



STUDIO  
ARTS  
COLLEGE  
INTERNATIONAL

POST-BAC IN  
STUDIO ART  
FLORENCE, ITALY



[saci-florence.edu](http://saci-florence.edu)

## MISSION

THE POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE IN STUDIO ART program at Studio Arts College International (SACI) is designed for US college or university graduates and international students at a similar level who wish to pursue a year of intensive studio art graduate study in Florence, Italy. By concentrating in one studio area, experimenting in others, and complementing their studio work with art-historical studies, academic studies, and/or language study, students have a unique opportunity to gain technical knowledge, enhance analytical skills, and create a distinctive portfolio of art work while living in a city that has inspired artists since the Renaissance.

COVER AND BACK PAGE: ARTWORKS BY SACI ALUMUS JON VERNEY  
BELOW: SACI POST-BAC STUDENT AT THE FONDAZIONE BURRI, PERUGIA



## INTRODUCTION

SACI's Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art program requires, encourages, and fosters a high degree of dedication, self-discipline, and independence. It is especially well-suited to those who:

- are beginners in these areas or have had some prior training in studio art but decided either too late in their undergraduate careers or after completing their bachelor's degree that they wanted to focus more intensively on studio art;
- would like to continue their education and eventually earn an MFA, MA, or PhD, and want to create a significant body of work in their chosen field as a basis for application to a graduate degree program;
- are mature students with prior experience in the proposed area of study who want to return to school to pursue their arts education formally;
- believe that the combined artistic and scholarly resources of SACI and Florence would aid them in becoming practicing artists.

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 serves to complement classroom study in their Major Discipline. Each student in the program is given studio space, and his or her work is critiqued regularly in group sessions led by the Director of the Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art program.

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.

There are many options in both academic and career settings open to students who successfully complete the program. Some have entered specialized apprenticeships and others have continued formal study at the graduate level in Europe or the United States.

## PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Students must complete 30 credits of course work within one academic year. They enroll for 15 credits in both the Fall and Spring semesters.

To maintain satisfactory academic progress and earn the Post-Bac Certificate, students must complete all course work in the program at SACI within one academic year 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.

Students who require more than one academic year to complete the program must receive approval to do so from both the Dean and their Graduate Review Board, which consists of the Major Professor, the Director of the Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art program, and the appropriate Area Head (or another instructor if the Director of the Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art program or Area Head is the Major Professor). 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 Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art program, nor is credit earned at SACI prior to matriculation in the Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art program. Students who, prior to matriculation in the Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art program, have completed at SACI courses required in the program may be permitted, subject to approval by the Director of the Post-Bac Certificate 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

Students in the Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art program are required to take the following courses:

### FALL SEMESTER

- Graduate Seminar in Studio Art (3 credits)
- Graduate Seminar in Studio Art (Studio Co-Requisite) (3 credits)
- A Course in the Major Discipline (3 credits)
- A Studio Area Elective (3 credits)
- An Open Elective (3 credits)

### SPRING SEMESTER

- Graduate Seminar in Studio Art (3 credits)
- Graduate Seminar in Studio Art (Studio Co-Requisite) (3 credits)
- A Course in the Major Discipline (3 credits)
- A Studio Area Elective (3 credits)
- An Open Elective (3 credits)

Descriptions and syllabi for all SACI courses can be found on the SACI web site: [www.saci-florence.edu](http://www.saci-florence.edu)

## Major Discipline

All students in the program work intensively in one of the eight Major Disciplines listed below:

### Two-Dimensional Area

Drawing • Painting • Printmaking

### Three-Dimensional Area

Sculpture • Ceramics

### Visual Media Area

Photography • Video • Digital Multimedia

## 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 Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art program by the end of the first week of classes; it may be returned to the student for rewriting and clarification.

The two 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.

### **Post-Bac Graduate Seminar in Studio Art: Contemporary Practices I and II**

The Post-Bac Graduate Seminar in Studio Art, in which students must enroll during each of their two 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.

These seminars consist 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 component of the Graduate Seminar in Studio Art 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.

### **Post-Bac Graduate Seminar in Studio Art: Studio Co-Requisite I and II**

The 3-credit studio co-requisites of the Post-Bac 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; maintain a journal; and participate in an end-of-year group exhibition and other group exhibitions.

### **Directed Independent Study**

Students have the option of working at an advanced level with a SACI instructor in a Directed Independent Study (DIS) course. The DIS format enables a student to propose a study plan to meet a specific educational need pertinent to individual artistic or scholarly development. The DIS is an intensive and individually designed

tutorial in which the student meets weekly with the instructor to examine and discuss studio or academic work. 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 and the appropriate Area Head for their signed approval. All DIS arrangements follow the same add/drop schedule as regular classes.

### **The Journal**

Students in the program are required each semester to keep a journal in which they record what they have absorbed and produced, setbacks and discoveries, problems and solutions, and changes in perception and direction. This journal serves as a means of recording and synthesizing experiences for present and future reference. Students are encouraged to record in it their thoughts, feelings,



ideas, work experiences and processes, and reactions to the various stimuli encountered (artists, critics, lectures, books, exhibitions, performances, critiques, etc.). It can include images and texts, both of one's own and of others. The journal, which is submitted to the Graduate Review Board at the end of each semester, can be of critical value to the student and his or her principal advisors in suggesting productive directions for future work.

### Reviews

Reviews occur at the end of the Fall semester and in the middle and end of the Spring semester. Over the course of a year, a student has three reviews. These are forums developed to serve the student with constructive criticism and discussion of his or her work with members of the faculty. Criticism is geared to helping students develop their own critical faculties. Reviews are attended by the Graduate

Review Board, which, as has been noted, consists of the Major Professor, the Director of the Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art Program, and the appropriate Area Head (or another instructor if the Director of the Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art Program or Area Head is the Major Professor). Committee 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

A research paper is prepared by the student and presented during the Spring semester. It is based upon an area of research related to actual work done by the student and should serve as a final summary of the year's exploration. Students are required to submit 3 copies of a paper of 7 to 10 pages in length. Papers must be typed and double-spaced.

Final Presentations, which are required and scheduled at the end of the Spring semester, should demonstrate that the student has found themes, problems, and concepts relevant to his or her own visual, conceptual, and art-historical concerns. 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.

Final Presentations are usually scheduled for the last week of the semester (exam week), including Friday, which is the last day of the term. Students should not make travel plans for that Friday until the final review has been officially scheduled.

### Post-Bac Exhibition

An annual exhibition of works by students in the Post-Bac Certificate program in Studio Art takes place at the end of the year 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 Post-Bac Certificate 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 Spring semester for retention by SACI. This documentation consists of (1) the student's curriculum vitae; (2) the Study Proposals; (3) the journals; (4) the final research paper; (5) the Post-Bac exhibition invitation; and (6) images of work completed in the program.



## Grades, Transcripts, and Certificates

A letter grade (A-F) is given in each class. Students in the Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art program are not permitted to take courses Pass/Fail. At the end of each semester, an official SACI transcript is issued to all students in the program. For the certificate to be awarded, all program requirements must be fulfilled.

### FACULTY

#### The Major Professor

By the second week of each semester, students select a Major Professor. The Major Professor is usually chosen from SACI's faculty and must have expertise in the Major Discipline. The Major Professor serves as the student's principal advisor and is a member of the student's Graduate Review Board. This relationship must be formalized by completing a written agreement signed by the student and the Major Professor. A form for this purpose is distributed at the outset of each semester.

#### The Director of the Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art Program

The Director of the Post-Bac Certificate 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 Post-Bac exhibition; and disseminating information pertinent to Post-Bac study.

The Director of the 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 program helps students meet and work with faculty who can aid the students in their chosen areas of study.

#### The Area Head

The Area Head in the student's Major Discipline plays an important role in the Post-Bac student's educational experience. This instructor is a member of the Graduate Review Board and attends all of the student's midterm and final reviews.

#### 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 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](http://www.saci-florence.edu)

### RESOURCES

Students in the Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art program are allotted studio space in SACI's Jules Maidoff Palazzo for the Visual Arts. The palazzo 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 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. Post-Bac students, 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 Bardini. Field trips are usually led by a SACI instructor.

SACI POST-BAC FINAL EXHIBITION AT 79 ROSSO GALLERY, FLORENCE





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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 Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art program. Applicants who attend, or attended, a US college or university

must have earned a minimum overall grade point average of 2.75 (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 3.00. The required minimum grade point average in previous graduate work in Studio Art is also 3.00.

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.

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 Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art program in the Fall semester only.

Completed applications should be received no later than June 15. Applications received after June 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.
- **One** letter 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

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.

### GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT DISCLOSURE:

<http://www.saci-florence.edu/gedt-studio-art/>

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

#### Studio Arts College International (New York)

25 Broadway, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10004-1058  
USA

T: (212) 248-7225

F: (212) 248-7222

E: [admissions@saci-florence.edu](mailto:admissions@saci-florence.edu)

#### Studio Arts College International (Florence)

Palazzo dei Cartelloni  
Via Sant'Antonino 11  
50123 Florence, Italy

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F: (39) 055-2776408

E: [info@saci-florence.edu](mailto:info@saci-florence.edu)