Fine Art (Visual Art)

As a Fine Art (Visual Art) student at Queen’s, you’ll be part of a small group of 30 students benefiting from intensive training in painting, printmaking, sculpture, and new media/installation. Our courses are taught by instructors active in their fields, and supported through insight into the practices of visiting artists from across the country. Along with an internationally renowned artist in residence and courses in art history and the liberal arts, our program provides a broad spectrum of approaches and experiences. It isn’t all about classrooms or studios: Fine Art students make relevant field trips to exhibitions and workshops, including an annual trip to New York.

AT A GLANCE

The Fine Art (Visual Art) Program offers a three-year General BFA and a four-year Honours BFA degree, and a five-year concurrent BFA Honours/Education degree (BFAH/B.Ed.) with the option of earning a minor in a variety of subjects. Students can expect to learn the following:

1 YEAR
- Two-Dimensional Fundamentals
- Drawing and Painting
- Three-Dimensional Fundamentals
- Technical Skills

2 YEAR
- Print Media
- Sculpture
- Painting
- Drawing

3 YEAR
- Students choose two disciplines (Paint Media, Sculpture/New Media, or Print Media).

4 YEAR
- Self-directed Honours year culminating in a graduating student exhibition.

OUR galleries

On campus we have two extraordinary Art Galleries: The Agnes Etherington Art Centre and the Union Gallery.

The Agnes Etherington Art Centre is well known for its innovative exhibitions and prominent shows. The Union Gallery is committed to the professional presentation of student art. The Union Gallery is administered by a managing director and an operating board made up of Fine Art (Visual Art) students, among others. This gallery provides students with experience in showing art publicly and is a valuable training ground in the skills of gallery management.

Alumni Story

“The faculty was incredibly motivating, providing essential instruction in materials, methods and conceptual approaches to art making”

- E.K Smith BFA ’06


That is a degree from Queen’s.

queensu.ca/bfa
2ND YEAR

Start going deeper into the discipline of Fine Art (Visual Art), while considering a minor and/or certificate such as Media Studies. Attend Degree in the Fall term to learn more about Certificate and Internship options. Want to make sure your academics are where you want them to be? Visit SASS (Student Academic Support Services) and the Writing Centre for some help.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Get involved with the Fine Art (Visual Art) Program Student Council (DSC).

Look into summer jobs by talking to the department or Career Services about work through SWEC or Work-Study.

Take more responsibility within different clubs or extracurriculars. Consider entrepreneurial opportunities at programs like the Queen’s Innovation Connector Summer Initiative (QICS).

If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF) or to ARTH 395 for a 12-week internship at a gallery or museum.

Apply to exhibit your work at the Union Gallery for your 4th year.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations, such as the Modern Fuel Artist Run Centre or The Test Centre for Creativity and Learning.

Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Fine Art.

Do targeted networking with alumni working in careers of interest by joining the LinkedIn group Queen’s Connects. Check out Career Services networking workshops.

Connect with professors at events or workshops hosted by the DSC. Get out to community art events and gallery exhibitions and openings.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.

Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a third year exchange through the International Programs Office.

Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Grapping with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.

Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Career Advising and Resource Area, such as Careers in Art. For more information check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

Start focusing on areas of interest. Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests (like the LSAT or GRE) and get help thinking about Grad School from Career Services.

Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, Grad School applications or other decisions. Apply in the fall for SSHRC and DGC scholarships if applying to grad school in Ontario.

What will I learn?

A degree in Fine Art (Visual Art) can equip you with:
- Artistic skills and command of the basic vocabularies, materials, traditional and technology-based tools, techniques and thinking processes belonging to drawing, print, paint, sculpture and new media
- Knowledge of expressive, intuitive, intellectual, and structural aspects of visual art
- Ability to think critically, analytically, and conceptually about works of art
- Oral and written communication to communicate your thoughts effectively in speech and writing
- Experience in a studio environment to work confidently and independently by employing safe, effective, and respectful working practices
- Problem solving to understand a variety of approaches to the making of art and identify and solve aesthetic, formal and conceptual problems in their discipline areas

Where can I go?

A degree in Fine Art (Visual Art) can take your career in many directions. Many students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a Master’s. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:
- Animation artist
- Art consultant
- Book illustrator
- Exhibit and display design
- Gallery owner
- Graphic art
- Museum and gallery curator
- Professional artist
- Taking time to explore career options, build experience and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.
Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need
Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen's, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Queen's wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Why study in Kingston?
For 175 years, our community has been more than a collection of bright minds – Queen's has attracted students with an ambitious spirit. Queen's has the highest retention rates, the highest graduation rates, and one of the highest employment rates among recent graduates. We are a research intensive university focused on the undergraduate experience. The BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world – and it is often awarded the safest city in Canada. It is a university city at the core; just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York. A university with more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and a city with more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America – you will have the experience of a lifetime at Queen's and graduate with a degree that is globally recognized among the best.