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< Student mural at the O'Farrell Theatre (2011)
Program Overview

At Academy of Art University, you start by mastering the foundations necessary to compose, design, draw, paint, and sculpt. As your abilities broaden, you begin to develop your artistic point of view—preparing you for a career. Explore your creativity, define your vision, and graduate prepared to share your talent with the world.

OUR MISSION
At the School of Fine Art, you’ll master the classical tradition and be encouraged to let your imaginations take flight. Career artists will help you perfect techniques in painting, sculpture, jewelry making, and printmaking, while imparting the business savvy necessary to make a living.

Graduates leave with a portfolio that has collectors and galleries clamoring for their work. You will learn how to find apprenticeships and representatives and gain exposure in the art world through our expert instructors.

WHAT SETS US APART
• Our Fine Art programs are offered both onsite in San Francisco and online
• Our summer Study Abroad programs provide immersive opportunities to study art in Europe, where some of the world’s most influential museums, artworks, and galleries are located
• Courses are taught by a faculty of established artists and consist of lectures, rigorous studio work, critiques, field trips and guest artists
• Learn what it takes to be an artist-entrepreneur, as our senior portfolio professional/graduate focus teaches the skills needed to own a Fine Art business
• Learn website creation, copyright law, tax and promotion so you are prepared to start your journey the day after graduation

academyart.edu

Student work by Hongshu Lei >
What We Teach

In addition to painting, sculpture, printmaking, calligraphy/letterform, and book arts, the School of Fine Art’s degree programs provide the creative and technical skills needed to thrive in today’s art world.
SCULPTURE
In the Sculpture program, you will learn traditional skills for figure and non-figurative work combined with new technology that can be applied to express your personal artistic vision.

PAINTING
In the Painting track, you will learn in-depth about composition, color, style, and technique, all in order to understand and capture beauty as a still life, watercolor, portrait, landscape, or figure painter.
CALLIGRAPHY & LETTERFORM
Explore the time-honored skill of hand lettering with brushes and various types of writing instruments. Students learn how these skills are applied to all areas of design including print, identity, and typography. Diverse styles from classic to contemporary letterforms are taught.

PRINTMAKING
In the Printmaking track, you will be introduced to etching, silkscreen, monotype, book arts, lithography, and relief printing. You will gain a good basic knowledge of all print media and produce a portfolio and a book of prints. Traditional printmaking processes will also be taught.
BOOK ARTS
This class offers students a comprehensive introduction to the artistic disciplines of hand bookbinding and box making. Students are instructed in the proper use of tools and equipment as well as various creative low-tech replicative techniques suited for the inclusion of text and image in bookworks.
Faculty

Our instructors don’t just teach you about the industry, they are the industry. They are nationally recognized professionals who maintain careers on the leading edge of industry trends. They will challenge you to reach your creative potential.
Dr. Craig Nelson
Executive Director, Painting & Printmaking

Dr. Craig Nelson has been depicting figures, landscapes, California coastlines, and various other environments in rich, vibrant oils for over 30 years. During his illustrious career, Craig has won over 200 awards of excellence in various shows, five gold medals, and four silver medals. In 1996, his painting was chosen for the Communication Arts Annual magazine cover.

Carolyn Meyer
Director of Painting

Carolyn Meyer’s career began as an art director for an advertising agency in San Francisco and one of the founding principals of Paris Painting. Her work is on display at ArtHause, William Lester Gallery, and Hang Gallery in San Francisco, as well as several others around the country.

Annamarie Nelson
Online Director, Painting & Printmaking

Annamarie Nelson started teaching still life painting in 1992 for the Summer Art Experience program at Academy of Art University and has been a member of the faculty ever since. She graduated from UCLA with a degree in Italian Language and Literature and worked for UCLA’s Italian Department as well as various travel agencies, where she acted as a tour guide for students studying in Florence, Italy.

Tom Durham
Director of Sculpture

Tom Durham is a New York City figurative artist who works professionally in both drawing and sculpture and is also a professional member of the National Sculpture Society and the Portrait Society of the Americas. He received the Lorenzo D’Medici award for sculpture in Florence, Italy.
CERTIFICATE
The four-year certificate program provides students with a disciplined approach to the study of Fine Art. Student portfolios will demonstrate the variety of skills and creativity developed.

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS (AA)
This program offers a strong introduction to the core principles of creating fine art. You will choose one of three emphases: Drawing and Painting, Printmaking, or Sculpture. This degree may later be used as a stepping-stone to our Bachelor of Fine Arts program.

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS (BFA)
The Fine Art BFA program will teach you the creative and technical skills required to thrive as a career artist. Advanced instruction will be offered in non-figurative and figurative art, including painting, print-making, and sculpting. Our Sculpture department has one of the largest and most advanced facilities of its kind in North America, and our print-making facilities merge traditional tools with cutting-edge technology.

MASTER OF ARTS (MA)
The MA in Fine Art allows you to choose one of three different emphases: Drawing and Painting, Printmaking, or Sculpture. This degree program provides students with the creative and technical skills needed to thrive in today’s art world. Students will leave with professional-level portfolios and an understanding of the business of art.

MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA)
Our MFA program provides a framework for advanced study in drawing and painting, printmaking, and sculpture. You will focus on technical and conceptual development in figurative, abstract, or landscape work in our studio spaces, exhibition galleries, and world-class facilities.
Our Facilities

Learning to use the software, tools, and equipment used by the industry is essential to preparing you to enter the work force. That’s why we make it a point to keep our facilities as up-to-date as possible with current advancements in technology and equipment.

PAINTING
Our painting facilities include 12 classrooms, two of which are full-time anatomy studios, and a full-time multimedia room with theatre seating. All classrooms and studios are equipped with easels, taborets, model stands, spotlights, cleaning stations, and painting storage racks to accommodate any style of painting. The prop room is well-stocked with over 100 fabrics and over 3,500 different props for your reference.

PRINTMAKING
Our main printmaking facility includes six presses for intaglio, relief, and monotype printing. The intaglio and relief studio embraces traditional as well as sustainable approaches with support for zinc and copper etching. The silkscreen studio concentrates on the photo emulsion process and includes a dedicated darkroom. Fully stocked with ink, screens, light tables, and digital output, the studio is designed for maximum productivity. Also available are separate fully equipped lithography, book arts, and framing studios.

SCULPTURE STUDIO
Our Sculpture center houses a complete wax studio with gating and sprue stations, as well as a ceramics room with a slurry tank, slab roller, extruder, pug mill, silica sand stations, and front-loading computer-programmed electric and gas kilns. Jewelry & Metal Arts students have access to a 20-ton hydraulic press, calibrated burnout kilns, enameling, and lost wax casting. We also teach ceramic shell bronze casting at our foundry in South San Francisco, which houses our 150-lb metal crucible, burn-out kiln, cut-off station, burr-king sander, and sand-blaster.

WELDING STUDIO
Use industry standard TIG-welders, power tools, sand blasters, and patina stations for bronze casting in our welding studio. Learn using a jet-milling machine for cutting metal, a McEnglevan MIFCO forge machine, a plasma cutter, or a 250-amp welder. Also available are a fully equipped wood shop, the only complete art and sculpture neon studio in California, and a mold-making studio for one-, two-, and three-piece plaster and rubber casts.
Student & Alumni Testimonials

Our 50,000-plus Academy alumni are some of the most successful and sought-after professionals in art, entertainment, and design today. But we’re just getting started. Our current pool of creative and innovative students are preparing to redefine the future.
“I love what I do. There is little distinction between my work and my play. That I’ve gotten to do what I love, and be the breadwinner of my family, is a privilege,”

Lindsay Goodwin
BFA ‘04, Fine Art Painter

“The School of Fine Art has by far exceeded any expectation I had and proven to be better for me than I ever imagined. I came here after researching Academy of Art University and other art schools. I felt the Academy would be the best fit for me and I have no doubt I made the right choice.”

Chris Coogan
BFA Painting student

“As a sculptor pursuing my BFA, Academy of Art University is guiding me and helping me realize my true potential. The last two years have been filled with hands-on instruction given by phenomenal teachers. With the guidance I am receiving, I have found a signature style, which is improving each day”

Hannah Monkiewicz
BFA Sculpture student

“The instructors are amazing, talented artists! It’s a very craft-oriented school with good guidance and lots of opportunity to grow as an artist!”

Yishu Wang
MFA ’15, Printmaker

< Student work by Chris Coogan
Partnerships

Once you graduate from our Fine Art programs, finding a new home to showcase your work will become essential. We are committed to helping you nurture a network of contacts as you develop your student portfolio in class.

WATERHOUSE GALLERY

Diane Waterhouse, one of the cofounders of Santa Barbara’s 32-year old Waterhouse Gallery, has been an enthusiastic guest of the annual Academy of Art University Spring Show since 2010. She attended the celebration of our students’ work first as a guest of Craig Nelson, the executive director of Painting & Printmaking at the School of Fine Art, and later as a talent scout. “I am constantly impressed by the quality of work I see at the show,” she says. “It’s such a treat to showcase the art we encounter in San Francisco.”

The Waterhouse Gallery represents some of the finest painters from the Western states, many of whom are nationally known. “We feature contemporary, traditional works, ranging from highly rendered realism to impressionism,” explains Waterhouse. In 2016, the gallery continued to feature art of not only Craig Nelson, but also Academy alumni.

“It is remarkable, the level of talent that comes out of Academy of Art University. What an amazing job Craig Nelson has done to inspire students and up the bar for the School of Fine Art,” says Waterhouse. “We are proud to show the works by alumni of Academy of Art University and look forward to featuring many more amazing, talented Academy artists at the Waterhouse Gallery.”
Career Paths

As one of the top art and design schools in the country, Academy of Art University helps prepare graduates for a range of career opportunities. Our facilities, faculty, and hands-on learning approach are designed to provide you with the tools you need to succeed in the art and design industry.

WHO IS HIRING OUR ALUMNI

Art Haus
Dennis Rae Gallery
Elliot Fouts Gallery
Epperson Gallery
Chloe Fine Arts Gallery
Christian Daniels Gallery
Dolby Chadwick Gallery
Hang Art Gallery
Hespe Gallery
Principle Gallery
Room Gallery
SFOMOA
Thomas Reynolds Gallery
Total Arts Gallery, Inc.
Waterhouse Gallery

CURATOR
Establish specialized collections of art for exhibitions and develop their catalogs, contextual materials, and labels as a museum or gallery curator.

GALLERY ARTIST
Create, market, and exhibit a cohesive body of work in galleries and museums. Share a unique point of view with the world and engage your audience.

PROFESSOR
Inspire the next generation of artists as a knowledgeable university professor. Help students develop their voices as engaged and engaging artists by teaching the historical, aesthetic, and technical details of art.

MASTER PRINTER
Collaborate with multiple stakeholders to print high-quality editions for a publisher. Direct and oversee the production and execution of fine art editions at a fine arts press or print house.

academyart.edu
SCULPTOR
Dazzle the art world and its most knowledgeable enthusiasts with incredible three-dimensional compositions crafted from classical or cutting-edge materials.

MURALIST
Create vibrant, eye-catching displays as a professional large-scale muralist. Work with clients to interpret their vision and mission statement and make a meaningful artistic contribution to a private or public space.

GALLERY OWNER
Organize art shows with established and emerging artists as the owner, manager, and curator of your own collection. Discover and nurture new talent while building a client base and developing impressive showcases.

Student work, top, by Yige Xie, bottom, by Ryan Donahoe
Additional Learning Experiences

Academy of Art University has a hands-on program for every interest at every level. If you are looking to upgrade your career, explore something you have never tried before, or hone existing skills, we have a program for you.
PRE-COLLEGE ART EXPERIENCE (PCAE)
This dual-scholarship program allows current high school students to take art and design courses at no tuition charge. In addition, they earn scholarship dollars towards future undergraduate studies at Academy of Art University.
Visit https://www.dev.academyart.edu/academics/pre-college-art-experience-program or call 415.274.2200 for more information.

STUDY ABROAD
One of the best ways to learn about the world is to see the world. Take advantage of one or all of these exciting Study Abroad opportunities.

The Liberal Arts Seminar in Europe is a three-week intensive traveling course visiting some of Europe’s greatest cities and collections.

The Fine Art Intensive in Italy takes you to Florence, Italy, for seven and a half weeks during Summer semester.

The School of Fashion at awards scholarships to study in Paris with Studio Bercot and L’École de la Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne.

The Illustration Department also has a summer semester in Florence emphasizing cultural awareness in painting and drawing.

For more information about these Study Abroad opportunities, including cost and visa matters, visit www.academyart.edu/academics/study-abroad

CONTINUING EDUCATION
Time for a career upgrade? Want to follow your passion? Learn, be inspired, and expand your creative potential by taking hands-on courses from industry-experienced faculty. Flexible art and design courses are available online and in San Francisco.
Visit https://www.academyart.edu/academics/continuing-education or call 415.274.2200 for more information.
Academy of Art University is committed to the highest standards of achievement in art and design. Here’s a small sampling highlighting some recent accomplishments of our outstanding students, faculty, and alumni.
FIND YOUR PLACE. MASTER YOUR CRAFT.

EMMYS
44 NOMINATIONS IN 2017

GOLDEN GLOBES
65 NOMINATIONS IN 2018

OSCARS
96 NOMINATIONS IN 2018

#3 BEST ONLINE ART PROGRAMS IN AMERICA

ANIMATION & VISUAL EFFECTS
SCHOOL IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

RANKED IN THE TOP TEN BEST PHOTOGRAPHY SCHOOLS

8 YEARS WORKING WITH NASA

70+ STUDENT AND ALUMNI ART EXHIBITIONS IN SF EACH YEAR

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR
DEDICATION • PASSION • COMMITMENT • CREATIVITY
Online Education

Take any online course at the Academy, and experience the visual, interactive, and dynamic courses we’re known for. You will have the same quality instructors, the same hands-on learning opportunities, and the same attentive support as our onsite students. The difference? The flexibility to earn your art and design degree on your terms.

ONLINE BENEFITS
• A support staff of over 100 Academy of Art employees offers 900+ online courses and 1,500 instructional videos per semester, spanning 35 online majors, and teaching students from 50+ countries
• Course content is proprietary, created in-house by industry experts, and exclusive to the Academy
• The classes are a mix of lecture content, video, written content, recorded audio, interactive slide-shows, and hands-on work
• The innovative curriculum is created by instructional designers and industry professionals
• A student-run Facebook group, AAUHOO, has more than 4,000 members and invites you to join this thriving online community
• We’re constantly building new courses, reworking old ones and adding features to our LMS based on student feedback

Visit academyart.edu or call 415.274.2200 for more information.
A substantial part of an artist’s growth and inspiration occurs outside the classroom or studio. At Academy of Art University, we understand this. Here are some resources and opportunities that are available to all students.
“What I like best about the School of is that the instructors don’t just teach—they constantly provide resources and opportunities for active learning.”

Fei F. Ou
2015 Game Development BFA student

EVENTS
Campus Life is designed to inspire, educate, and promote fun. Our events are created in coordination with student-run groups and organizations. Make the most of your university experience: grow, learn, laugh, and run with us.

Visit https://www.academyart.edu/students/clubs-organizations/events for more info.

URBAN KNIGHTS RADIO
Listen live online to our athletics teams, hear unique talk shows, and dance to your favorite tunes on UrbanKnightsRadio.com, an iHeartRadio partner.

HOUSING
Housing is guaranteed for all new, full-time onsite students. We have 17 different housing options to choose from located in the heart of San Francisco.

DINING
Stay healthy with delicious and filling meals in one of our dining halls with flexible meal plans and Knight Kash. Use the Knight Kash on your student ID for dining on campus and at select off-campus vendors.

ACADEMIC CLUBS
Join students with similar interests to discuss ideas, promote your work, form collaborations, and share information.

FITNESS & RECREATION
Campus Recreation classes and workshops—and access to our free gym, pool, basketball courts, and skateboard ramp—will help you stay active healthy.

VIRTUAL BOOKSTORE
All required textbooks are available at our virtual bookstore.

CULTURAL CLUBS
Everyone needs a break from the studio. With dozens of clubs and organizations, find a new creative outlet and build lifelong relationships.

ESPORTS
Our active gaming community hosts and attends regular gaming events for both casual or competitive players.
San Francisco

One of the world's great creative capitals, San Francisco has been our home since 1929. Our neighbors include giants in everything from advertising, animation, and architecture to communications, game development, and web design.

Simply put, Academy of Art University is an absolutely amazing place to be a college student.
MUSEUMS
Academy of Art University Auto Museum
Legion of Honor
de Young Museum
Asian Art Museum
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA)
California Academy of Sciences
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts
Cable Car Museum
Palace of Fine Arts
Theatre Exploratorium
Walt Disney Family Museum
Museum of Performance & Design
Museum of Craft & Design
Museo Italo Americano
Cartoon Art Museum
Museum of the African Diaspora
Museo de la Raza

TRANSPORTATION
MUNI
AC Transit
BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit)
Cal Train
Golden Gate Transit

THEATRES & VENUES
The Fillmore
Bill Graham Civic Auditorium
The Warfield
Bottom of the Hill
Rickshaw Stop
Alamo Drafthouse
Great American Music Hall
The Independent
The Fox Theatre
SHN Orpheum Theater
The American Conservatory Theater
The Castro Theatre
SFJAZZ
San Francisco Conservatory of Music
San Francisco Opera
San Francisco Symphony
San Francisco Ballet
AT&T Park
We are the Urban Knights—the only higher arts education institution in the U.S. to have an NCAA athletics program. Urban Knight Nation is proud to support our fierce student-athletes as they fight on to victory. Go Urban Knights!

We are the Urban Knights—14 varsity athletic teams that represent Academy of Art University in NCAA Division II intercollegiate sports. We are dedicated to distinction, sportsmanship, pride, teamwork, credibility, and creativity.

As an artist-athlete in the Academy of Art University Intercollegiate Athletic program, you are empowered to realize your full potential academically, personally, and professionally while on the path to collegiate success. The Academy’s Urban Knights compete as members of the Pacific West Conference.

WOMEN’S
Basketball  
Cross Country  
Golf  
Soccer  
Softball  
Tennis  
Track & Field  
Volleyball

MEN’S
Baseball  
Basketball  
Cross Country  
Golf  
Soccer  
Track & Field

NCAA PROGRAM
Join one of our teams or come out and support your fellow artist-athlete. We play in great venues throughout San Francisco, including Kezar Pavilion, Paul Goode Field, SF Bay Tennis Club, and Presidio Golf Course, among others. Let the Fan Bus take you to the games.

The NCAA is a trademark owned by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.
ARTIST ATHLETES
The Urban Knights have quickly made a name for themselves with numerous conference and national accomplishments including 10+ NCAA championships. We are the first athletic program to win two NCAA National Championships (indoor and outdoor women’s track & field) in our first year of postseason eligibility. We have made over 40 postseason appearances in men’s and women’s cross country, women’s basketball, men’s indoor and outdoor track and field, men’s and women’s golf, and women’s tennis. Go Urban Knights!
Apply Today at academyart.edu

Apply year-round, and begin taking classes in Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. Our Admissions Representatives will help you every step of the way. They want to help you succeed, and are trained to make sure your application best reflects your abilities. Apply today!

HOW TO APPLY
Apply online at academyart.edu
Or call 1.800.544.2787
Or apply in person in San Francisco (Monday-Saturday)
79 New Montgomery St. San Francisco, CA 94105

YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:
• $50* application fee ($150 international)
• $95* enrollment fee
• International applicants require a $300* international student service fee
• Fees can be paid by MasterCard, Visa, Discover. By mail: check or money order
*all fees are non-refundable, non-transferable

TRANSFER STUDENTS
1. Complete the application
2. Submit electronic transcripts to:
   transcripts@academyart.edu
Or mail transcripts in a sealed envelope to:
   Academy of Art University
   Attn: Undergraduate Admissions Office
   79 New Montgomery St.
   San Francisco, California 94105
GET STARTED TOWARD A CAREER YOU'LL LOVE

At Academy of Art University, Chase no longer felt like the odd man out. He turned his love for social media, shooting videos, and making flyers into a blossoming career as a top creative in the advertising industry. We can teach you to turn the things you love to do into a career you’ll love—and have a ton of fun along the way. Sometimes it’s not so much about finding who you are, it’s about finding the place where you can be who you are. Find out how your passion can become a creative legacy at academyart.edu

Find Your Place.
Master Your Craft.

Photograph of student, Chase Grammer, BFA 2015
The Academy of Art University is located in downtown San Francisco and provides instruction around the world through its online campus. We offer training in many specialized creative disciplines:

- Acting
- Advertising
- Animation & Visual Effects
- Architecture
- Art Education
- Art History
- Fashion
- Fine Art
- Game Development
- Graphic Design
- Illustration
- Industrial Design
- Interior Architecture & Design
- Jewelry & Metal Arts
- Landscape Architecture
- Motion Picture & Television
- Multimedia Communications
- Music Production & Sound Design for Visual Media
- Photography
- Visual Development
- Web Design & New Media
- Writing for Film, Television & Digital Media

Academy of Art University
79 New Montgomery Street
San Francisco, California 94105

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1.800.544.2787
www.academyart.edu

Accredited Member WSCUC, NASAD, CIDA (BFA-IAD, MFA-IAD), NAAB (B.ARCH, M.ARCH), CTC (California Teacher Credential).

*The following degree programs are currently not offering online courses: Acting, Auto Restoration, Knitwear Design, and Footwear & Accessory Design.

Visit www.academyart.edu to learn more about total costs, median student loan debt, potential occupations, and other information.