



STUDIO
ARTS
COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN STUDIO ART FLORENCE, ITALY



saci-florence.edu

MISSION

SACI'S MFA IN STUDIO ART PROGRAM provides students with a full immersion experience that builds strong awareness of personal practice within the contemporary debate. Active participation and critical dialogue are fostered through frequent exchanges with SACI faculty members, visiting instructors, and guest lecturers. Regular interaction with established artists, critics, theorists, curators, and other art world professionals enables students to build a strong technical and conceptual studio practice which includes development of basic competence in and experimentation with diverse media outside of the core studios. Field trips expose students to current developments, practices, and theories with the aim of enabling students to situate their own practice within a broad cultural panorama and to equip them with essential career tools.

COVER: SACI'S JULES MAIDOFF GALLERY, PHOTOGRAPHER JILL FURMANOVSKY, MEMBER OF SACI'S ARTISTS & DESIGNERS COUNCIL
BELOW: DETAIL OF A PAINTING BY FILIPE ROCHA DA SILVA, SACI MFA IN STUDIO ART PROGRAM DIRECTOR



INTRODUCTION

SACI's community of MFA students works in a creative environment of rigorous critical and technical inquiry utilizing the unique artistic and cultural resources of Florence, Italy to prepare students for careers as artists and college instructors. Students live and work in the city that, during the Renaissance, revolutionized art and has since served as an inspiration and catalyst for generations of artists. Students go on multi-day field trips to European centers outside of Italy, such as Berlin and London, as well as on field trips to the Venice Biennale (every other year) and to contemporary art fairs and major exhibitions in Bologna, Milan, Turin, Naples, Rome, and elsewhere in Italy.

Students specialize in Painting or Drawing and pursue a curriculum that integrates practical and critical skills and encourages individual innovation and creative collaboration. They benefit from mentorships and instruction from SACI's outstanding faculty as well as from interaction with established artists, critics, theorists, curators, and publishers, a number of whom are members of the Friends of SACI and SACI's Artists Council.

Working in their studios in a fully renovated Renaissance palazzo in the heart of Florence, students are just steps away from the great works that have drawn artists past and present to Florence to spur creativity and develop their own pictorial language. In their graduate seminars, students explore a range of contemporary art practices; they visit artists in their studios and regularly meet with other significant figures in the art world. Students are encouraged, through individual studio practice and group critiques, to explore to the fullest their potential as creative artists.

MFA in Studio Art students attend SACI in Florence for two successive academic years and earn 60 credits. During their first year, they pursue a program that balances independent study with classroom study. In their second year, emphasis is placed upon development of individual artistic practice and career options for emerging artists. Students gain practical experience as SACI Teaching Assistants and their art work is featured in exhibitions at SACI and elsewhere in Florence.

By exploiting fully the advantages available to emerging artists through advanced

study in Florence, SACI MFA in Studio Art students can become highly competitive when seeking an artistic professional career and university-level teaching positions.

Students in the program will be expected to:

- Make technical, conceptual, and aesthetic decisions based on an understanding of how contemporary and historical 2D and multi-disciplinary practices relate to the student's intentions and ideas.
- Establish technically-skilled studio practices, rooted in original approaches, which will enable the student to realize works fully and to integrate successfully into the professional field.
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of contemporary concepts, critical theory, and art-historical contexts, both generally and as they relate to the student's own conceptual practice.
- Develop their ability to speak and write clearly about art works and theoretical issues related to art works.
- And, for those undertaking Teaching Assistantships, gain an understanding of pedagogical approaches to teaching studio art and direct experience of contemporary studio art teaching practices.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Students in the Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art program must complete 60 credits of course work within two academic years. They normally enroll each academic year in 4 or 5 courses in both the Fall and Spring semesters. Students in the program meet at the beginning and throughout each semester with the Director of the MFA in Studio Art program.

Programs of study are flexible. They vary from student to student and are geared to meet individual study goals which are outlined in the Study Proposal. Students are able to pursue their specific areas of interest by undertaking Directed Independent Study that complements classroom study in their Major Discipline.

To maintain satisfactory academic progress and earn the MFA degree, students must complete all course work in the program at SACI within two academic years with a

minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 (based upon a scale in which A = 4.0). A letter grade (A-F) is given in each class. Students in the program are not permitted to take courses Pass/Fail except for Teaching Assistantships.

Students who need additional time to complete all course work are able to enroll, during their two academic years of matriculation in the program, in SACI's Late Spring and/or Summer terms. Students who require more than two academic years to complete the program must receive approval to do so from both the Dean and their Graduate Review Board, which consists of the Director of the MFA in Studio Art Program, the 2D Area Head, and another faculty member appointed by the Program Director. Such requests are normally approved only in the case of documented medical emergencies, and the period of approved extended study does not normally exceed one academic year.

Credit from other institutions is not transferable to the MFA in Studio Art program, nor is credit earned at SACI prior to matriculation in the MFA in Studio Art program. Students who, prior to matriculation in the MFA in Studio Art program, have completed at SACI courses required in the program may be permitted, subject to approval by the Director of the MFA in Studio Art Program, to enroll in other SACI courses, in the appropriate area and at the appropriate level, to substitute for the required course work that had been completed previously at SACI.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum for the Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art program is founded on the belief that graduate students in studio art should concentrate in one area, experiment in others, and complement their studio work with art-historical and other academic studies.

Each student in the MFA in Studio Art program is given studio space, and his or her work is critiqued regularly in group sessions led by SACI instructors. All students are encouraged to take an active role in these critiques, which are intended to offer constructive evaluation of the student's work and assist the student in sharpening his or her own critical faculties.

Students in the Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art program are required to take the following:

FALL SEMESTER (FIRST YEAR)

- 3 semester hours: Graduate Seminar in Studio Art: Contemporary Practices I
- 3 semester hours: Graduate Seminar in Studio Art: Studio Co-Requisite I
- 3 semester hours: Course in the 2D Area
- 3 semester hours: Directed Independent Study in the Major Discipline
- 3 semester hours: Studio Elective in a Subject Other than the Major Discipline

SPRING SEMESTER (FIRST YEAR)

- 3 semester hours: Graduate Seminar in Studio Art: Contemporary Practices II
- 3 semester hours: Graduate Seminar in Studio Art: Studio Co-Requisite II
- 3 semester hours: Course in the 2D Area
- 3 semester hours: Directed Independent Study in the Major Discipline
- 3 semester hours: Studio Elective in a Subject Other than the Major Discipline

FALL SEMESTER (SECOND YEAR)

- 3 semester hours: Graduate Seminar in Studio Art: Professional Practicum I
- 6 semester hours: Directed Independent Study in the Major Discipline
- 3 semester hours: Studio Elective in a Subject Other than the Major Discipline
- 3 semester hours: 2D Teaching Assistantship or an Open Studio Elective

SPRING SEMESTER (SECOND YEAR)

- 3 semester hours: Graduate Seminar in Studio Art: Professional Practicum II
- 6 semester hours: Directed Independent Study in the Major Discipline
- 3 semester hours: Studio Elective in a Subject Other than the Major Discipline
- 3 semester hours: 2D Teaching Assistantship or an Open Studio Elective

STUDIO ELECTIVES

Work in the Major Discipline is directly supported by work in Studio Electives which can be selected from a full range of offerings including: Drawing (unless this is the student's Major Discipline); Painting (unless this is the student's Major Discipline); Etching; Serigraphy; Sculpture; Ceramics; Installation & Performance Art; Photography; Video; Animation; Digital Multimedia; Body Archives; Art, Mind, & Diversity; Architectural Drawing; Illustration; Graphic Design; Interior Design; Web Design; Infographics; Typography; Italian Fashion Design; Book Arts; Jewelry Design; Batik; Weaving; Painting Conservation; Mural Conservation; Conservation of Archaeological Objects.

Though reviews have work in the Major Discipline as their main focus, work done in elective areas is also considered with care. In preparing Study Proposals and Final Presentations, students are encouraged to consider anticipated or completed work in elective disciplines as well as any other experiences, whether class-related or extracurricular, relevant to their artistic or scholarly development.

2D TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

A number of 2D Teaching Assistantships are awarded annually to students who have completed the first academic year of the MFA in Studio Art program. The awards are made on the basis of teaching potential and academic distinction at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

2D Teaching Assistantships are available in SACI classes, ranging from beginning to advanced levels, in Painting, Drawing, Etching, and Serigraphy. The supervising SACI instructor prepares the Teaching Assistant for teaching by providing an introduction to the pedagogy considered fundamental to curricula for students in the

SACI STUDENT IN A PAINTING STUDIO



subject matter at the appropriate level of instruction. This preparation begins prior to the start of the course and continues throughout the semester.

The Teaching Assistant is required to attend each class session; assist the instructor both in class and outside class regarding matters related to the course; and, with the approval and under the supervision of the instructor, critique students' work, give demonstrations, and lecture on appropriate subject matter.

With the approval of the Director of the MFA in Studio Art Program, Teaching Assistantships in classes outside the 2D area can be taken as Studio Electives.

Teaching Assistantships are unpaid. They are graded on a Pass/Fail basis. Students receive 3 semester hours of credit for each class in which they are Teaching Assistants.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The Study Proposal

At the beginning of each semester, students write a Study Proposal. The Study Proposal must include: a clear statement defining

the student's focus within his or her Major Discipline; proposed goals for the semester; problems that the student is seeking to resolve and questions he or she is proposing to answer; themes or subjects to investigate; the means and resources that will be used to realize these goals (courses, museums, libraries, materials, techniques, and other resources); and a statement about how all the above relate to prior work the student has done.

The Study Proposal must be submitted for review and approval to the Director of the MFA in Studio Art program, by the end of the first week of classes; it may be returned to the student for rewriting and clarification. Once approved, the Study Proposal must be submitted by the student to the Program Director for further suggestions and comments.

The four Study Proposals (one each semester) serve to define and redefine the student's goals and provide major points of reference throughout his or her entire course of study.

It is a good idea to think about and draft a Study Proposal before arriving at SACI.

Major Discipline & Directed Independent Study

All students in the Master of Fine Arts program work intensively in a Major Discipline. The Major Discipline can be either Painting or Drawing. Each semester students enroll in a Directed Independent Study (DIS) in the Major Discipline. The DIS is an intensive and individually designed tutorial in which the student meets weekly with the instructor to review studio work created for the course in the student's Major Discipline.

With the approval of the Director of the MFA in Studio Art Program, students can additionally take as an elective a DIS in a subject other than that of the Major Discipline. The DIS format enables a student to propose a study plan to meet a specific educational need pertinent to individual artistic or scholarly development. At the beginning of the semester, a DIS form in which the project is fully described in detail must be submitted by the student to the instructor supervising the DIS, the appropriate Area Head, and the Program Director for their signed approval. All DIS arrangements follow the same add/drop schedule as regular classes.

MFA Graduate Seminar in Studio Art: Contemporary Practices I and II

MFA Graduate Seminar in Studio Art: Professional Practicum I and II

The MFA Graduate Seminar in Studio Art, in which students must enroll during each of their four semesters of study, provides structure and instruction that enables students to develop, refine, and clarify their work. Students are exposed to concepts, issues, and artists, past and present, relevant to the practice and study of art in a contemporary setting. Visiting lecturers focus on a range of critical issues pertaining to modern and contemporary art.

This 3-credit academic course consists of readings and discussions that address a variety of topics. An overarching theme is the role and identity of the artist within society, with particular focus on the experience of the artist in Italy. Readings provide students with an exposure to particular artists, art theories, and art institutions within a loose chronological/historical context, ranging from the Italian Renaissance to contemporary practices.

In addition to discussions based on assigned readings, this course includes

visits to art sites, collections, events, and artists' studios as well as regular meetings with art historians, art gallery owners, curators, and artists. Field trips include visits to events such as the Venice Biennale (every other year); the international contemporary art fairs in Florence and Bologna; exhibitions at the Luigi Pecci Center for Contemporary Art in Prato; and significant exhibitions elsewhere. They vary from day trips of a few hours to excursions of several days.

During the first year, the course focuses on the development of art practices from the Neo-Avantgarde period to the present. Particular emphasis is placed on key critical debates and how the student's own practice relates to them. These explorations are buoyed by reading of relevant texts and visits to contemporary exhibitions. During the second year, the course investigates artists' networks and professional opportunities for the emerging artist.

MFA Graduate Seminar in Studio Art: Studio Co-Requisite I and II

The 3-credit studio co-requisites of the MFA Graduate Seminar in Studio Art consist of group critiques and individual critiques/discussions of each student's art work. Each student is required to: produce a body of art work; make presentations on his or her art work; and participate in an end-of-year group exhibition and other group exhibitions.

Reviews

Reviews occur at the end of each semester. Over the course of the program, a student has four reviews, including the Final Presentation. These are forums developed to serve the student with constructive criticism and discussion of his or her work. Comments are geared to helping students develop their own critical faculties.

Reviews are conducted by the student's Graduate Review Board which, as has been noted, consists of the Director of the MFA in Studio Art Program, the 2D Area Head, and another faculty member appointed by the Program Director. Graduate Review Board members' comments are both spoken and written. A copy of written comments is given to each student for his or her permanent reference.

Final Papers/Presentations

At the end of the final semester of study, the student undergoes an hour-

long comprehensive review conducted by the student's Graduate Review Board. During the review, the student presents art works completed in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MFA degree and describes how artistic and academic research undertaken while at SACI relates to the work being presented.

Prior to this Final Presentation, the student prepares and submits to the Graduate Review Board a research paper in which themes, problems, and concepts relevant to the student's visual, conceptual, and art-historical concerns are explored. The paper must trace strands of connection among individuals, movements, and cultural factors from many of the periods studied and demonstrate how these influenced the student's creative thinking in undertaking and completing the presented body of work. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, and 15 to 20 pages in length.

At the Final Presentation, students must additionally submit photo documentation: prints, CDs, or videos of work completed in the program. Concentration must be on work in the Major Discipline. All work must be submitted in a professional format. Prints must be labeled (name, date, title, medium, dimensions), cropped, and mounted.

The student must pass the Final Presentation to receive the MFA degree.

MFA Exhibition

An MFA exhibition of works by graduating students takes place at the end of their final semester of study. To gain experience of professional practice, graduating students are required to take part in all aspects of the exhibition. This includes designing and arranging for the printing of invitations; preparing the art works for exhibition; installing the works in the gallery; labeling all of the works; adjusting lighting; preparing for the opening reception; and arranging for the dismantling of the exhibition and the return of the art works to the artists. All reasonable assistance is given in this effort by faculty, advisors, and staff.

Documentation

As part of the MFA in Studio Art program, students are instructed in presentation and documentation methods. Documentation, submitted in a professional manner, must be presented to the student's Graduate Review Board at the end of the final term

for retention by SACI. This documentation consists of (1) the student's curriculum vitae; (2) the Study Proposals; (3) the final research paper; (4) the MFA exhibition invitation; and (5) slides, prints, CDs, or videos of work completed in the program.

Grades, Transcripts, and Degrees

A letter grade (A-F) is given in each course, including Directed Independent Study. Students in the Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art program are not permitted to take courses Pass/Fail except for Teaching Assistantships. At the end of each semester, an official SACI transcript is issued to all students in the program. For the MFA degree to be awarded, all program requirements must be fulfilled.

FACULTY

The Director of the MFA in Studio Art Program

The Director of the MFA in Studio Art program is responsible for reviewing and approving Study Proposals; advising students about registering for their classes; allocating studio space; scheduling reviews and Final Presentations; aiding students in scheduling and planning graduate student exhibitions, including the MFA exhibition; and disseminating information pertinent to MFA study. The Director of the MFA in Studio Art program is a member of the

Graduate Review Board and is available to advise students on all aspects of their work and life at SACI. In addition, the Director of the MFA in Studio Art program helps students meet and work with faculty who can aid the students in their chosen areas of study.

The 2D Area Head

The 2D Area Head plays an important role in the MFA student's educational experience. This instructor is a member of the Graduate Review Board and attends all end-of-semester reviews, including the student's Final Presentation.

SACI's Faculty

Students in the Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art program are encouraged to view the faculty at large as a resource to further their study goals. Students should therefore feel free to consult any member of the SACI faculty about areas of special interest. Prospective students can acquaint themselves with SACI's faculty by looking at the Faculty section on SACI's web site: www.saci-florence.edu

RESOURCES

Students in the Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art program are allotted studio space in SACI's Jules Maidoff Palazzo for the Visual Arts. The palazzo is a four-floor,



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16,000 square foot building located in Florence's historic center at Via Sant'Egidio 14. It is a short distance from such famous sites as the Duomo and Brunelleschi's Ospedale degli Innocenti, and is in close proximity to Florence's four great *piazze*—Piazza Santa Croce, Piazza della Signoria, Piazza della Repubblica, and Piazza della Santissima Annunziata. Named after SACI's founder and director emeritus, the palazzo also includes classrooms, a garden, terraces, audio-visual equipment, and computer facilities that can be used for studio art projects. The Jules Maidoff Palazzo for the Visual Arts is open from 9:00 am to midnight seven days a week.

SACI'S LECTURE SERIES

Each semester, a number of lectures are scheduled that are open to all students. These lectures feature visiting painters, sculptors, filmmakers, art historians, and other art professionals, as well as speakers who address subjects relevant to Italian culture and politics.

FIELD TRIPS

SACI emphasizes on-site learning and sponsors many field trips for its students, both as part of its classes and as optional additions to its programs. Students in the MFA in Studio Art program, in addition to participating in field trips that are part of the Graduate Seminars, are encouraged to

take advantage of these field trips. Even when not enrolled in a given class, they are welcome to accompany field trips when space is available.

SACI classes regularly visit incomparable collections in museums such as the Uffizi, Bargello, Accademia, Pitti, Marino Marini, Horne, Primo Conti, Specola, San Marco, Stibbert, and Bardin. Field trips are usually led by one of the art history or studio art instructors.

SACI field trips outside of Florence normally include visits to Rome; Ravenna; Pisa and Lucca; Siena and San Gimignano; Fiesole; Vinci and the Medici Villas; Bologna; the monastery of La Certosa; and Arezzo, Urbino, Monterchi, and San Sepolcro.

SACI also offers optional field trips to enrich students' overseas art and cultural experience. Each year there is a trip to Venice and another to Naples, Pompeii, and Herculaneum.

These travel opportunities allow students to explore areas outside Florence, and are a wonderful way to become aware of Europe's art, history, and culture. Optional trips require modest fees.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Eligibility

US and international students who have

earned, or will have earned, a bachelor's degree, or its equivalent, prior to beginning graduate study at SACI may apply for admission to the MFA in Studio Art program. Applicants who attend, or attended, a US college or university must have earned a minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 (based upon a scale in which A = 4.0). The required minimum undergraduate grade point average in studio art course work if the applicant has had no previous graduate experience is 3.3. The required minimum grade point average in previous graduate work in Studio Art is also 3.3.

Those whose native language is not English who have not demonstrated English-language proficiency through prior study in the English language at an institution of higher learning will be required to demonstrate English-language proficiency through one of the methods indicated in the *Non-US Student Admissions* section of the SACI web site.

In addition to the above, to be admitted to the program applicants must demonstrate:

- Academic distinction in prior university-level study as evidenced through submission of transcripts from all schools attended showing courses completed and grades received. In reviewing applicants' academic records, special attention will be paid to course work undertaken in areas most relevant to the proposed Major Discipline.
- Artistic promise in Drawing and/or Painting as evinced through submission of a portfolio with images of a substantial number of high quality 2D art works.
- Strong support from instructors or other artists familiar with the applicant's work as indicated through submission of at least three letters of recommendation that evaluate the applicant's past academic and/or artistic performance; assess the applicant's appropriateness for MFA study in Florence at SACI and likelihood of success in the program; and appraise the applicant's potential for career distinction as an artist and educator.
- Clearly articulated educational goals and artistic aspirations that could best be advanced through matriculation in SACI's MFA in Studio Art program.

MFA IN STUDIO ART STUDENTS AT THE "TOWER OF BABEL" EX LUCCHESI EXHIBITION IN PRATO, CURATED BY SACI INSTRUCTOR PIETRO GAGLIANÒ



All proficiencies required for entrance to the program must be achieved prior to admittance. No credit toward the degree is permitted for study directed toward completion of these proficiencies.

Application Process

Students may begin study in the Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art program in the Fall semester only.

Completed applications should be received no later than **March 15**. Applications received after March 15 will be considered only if space is available.

Applicants for scholarships must apply by **March 15**.

Applicants should complete and submit the online application form through the SACI web site, including a \$70 non-refundable processing fee.

In addition, the following materials should be sent directly to the **New York Admissions Office of Studio Arts College International** (see address below):

- Short essay describing the applicant's area of specialization, objectives, and reasons for wishing to enter the program.

→ **One** set of official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended.

→ **Three** letters of recommendation from instructors or other artists familiar with the applicant's work.

→ Curriculum vitae (required of those who have been out of school for 3 or more years).

Submitting Your ePortfolio

For admission, an ePortfolio of 15-20 images of your strongest and most recent art work must be submitted.

This ePortfolio must be posted online via SACI's electronic portfolio provider. SACI does not require a payment for submitting an ePortfolio. Upon submission of your SACI application, you will receive an email with a link for your ePortfolio submission. Acceptable file formats and sizes for ePortfolios are: *Images*: JPEG at a resolution of 72 dpi which must be no larger than 600 pixels in the longest direction. *Videos*: .flv, .wmv, .mov—up to 60 MB each and no longer than five minutes. *Text documents*: PDF format up to 10 MB each. All submissions must include an inventory list with title, medium, size, date, and description.

Scheduling a Conversation with a SACI Faculty Member

Applicants who submit all required documents and materials will receive via e-mail an invitation and instructions from the New York SACI Admissions Office to schedule a phone or Skype conversation with a SACI faculty member to discuss their application and interest in the program.

Please see the SACI web site for full details on the application procedure.

Notification

Decisions are rolling beginning in January and students are notified as soon as possible.

Financial Information, Tuition, Fees, & Scholarships

For full information, please see the *Dates and Fees* and *Scholarships* sections on the SACI web site. As noted above, applicants for scholarships must apply by **March 15**.

SACI IS

A United States non-profit 501(c)(3) educational entity incorporated in 1976

A directly accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)

Affiliated with Bowling Green State University (BGSU) in Ohio, which is accredited by NASAD and by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools

Authorized by the Delaware Department of Education to confer the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Studio Art

Recognized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Ministry of Universities as a foreign non-profit university-level program

Students who would like to receive a copy of SACI's accreditation, licensure, and/or approval should send a signed request for such material to SACI's Dean.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of Studio Arts College International (SACI) and Bowling Green State University (BGSU) that no person shall be subject to discrimination in whatever relationship with SACI or BGSU because of disability, age, race, religion, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, or national origin.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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