: Assistantships, Scholarships, and Links**

All admitted students are given the opportunity (*after admission*) to apply for Graduate Assistantships. Assistantships entail 10 hours/week assisting in an introductory art history course, and come with about **\$1,007.76/month in stipend, 6 hours of tuition paid for**, (additional hours billed at the in-state rate), and **free health insurance**.

A Graduate Assistant (GA) is a student who *assists* the instructor of record. A Teaching Assistant (TA) has full responsibility for the class, is the instructor of record, and may or may not be assigned a Graduate Assistant. A Research Assistant (RA) assists in a particular area or is assigned to a specific professor.

We are able to fund our MA students with GAships and our PhD students with GAships and TAships. Depending on funding, we are also able to periodically offer an RAship to either an MA or a PhD student. Assistantships are awarded each semester on a competitive basis, and funding is not guaranteed.

You cannot apply for an assistantship until you have been admitted to the program. All MA students are eligible for up to a maximum of 6 semesters (3 years) of departmental funding. If you do not graduate in 3 years, you will not continue receiving departmental funding.

With an assistantship covering 6 hours, and the rest billed at the in-state rate, a student taking 9 hours can expect to pay about \$1248/semester out of pocket in tuition plus approx. \$450 in

student fees.

If you do not have an assistantship, we recommend applying for New Mexico residency for tuition purposes after you have been here for one calendar year.

Tuition and fee rates are here: <https://bursar.unm.edu/tuition-and-fees/tuition-and-fee-rates.html>

We recommend that all students investigate other funding possibilities as well, including:

Federal financial aid: <http://finaid.unm.edu>, <http://fafsa.gov>  
Graduate Funding: <http://grad.unm.edu/funding/index.html>  
Departmental Scholarships: <http://art.unm.edu/scholarships/>  
University Scholarships: <https://scholarship.unm.edu/>

### **M.A. in Art History: Concentration in Art History Degree Requirements**

ARTH 500	Philosophy and Methods of Art History	3
ARTH	graduate courses in Pre Modern emphasis (pre 1400CE)	6
ARTH	graduate courses in Early Modern emphasis (c. 1400-1750CE)	6
ARTH	graduate courses in Modern and Contemporary emphasis (c. 1750-the present)	9
	Minimum coursework listed above	24
ARTH 599	Master's Thesis	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

**All work offered toward degree requirements must fall within a five-year period. Transfer credits must fall within a seven-year period.**

There is, of course, some overlap between many of these areas of emphasis. In each case, the nature of these concerns will vary owing to the predominant body of monuments being analyzed and the specific media whereby these artworks are produced. For example, the African American Art course, while placed in the Modern and Contemporary category, can also encompass all three chronological areas of emphasis. Courses that cover more than one emphasis can potentially be used flexibly in the Program of Studies, however one class cannot be used to simultaneously fulfill two requirements. For example, if you apply your African American Art class to Early Modern Art, it cannot also be applied to Contemporary Art. You should discuss this with your committee chair and the graduate advisor if you have taken seminars that cover more than one area of focus.

#### **A. Pre-Modern Emphasis**

\*343 Pre-Columbian Architecture  
505 Pre-Historic Art  
511 Pre-Columbian Art: Mesoamerica  
512 Pre-Columbian Art: South America  
531 Byzantine Art and Architecture  
532 Islamic Art and Architecture  
549 Art of Spain  
560 Seminar in Pre-Columbian Art

567 World Architecture I: History of the Built Environment from Pre-History to 1400 C.E.  
529 Topics

**B. Early Modern Emphasis:**

\*330 Renaissance Art and Architecture  
\*352 Renaissance Art in Northern Europe  
502 Native American Art I  
506 Native American Art II  
516 Southwestern Native Ceramics  
520 History of the Graphic Arts I  
550 Spanish Colonial Art  
568 World Architecture II: History of the Built Environment from 1400 C.E to the Present  
572 American Art: 1675-1875  
580 Seminar in Spanish Colonial Art  
581 Seminar in Early Modern Art 1750-1900  
592 American Landscapes  
529 Topics

**C. Modern and Contemporary Emphasis**

515 Modern Native American Art  
517 Seminar in Native American Tourist Art  
521 History of the Graphic Arts II  
522 Contemporary Architecture  
523 Frank Lloyd Wright and American Architecture  
525 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Photography  
526 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Photography  
527 Contemporary Photography  
553 African American Art  
563 Modern Architecture  
564 European Art 1750-1848  
576 Chicano Art 1965-1995  
579 American Art: 1876-1940  
582 Seminar in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art  
583 Seminar in Modern/Contemporary Latin American Art  
588 The Arts of Mexico, 1810-1945  
590 Muralism in the Americas, 1920-1995  
591 Late 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Art  
592 American Landscapes  
593 The Art of Latin America 1820-1945  
594 The Art of Latin America 1945-1990  
595 European Art 1848-1900  
529 Topics

**M.A. in Art History: Concentration in Arts of the Americas  
Degree Requirements**

ARTH 500	Philosophy and Methods of Art History	3
ARTH	graduate courses in primary emphasis	9
ARTH	graduate courses in secondary emphasis	9
ARTH	graduate course in another (third) emphasis	3
	Minimum coursework listed above	24
ARTH 599	Thesis	6
	Total	30

**All work offered toward degree requirements must fall within a five-year period. Transfer credits must fall within a seven-year period.**

**M.A. Art History: Concentration in Arts of the Americas Course Requirements**

Each student must select a primary and secondary emphasis in:

- Native North American Art History
- Art & Architecture of the Ancient Americas
- Ibero-American Colonial Art History
- Modern U.S. and Canadian Art History
- Modern Latin American Art History

There is, of course, some overlap between many of these areas of emphasis. In each case, the nature of these concerns will vary owing to the predominant body of monuments being analyzed and the specific media whereby these artworks are produced. Part of Native American Art, while placed in category A, is then also considered Modern U.S. and Canadian or Latin American Art History. Courses that cover more than one emphasis can potentially be used flexibly in the Program of Studies, however one class cannot be used to simultaneously fulfill two requirements. For example, if you apply your Modern Native American Art class to Native American Art, it cannot also be applied to Modern U.S. and Canadian Art. You should discuss this use with your committee chair and the graduate advisor if you have taken seminars that cover more than one area of focus.

**A. Native American Art History**

- 502: Native American Art I
- 506: Native American Art II
- 515: Modern Native American Art
- 516: Southwestern Native Ceramics
- 517: Seminar in Native American Tourist Arts
- 529: Topics in Native American Art
- 559: Seminar in Native American Art

**B. Art & Architecture of the Ancient Americas**

- \*343: Pre-Columbian Architecture
- 511: Pre-Columbian Art (Mesoamerica)
- 512: Pre-Columbian Art (South America)

529: Topics in Pre-Columbian Art  
560: Seminar in Pre-Columbian Art

### **C. Ibero-American Colonial Art History**

\*330 Renaissance Art & Architecture  
\*352 Renaissance Art in Northern Europe  
529 Topics in Spanish Colonial Art  
549 Art of Medieval Spain  
550 Spanish Colonial Art  
580 Seminar in Spanish Colonial Art

### **D. Modern U.S. and Canadian Art History**

525 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Photography  
526 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Photography  
527 Contemporary Photography  
529 Topics in Modern Art of America and/or Europe  
553 African-American Art  
563 Modern Architecture  
579 American Art 1876-1940  
581 Seminar in Early Modern Art 1750-1900  
582 Seminar in 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Art  
590 Muralism in the Americas 1920-1995  
591 Late 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Art  
592 American Landscapes

### **E. Modern Latin-American Art**

529 Topics in Modern Latin-American Art  
576 Chicano Art 1965-1995  
583 Seminar in Modern/Contemporary Latin American Art  
588 The Arts of Mexico 1810-1945 (will become 19<sup>th</sup>-c. Arts of Mexico)  
590 Muralism in the Americas 1920-1995  
593 The Art of Latin America 1820-1945  
594 The Art of Latin America 1945-1990

### **Transfer Credits**

You may transfer a maximum of 12 hours of graduate work from another institution, from non-degree status or from a previous master's degree to the M.A. Program.

### **Graduate Symposium**

In your third semester, you are required to participate in the *Graduate Symposium*, an oral presentation given to faculty and peers of a research work in progress. This is conducted by a committee composed of the Art History faculty and one Art Studio faculty member. Written evaluations will be available regarding content and presentation. Your committee will be concerned with the clarity of your ideas as well as the coordination of your text with your slides. All MA students must pass one Symposium before graduating, and can make the attempt 3 times.

## Language Requirement

All MA students must provide evidence of proficiency in a language other than English, appropriate to your area of concentration, by the time of graduation. To satisfy the language requirement, you can apply 4 semesters of coursework from your bachelor's degree, experience with a second language (native speaker, graduate work in the language, international coursework conducted in the language), or you can take coursework at UNM through the 202 level.

## M.A. Thesis

All MA students in Art History must write and defend a thesis on an art historical topic of your choice. Prior to writing the thesis, you will form your Committee on Studies, and work with your committee on a reading list and developing a focus for your thesis. Your thesis must be approved by your Committee on Studies and should demonstrate evidence of your ability to do sound research. It is your responsibility to provide each member of your committee with a complete draft of your thesis and to schedule an informal meeting to discuss the manuscript, to leave yourself ample time for committee review before your graduation deadline. When the thesis is complete, you will schedule your thesis defense with your committee, which is an oral defense of the work, and a discussion with the committee.

## Faculty

### Art Education

#### *Assistant Professors:*

Jeff Horwat, PhD, [JHorwat@unm.edu](mailto:JHorwat@unm.edu)

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### Art History

#### *Professor:*

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#### *Associate Professors:*

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#### *Assistant Professors:*

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### Arita Porcelain

#### *Professor of Practice:*

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## Art & Ecology

### *Professor:*

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### *Associate Professors:*

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## Art Practices

### *Associate Professors:*

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### *Principal Lecturer:*

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## Ceramics

### *Associate Professors:*

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## Experimental Art & Technology

### *Professor:*

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## Painting and Drawing

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## Photography

### *Distinguished Professor:*

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## Printmaking

### *Professor:*

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## Sculpture

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