



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 college or university graduates and 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 Program Director.

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.

## 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 3.00 (based upon a scale in which A = 4.00). 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 Director of the Post-Bac Certificate 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 Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art program, nor is credit earned at SACI prior to matriculation in the program.

## 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 website:

[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. This 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 the student's prior work.

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 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 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 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 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; 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 faculty member in a Directed Independent Study (DIS) course. 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.

### **Reviews**

Reviews occur at the end of each semester. These forums provide the student with constructive criticism and discussion of his or her work with members of the faculty. Criticism is geared to help students develop their own critical faculties.

Reviews are attended by the Graduate Review Board, which, as noted, consists of the Director of the Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art Program, the appropriate Area Head, and another faculty member

appointed by the Program Director. Committee members' comments are both spoken and written, and a copy of written comments is given to each student for 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 submit photo documentation: prints, CDs, DVDs, 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 Post-Baccalaureate in Studio Art certificate.

### 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 Spring 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 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 Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art 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 Spring semester 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 Post-Bac

exhibition invitation; and (5) images of work completed in the program.

### Grades, Transcripts, and Certificates

A letter grade (A-F) is given in each class. Students 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. In the Spring semester, if a student is enrolled in a Directed Independent Study (DIS) in his/her Major Discipline, the DIS instructor is responsible for advising the student in the Major Discipline rather than a Major Professor. The Major Professor relationship must be formalized by completing a written agreement signed by the students and the Major Professor. A form for this purpose is distributed at the outset of each semester.

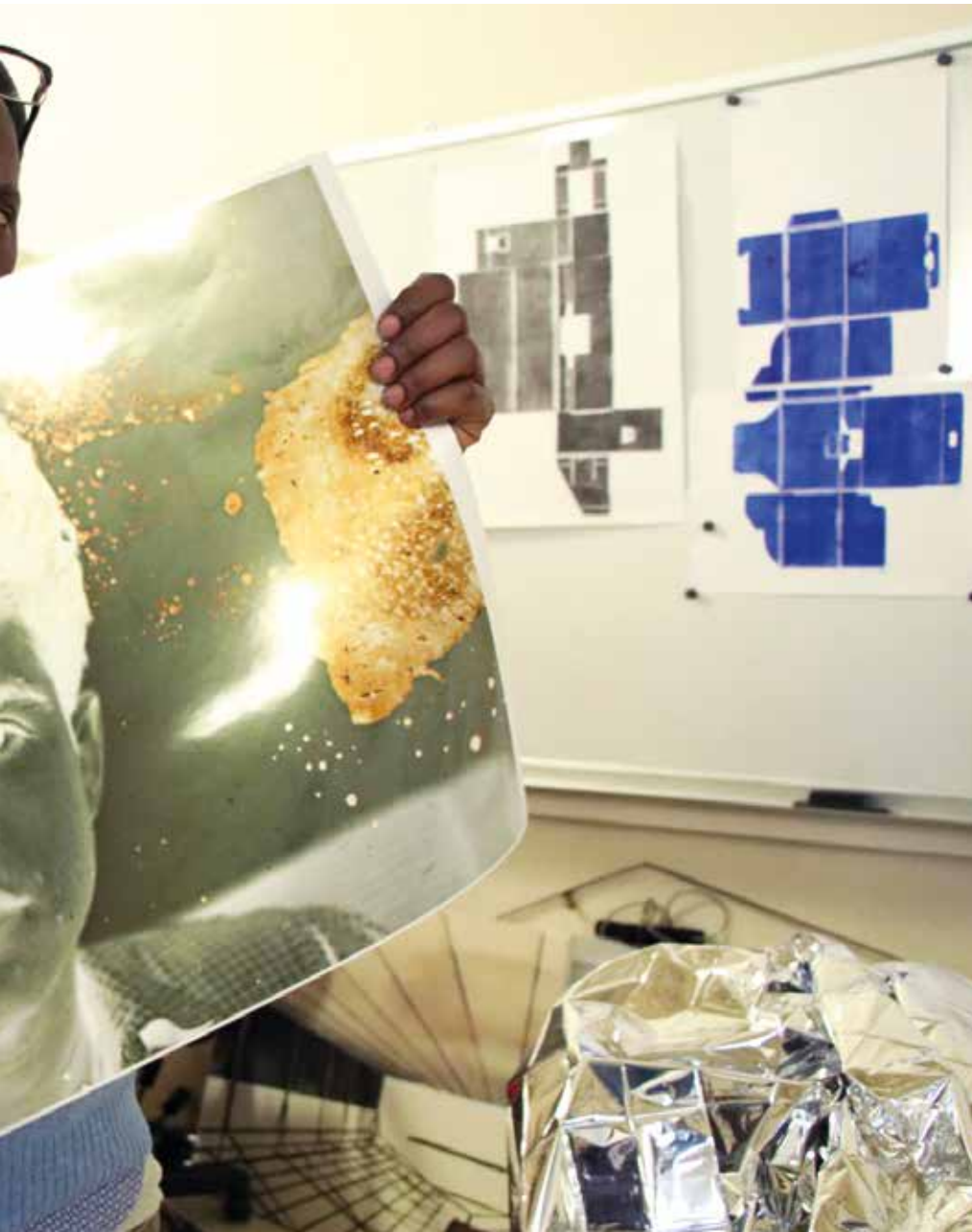
#### The Director of the Post-Bac Certificate in Studio Art Program

The 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 Post-Bac exhibition; and disseminates information pertinent to Post-Bac 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 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 website: [www.saci-florence.edu](http://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 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. 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 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 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 = 4.00). 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. See the *Non-US Student Admissions* section of the SACI website.

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 **May 1**. Applications received after May 1 will be considered only if space is available.

## SACI POST-BAC STUDENT STUDIO SPACE





SACI GRADUATE STUDENTS VISITING THE MAMBO MUSIUM, BOLOGNA

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 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 website for full details on the application procedure.

### **Notification**

Decisions will be emailed to students between April and June.

### **Tuition, Fees, Scholarships, & Aid**

For full information, please see the *Post-Bac Programs* page in the *Admissions* section 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

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

*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.*

#### GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT DISCLOSURE:

<https://saci-florence.edu/gedt-studio-art.html>

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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USA

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F: (212) 248-7222

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

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