

# STUDIO ART

The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Program in Studio Art prepares students for careers as professional contemporary artists and art educators. The program equally supports interdisciplinary and media-specific practices. It promotes risk-taking, commitment, and critical insight as integral components of an integrated art practice. Studio visits, visiting speakers, and lively group seminars in contemporary art theory and pedagogy augment the individual development of artwork. Faculty advisors work closely with students in directing individual artwork and research projects. Students are also provided with opportunities to connect with the broader arts community. As a culminating highlight, each semester concludes with intensive formal critiques involving all graduate faculty members and fellow students, as well as specially invited critically acclaimed artists and art professionals.

## Administrative Staff

### Director, School of Fine Arts & Music

Martin Pearce (203 Zavitz Hall, Ext. 56930)  
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### Graduate Program Coordinator

John Kissick (316 Zavitz Hall, Ext. 53191)  
jkissick@uoguelph.ca (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/graduate-programs/studio-art/jkissick@uoguelph.ca>)

### Graduate Program Assistant

Barb Merrill (201 Zavitz Hall, Ext. 54671)  
bmerrill@uoguelph.ca

## Graduate Faculty

*This list may include Regular Graduate Faculty, Associated Graduate Faculty and/or Graduate Faculty from other universities.*

### Amanda Boetzkes

BA Victoria, MA, PhD McGill - Professor  
Graduate Faculty

### Diane Borsato

BFA York, MFA Concordia - Associate Professor  
Graduate Faculty

### Susan Dobson

BAA Ryerson, MFA Guelph - Professor  
Graduate Faculty

### Susan J. Douglas

BA Western, MA Carleton, PhD Concordia - Assistant Professor  
Graduate Faculty

### Robert Enright

BA Saskatchewan - Professor  
Graduate Faculty

### Christian Giroux

BFA Victoria, MFA Nova Scotia College - Professor  
Graduate Faculty

### James Harley

B.Mus. Western Washington, D.Mus. McGill - Professor  
Graduate Faculty

### Sally A. Hickson

BA Carleton, MA, PhD Queen's - Associate Professor

Graduate Faculty

### John D. Kissick

BFA Queen's, MFA Cornell, MDP Harvard - Professor  
Graduate Faculty

### Kim Kozzi (FASTWÜRMS)

AOCA Ontario College of Art - Associate Professor  
Graduate Faculty

### Nestor Kruger

AOCA Ontario College of Art - Associate Professor  
Graduate Faculty

### Kristie MacDonald

BFA, MFA York - Assistant Professor  
Graduate Faculty

### Dominic J. Marnier

BA Regina, MA Victoria, PhD East Anglia (UK) - Associate Professor  
Graduate Faculty

### Martin Pearce

BA Northumbria, MA Royal College of Art England - Associate Professor  
and Director  
Graduate Faculty

### Sandra Rechico

B.Ed. Alberta - Associate Professor  
Graduate Faculty

### Dai Skuse (FASTWÜRMS)

BFA Queen's - Associate Professor  
Graduate Faculty

### Christina Smylitopoulos

BA Victoria, MA York (UK), PhD McGill - Associate Professor  
Graduate Faculty

### Monica Tap

BFA, MFA Nova Scotia College of Art and Design - Professor  
Graduate Faculty

## MFA Program

### Admission Requirements

Admission to the MFA program in studio art may be granted on the recommendation of the School of Fine Art and Music to the following applicants:

1. Holders of a BFA degree (honours equivalent), or an Honours BA (or its equivalent in fine art or visual arts); or
2. In exceptional cases, holders of a degree in another field who have completed a minimum of six one-semester courses in fine art or visual arts; or
3. Students who have satisfied the requirements for transfer from the provisional-student category.

**Specific Application Materials for Admission. Each applicant must submit the following:**

1. Documentation of artwork: 20 digital images or up to a 10 minutes DVD or a combination of the two. (For detailed submission information please see the 'How to Apply' section of the School of

Fine Art and Music website at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sofam/mfa-studio-art/admissions/>.

2. A single-page statement that outlines the applicant's interest in art, as well as career objectives and reasons for wishing to study in the University of Guelph's MFA program in studio art.
3. Two letters of reference should be written by studio professors who know you and your work well. An acceptable alternative to one such letter may be from the department chair on behalf of the department in which you have studied, or from a professional in the field of contemporary art who is familiar with your abilities.
4. A current curriculum vitae, including education, exhibitions, grants, residencies, and involvement in the art community, including volunteer work.

It is highly recommended that applicants complete at least eight semesters of courses in art history, cultural studies, or related areas prior to applying. Serious interest in, and substantial familiarity with contemporary issues in the visual arts is expected.

## Program Requirements

The Master of Fine Arts Program in Studio Art equally supports interdisciplinary and media specific practices, such as drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, video, performance, sculpture, and alternative practices. Although studio practice is emphasized, the program also includes courses in art theory, criticism, history and pedagogy. A thesis exhibition is also required. The objective of the program is to prepare students as professional artists and art educators.

The MFA program is intended to produce a high level of professional competence and personal originality in the informed practice of a studio discipline. In response to the numerous and divergent approaches to the making of visual art, the MFA program provides an individually oriented education that is primarily concerned with the development of independent studio work while encouraging a critical awareness of the cultural context and its ideological complexities.

In addition to intense involvement with studio practice, students will be required to demonstrate pertinent knowledge and judgement about the visual arts in presentations, discussions, and written papers within the required course work.

The MFA degree at the University of Guelph requires a professional level of studio practice, and a sophisticated awareness of contemporary discourse in visual arts, as well as detailed knowledge of the selected field of specialization. Each degree candidate will complete a thesis. The MFA thesis consists of a solo exhibition, a brief supporting paper, and an oral examination.

The following are some of the specific degree requirements for the MFA degree in studio art (see the Degree Regulations section of this calendar for complete degree regulations):

### Minimum Duration

The minimum duration is at least four semesters of full-time study.

### Core Courses

A total of 10.0 credits is required for the completion of this program. In addition to individually oriented studio courses, students are required to complete four MFA seminars; two graduate courses in art theory and criticism courses; and two teaching practicum courses.

A maximum of two courses outside the School of Fine Art and Music may be substituted for courses in art history, theory and criticism. The

courses selected must be acceptable to the school and the Assistant Vice-President (Graduate Studies) for graduate credit. All 12 "substantive" courses comprise the candidate's prescribed studies, in which the student must obtain an overall average grade of 'B-' or higher.

### Additional Courses

In addition to the prescribed studies, the student may undertake to achieve satisfactory standings in ancillary courses supportive of the special discipline. These may be undergraduate or graduate level courses.

### Advisory Committee

There will be an Advisory Committee of at least three graduate faculty members.

### Exhibition/Paper

Each degree candidate must present an exhibition or performance of their studio work, as well as a critical paper between 4,000 and 5,000 words in length that articulates the aesthetic, historical, theoretical, and technical issues pertinent to their artwork. The submitted studio work must demonstrate a professional level of competence and a significant aesthetic investigation, as approved by the candidate's master's examination committee.

### The Master's Examination

At the time of the exhibition, the MFA candidate will be expected to successfully complete a final oral examination devoted chiefly to the MFA exhibition with reference to the supporting critical paper. An external examiner from outside the university will be selected to sit on the examination committee. This is a school examination identified as the master's examination.

### School Regulations

In addition to meeting the university's MFA regulations regarding thesis format, the candidate must submit appropriate visual documentation of the MFA exhibition as well as the supporting critical paper, to the director of the School of Fine Art and Music for inclusion in the school's archives.

## Courses

### FINA\*6510 Introduction to Graduate Studio Fall Only [1.50]

A qualifying open-studio course to determine the student's interests and level of performance. The student will come in contact with a variety of faculty and may choose to work in a number of areas during this period.

**Restriction(s):** Restricted to Studio Art MFA students.

**Department(s):** School of Fine Art and Music

**Location(s):** Guelph

### FINA\*6515 MFA Studio I Winter Only [1.50]

Sustained work at an independent level under the supervision of the chair of the student's advisory committee.

**Prerequisite(s):** FINA\*6510

**Restriction(s):** Restricted to Studio Art MFA students.

**Department(s):** School of Fine Art and Music

**Location(s):** Guelph

### FINA\*6530 MFA Teaching Practicum I Fall Only [0.50]

This course will give the MFA student supervised teaching experience in a studio discipline. In addition, a seminar component will consider theoretical and practical issues relevant to the teaching of studio art.

**Restriction(s):** Restricted to Studio Art MFA students.

**Department(s):** School of Fine Art and Music

**Location(s):** Guelph

**FINA\*6531 MFA Teaching Practicum II Fall Only [0.50]**

Continuation of teaching practicum under the guidance of a faculty member. The practicum seminar will consider theoretical and practical issues relevant to the teaching of studio art such as educational goals, course and curriculum planning, academic evaluation, health and safety policies, and appropriate materials and equipment.

**Prerequisite(s):** FINA\*6530

**Restriction(s):** Restricted to Studio Art MFA students.

**Department(s):** School of Fine Art and Music

**Location(s):** Guelph

**FINA\*6540 MFA Seminar I Fall Only [0.50]**

Examination of critical issues in the visual arts relevant to studio practice

**Restriction(s):** Restricted to Studio Art MFA students.

**Department(s):** School of Fine Art and Music

**Location(s):** Guelph

**FINA\*6545 MFA Seminar II Winter Only [0.50]**

Continuation of issues examined in FINA\*6540

**Prerequisite(s):** FINA\*6540

**Restriction(s):** Restricted to Studio Art MFA students.

**Department(s):** School of Fine Art and Music

**Location(s):** Guelph

**FINA\*6550 Selected Topics in Fine Art Unspecified [0.50]**

Seminar in a fine art topic in a subject to be specified by the instructor.

**Restriction(s):** Restricted to Studio Art MFA students.

**Department(s):** School of Fine Art and Music

**Location(s):** Guelph

**FINA\*6551 Seminar in Art Theory and Criticism I Winter Only [0.50]**

Selected topics in art theory and criticism with particular relevance to studio practice.

**Restriction(s):** Restricted to Studio Art MFA students.

**Department(s):** School of Fine Art and Music

**Location(s):** Guelph

**FINA\*6610 MFA Studio II Fall Only [1.50]**

Continuation of FINA\*6515

**Prerequisite(s):** FINA\*6515

**Restriction(s):** Restricted to Studio Art MFA students.

**Department(s):** School of Fine Art and Music

**Location(s):** Guelph

**FINA\*6615 MFA Studio III Winter Only [1.50]**

Continuation of FINA\*6610

**Prerequisite(s):** FINA\*6610

**Restriction(s):** Restricted to Studio Art MFA students.

**Department(s):** School of Fine Art and Music

**Location(s):** Guelph

**FINA\*6640 MFA Seminar III Fall Only [0.50]**

Continuation of FINA\*6545

**Prerequisite(s):** FINA\*6545

**Restriction(s):** Restricted to Studio Art MFA students.

**Department(s):** School of Fine Art and Music

**Location(s):** Guelph

**FINA\*6641 MFA Seminar IV Winter Only [0.50]**

Continuation of FINA\*6640

**Prerequisite(s):** FINA\*6640

**Restriction(s):** Restricted to Studio Art MFA students.

**Department(s):** School of Fine Art and Music

**Location(s):** Guelph

**FINA\*6651 Individual Study in Contemporary Art Unspecified [0.50]**

Students will pursue special study under the guidance of a faculty member with appropriate expertise

**Restriction(s):** Instructor consent required.

**Department(s):** School of Fine Art and Music

**Location(s):** Guelph

**FINA\*6652 Individual Study in Art Theory and Criticism Winter Only [0.50]**

Students will pursue special study under the guidance of a faculty member with appropriate expertise.

**Restriction(s):** Restricted to Studio Art MFA students.

**Department(s):** School of Fine Art and Music

**Location(s):** Guelph