



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: "18,443 SOULS," COFFEE FILTERS, INSTALLATION, 2018, MARIA KHALID NISSAN, MFA '18

BELOW: "BUILDING SPIRIT," ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 200X150 CM, 2016, FADI DOUD, MFA '16

BACK COVER: "HOODED FRUIT," JUTE STRINGS AND APPLES, INTALLATION, 5X8X3 METERS, 2017, CHANEL JAMI HACKETT, MFA '17 (PHOTO CREDIT: MARGHERITA VILLANI)



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 pursue a curriculum in 2D, 3D, and/or Visual Media areas 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 SACI's Artists & Designers 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 MFA 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 their potential as creative artists to the fullest.

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 achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Establish technically-skilled practices that will enable the student to realize works fully and to integrate successfully into the professional field.
- Attain advanced professional competence, demonstrating depth of knowledge and achievement, as evinced through a well-developed and significant body of work.
- Demonstrate an ability to conduct research in—and make technical, conceptual, and aesthetic decisions based upon—a thorough understanding of contemporary concepts, critical theory, and art-historical contexts as they relate to the student's aspirations and practice.
- Develop the ability to speak and write clearly about art works and theoretical issues related to the student's work.
- And, for those undertaking Teaching Assistantships, gain an understanding of general pedagogical approaches to teaching and direct experience of contemporary Studio Art teaching practices.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Students must complete 60 credits of course work within two academic years. They normally enroll each academic year in 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 specific subjects of interest by undertaking Directed Independent Study that complements classroom study.

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 can enroll, during their two academic years of matriculation in the program, in SACI's Summer I and/or Summer II 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 appropriate Area Head, and another faculty member appointed by the Program Director.

Such requests are normally approved only in the case of documented medical emergencies. 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 program.

CURRICULUM

Students are required to take the following:

FALL SEMESTER (FIRST YEAR)

- 3 semester hours: MFA Seminar in Studio Art: Contemporary Practices I
- 3 semester hours: MFA Seminar in Studio Art: Studio Co-Requisite I
- 3 semester hours: Directed Independent Study in Studio Art
- 3 semester hours: Studio Elective
- 3 semester hours: Studio or Academic Elective

SPRING SEMESTER (FIRST YEAR)

- 3 semester hours: MFA Seminar in Studio Art: Contemporary Practices II
- 3 semester hours: MFA Seminar in Studio Art: Studio Co-Requisite II
- 3 semester hours: Directed Independent Study in Studio Art
- 3 semester hours: Studio Elective
- 3 semester hours: Studio or Academic Elective

FALL SEMESTER (SECOND YEAR)

- 3 semester hours: MFA Seminar in Studio Art: Professional Practicum I
- 6 semester hours: Directed Independent Study in Studio Art
- 3 semester hours: Studio Elective
- 3 semester hours: Studio Art Teaching Assistantship or Studio Elective

SPRING SEMESTER (SECOND YEAR)

- 3 semester hours: MFA Seminar in Studio Art: Professional Practicum II
- 6 semester hours: Directed Independent Study in Studio Art
- 3 semester hours: Studio Elective
- 3 semester hours: Studio Art Teaching Assistantship or Studio Elective

Descriptions and syllabi for all SACI courses are in the Course Listings section on SACI's website: www.saci-florence.edu

STUDIO ART TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

A number of Teaching Assistantships in Studio Art classes 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.

Teaching Assistantships are available in classes ranging from beginning to advanced levels. The supervising SACI instructor prepares the Teaching Assistant for teaching by providing an introduction to the pedagogy considered fundamental to the curricula for the 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 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.

Teaching Assistantships are unpaid and 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. This must include: 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 the student's prior work.

The Study Proposal must be submitted for review and approval to the Program Director by the end of the first week of classes; it may be returned to the student for rewriting and clarification.

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.

Directed Independent Study

Each semester students enroll in a Directed Independent Study (DIS) in a Studio Art discipline. The DIS is an intensive and individually designed tutorial. The student meets weekly with the instructor to review studio work created for the DIS by the student.

The DIS format enables a student to propose a study plan to meet a specific educational need pertinent to an individual's artistic or scholarly development. At the beginning of the semester, a DIS form describing the project in detail must be submitted by the student to the DIS supervisor, 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 Seminar in Studio Art: Contemporary Practices I and II

MFA Seminar in Studio Art: Professional Practicum I and II

The MFA Seminar in Studio Art, in which students must enroll each semester, 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

MFA IN STUDIO ART GRADUATE EXHIBITION AT FRITTELLI ARTE CONTEMPORANEA GALLERY IN FLORENCE
(PHOTO CREDIT: BENEDETTA DI RUGGIERO)



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 in society, with particular focus on the experience of the artist in Italy. Readings expose students to particular artists, art theories, and art institutions within a wide 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 Seminar in Studio Art: Studio Co-Requisite I and II

The 3-credit studio co-requisites of the MFA 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 forums provide the student with constructive criticism and discussion of his or her work. Comments are geared to help students develop their own critical faculties.

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

Final Papers/Presentations

At the end of the final semester, 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 his or her artistic and academic research 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 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 submit photo documentation: prints, CDs, or videos of Studio Art work completed in the program. 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 in Studio Art degree.

MFA Exhibition

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

Documentation

As part of the program, students are instructed in presentation and documentation methods. Work must be submitted in a professional manner when presented to the student's Graduate Review Board at the end of the final term. 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 is given in each course, including Directed Independent Study. Students 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 Program Director reviews and approves Study Proposals; advises students about registering for their classes; allocates studio space; schedules reviews and Final Presentations; aids students in scheduling and planning graduate student exhibitions, including the MFA exhibition; and disseminates information pertinent to MFA study. The Program Director 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 Program Director helps students meet and work with faculty who can aid students in their studies.

SACI's Faculty

Students in the 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 subjects of special interest. Prospective students can acquaint themselves with SACI's faculty by looking at the *Faculty* section on SACI's website: www.saci-florence.edu

RESOURCES

Students in the program are allotted studio space in the Jules Maidoff Palazzo for the Visual Arts. This is a four-floor, 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 close 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 Palazzo is open from 9:00 am to midnight seven days a week when classes are in session.

SACI'S LECTURE SERIES

Each semester, 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 MFA 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 Bardini. Field trips are usually led by one of the art history or studio art instructors.

SACI field trips outside of Florence 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 Venice and 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.

MFA IN STUDIO ART SACI STUDENT IN HER GRADUATE STUDIO





"UNTITLED," ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 190X190 CM, 2019, GEORGE ALEXANDER, MFA '19

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. See the *Non-US Student Admissions* section of the SACI website.

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 most relevant to Studio Art studies.
- Artistic promise in a Studio Art discipline or disciplines as evinced through submission of a portfolio with images of a substantial number of high quality 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 in Studio Art 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.

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 MFA in Studio Art program in the Fall semester only.

Completed applications should be received no later than **May 1**. Applications received after May 1 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 website, including a \$70 non-refundable processing fee. In addition, the following materials are also required:

- Short essay describing the applicant's 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 website for full details on the application procedure.

Notification

Decisions will be emailed to students between April and June.

Financial Information, Tuition, Fees, & Scholarships

For full information, please see the *Dates and Fees* and *Scholarships* sections on the SACI website. 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 in Italy by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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