HISTORY OF ART

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

2018/19

WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
ART IS NOT WHAT YOU SEE, IT IS WHAT YOU MAKE OTHERS SEE.

The energy of the History of Art department will serve you well for when you step into the world after graduation. That's because you'll have learned practical skills to help you flourish in a world where having more than one perspective matters.

You will discover that Warwick's campus contains exceptional paintings, prints, and sculptures in places both expected and unexpected. We also put a strong emphasis on providing you with privileged access to works of art by organising field trips to a variety of museums, galleries, and buildings throughout the UK. The pinnacle of this provision is an entire term of the second-year spent at our centre near the Grand Canal in Venice - it's your opportunity to live and breathe the art that you're studying. Venice is famous for its Renaissance art and it's also home to the Biennale - the most important international exhibition of contemporary art in the world.

Our staff are active researchers publishing internationally acclaimed articles and books on subjects as wide-ranging as Italian Renaissance and Baroque art, medieval architecture, the English art world in the eighteenth century, nineteenth-century French art theory and criticism, Victorian sculpture, and twenty-first-century art and aesthetics. We bring our latest research into our teaching, giving you the chance to engage in the most recent debates.

We strive to achieve high academic standards in the study of visuality, an approach that supports our ranking as one of the top three History of Art departments in the UK.** Our lecturers bring their own distinctive skills to the subject, sharing a common philosophy that art history involves the study of the history of all things visual more generally. That's why our modules cover a range of visual creations from famous art works to little-known caricatures, from shop window displays to exhibition designs.

*The Graduate Market in 2017, High Fliers Research Ltd.

Viewpoint matters. How artists see the world is what art is about. Every painting and drawing depicts its own world, and every piece of sculpture and architecture embodies one in three dimensions. Art history is about understanding these worlds, and the viewpoints they express.

Works of art exist in our world as objects in three-dimensional space, even when they are flat. Seeing them for yourself is how we want you to experience them. So we will make it possible for you to discover the depth in a painting first-hand, to take up the actual viewpoints from which you can see a sculpture, and to encounter the scale and intricacies of a building for yourself.

Ideas are also involved in what an artist or architect wants you see. Understanding what artists think is part and parcel of understanding what they see. We want you to explore the beliefs and values art expresses, and to see how they shape it.

Art history is about getting closer to art, immersing yourself in art, seeing art from the perspective of the artist. But it is also about bringing your own perspective - your knowledge and experience - to bear. Art is where you and the artist meet.

TAKE THE PERSPECTIVE THAT BRINGS YOU CLOSER

EDGAR DEGAS

The history of the History of Art department will serve you well for when you step into the world after graduation. That's because you'll have learned practical skills to help you flourish in a world where having more than one perspective matters.
Venice, Rise and Myth: Art and Architecture in the Veneto (1100-1600)

Examines the art and architecture of Venice in the light of its unique physical, political and cultural location. You’ll explore the relationship between art and its various contexts using the physical evidence of the city and its past. Recent topics have covered: The Political Background of Venice; The Doge’s Palace; Ravenna, Torcello and the Byzantine Heritage; San Marco and the Surrounding Area; The Gothic and the Mendicant Orders in Venice; Domestic Architecture; The Scuole and their Decoration; Ducal tombs; Secular Painting; Venice and Antiquity; and Art and the Terraferma.

Exhibiting the Contemporary

We consider the importance of exhibitions for the interpretation of contemporary art and contemporary architecture. The module will involve studying current exhibitions of contemporary art and architecture within and outside the frame of the Biennale, getting the most from our exclusive access to the nation’s impressive art collections and historic buildings. Topics have included: The Exhibition as Object; The Biennial as Ritual: Art, Architecture and City Branding; Site-Specificity and Public Art; The Expanded Field of Curating; and Destination Art.

By spending a full term in Venice studying the city’s art, history and culture, you’ll have the opportunity to benefit from this carnival of the senses. And at the Biennale, you will be able to experience painting and sculpture fresh from the artist’s studio, and architecture just off the drawing board. So you will be in touch with works of art and architecture ranging in time from the beginnings of Venice in the seventh century to today.

You’ll be taught by permanent members of the department in our Venice headquarters near the Grand Canal.

Walking in the shoes of the world’s great artists is a compelling experience. However, we think you should take it one step further - there’s even more to be learned by literally following in their footsteps, and taking in the sounds, smells, and tastes that inspired artists to their finest achievements.

To appreciate the history of art most fully, it makes sense to be where art surrounds you. Warwick’s central location in the heart of England means you’ll find art is within a stone’s throw. As our ethos is centred around your experience of a variety of artistic forms, studying at Warwick will mean spending time off campus. You’ll be engaging in fascinating field trips across England, getting the most from our exclusive access to the nation’s impressive art collections and historic buildings.

Waddesdon Manor represents the highlight of our access to art within the UK. You will be taken by minibus to Rothschild mansion and its extensive collection of art from the eighteenth century to the present day. It’s a unique chance to learn about objects as diverse as Marie-Antoinette’s writing desk, the magnificent Sèvres Grande Vase, and a painting by Chardin. As well as being taught by Warwick staff, you will learn first-hand from the Waddesdon curators, working within reach of the objects themselves. Waddesdon visits form part of the module, History of Art and Interpretation. This will help you become aware of the relationship between art, materiality, and its historical context, as well as the methods and approaches to inform the interpretation.

We like to get you moving around the country, and indeed the world, to give you the fullest appreciation of art. But you’ll notice as soon as you arrive that exceptional art is within a stone’s throw of where you live while at Warwick.

Warwick’s campus features art everywhere, selected by the curator of the University’s Collection. You’ll find yourself walking past sculptures on your way to lectures, staring at art installations while eating your lunch, and gazing at paintings when studying alongside friends. The curator and her team are also responsible for the exhibitions that take place in The Mead Gallery – which is one of the largest purpose-built contemporary art galleries in the UK, and presents a highly-regarded programme of international contemporary art. This gallery is itself situated within Warwick Arts Centre, one of the largest art centres in the UK - right at the heart of the Warwick campus.

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WHERE WILL ART TAKE YOU?

When you graduate with a degree in History of Art, you’ll be well equipped to enter a wide range of careers which require an ability to think analytically, to present ideas with clarity, and to communicate with others easily and convincingly.

We want you to feel empowered to take the subject you love and turn it into something that will help you realise your ambitions.

Having a degree in History of Art means you are equipped with the knowledge, skills and perspectives essential to a career in museums, galleries and auction houses, as well as professions outside the art world. Many of our graduates have gone on to careers connected in some way to the arts, such as arts administrators, publishers, picture researchers, archaeologists, and curators.

Some are now working at the Tate Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery, the Victoria & Albert Museum, the British Museum, the National Trust, Christie’s, Sotheby’s, and Bonhams. But, however, enter the graduate job market and compete successfully for professional posts in business and administration. Former History of Art students are presently employed at Coutts & Co, UBS, Google, Universal Pictures, and Warner Brothers.

We’ve helped students gain access to a number of institutions, which may be able to provide opportunities for work experience during vacations. These include the Churches Conservation Trust, The National Trust, the Fitzwilliam Museum, and the London auction houses. We also work closely with our placement learning officer who can help you prepare applications for work experience bursaries, as well as offer advice on setting objectives for placements and internships. Some of our students have also taken up part-time positions at the Mead Gallery at the Warwick Arts Centre on campus.

You will feel well connected, too. As a University we’ve ranked the most targeted university nationally by the UK’s top 100 graduate employers.* You will have a chance to meet a wide range of employers on campus from a variety of sectors - around 300 visit us every year.

*The Graduate Market in 2017, High Fliers Research Ltd.

“Really, Art History is so much more than Art and History. If you want to complete a course which develops your academic and written skills but also your creativity, cultural sensitivity and sense of aesthetics - and want to enjoy your time doing it - History of Art at Warwick is the place.”

Kristie Beddoes
Third Year, BA History of Art

OUR DEGREES
BA History of Art (V350)

Our single honours degree gives you the opportunity to explore art history from many perspectives. You will study a rich and varied range of mostly Western art from the present day back to the Middle Ages.

Your first year includes introductory modules, which provide an overview of Western art and the ways in which it is studied today. You’ll take Introduction to Art History: Classicism and the Arts of Christianity, which will address these two, intertwined themes. We will span a wide chronological range from late Antiquity through to the Renaissance, considering issues of technique, terminology and iconography. In Introduction to Art History: The Natural World and the Arts of Christianity, we adopt a thematic rather than chronological approach to the study of images.

For History of Art and Interpretation you’ll explore the relationship between art and its historical and physical contexts, and the approaches to the works of art as tools for interpretation. We work closely with Waddesdon Manor, which will allow you to examine first-hand paintings and decorative arts, and we study works of art in the University Collection and the Mead Gallery. Lastly our Study Skills give you the important research skills you’ll need throughout the degree. You can also select optional modules on topics such as architecture, prints, sculpture, photography, and painting techniques.

In second year you will spend the first term in Venice, before returning to Warwick to focus on specialised subjects. In Venice you will study works of art in situ with lectures, seminars and site visits in Venice itself and the surrounding area, including the islands of Murano, Burano, and Torcello. When you return to Warwick you’ll select a long-view module, which could include topics such as Practical Art, Modern Art and Modernism, or The Renaissance: East Meets West, Mannerism, or Deconstructing Medieval and Early-Modern Buildings. Your dissertation will be on a topic of your choice, allowing you to gain experience of working independently, with a view to work or further study.

You will also have the option of spending an extra year abroad, in Australia or Europe, adding a year to the duration of your course.

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Our special subject modules are research-led and allow you to specialise in the areas you prefer. Topics could include Visual Art and Poetry, The Lure of the Object, The Lure of the Object, and the Languages of Objects. Our dissertation will be on a topic of your choice, allowing you to gain experience of working independently, with a view to work or further study.

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This degree provides an opportunity to develop a high level of competence in the Italian language alongside the study of art history. You will develop a broad understanding of Italian art and culture, alongside a good understanding of the history of art. Your home department will be History of Art, but you will also study in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures.

This degree gives you the opportunity to explore art history from many perspectives. You will study a rich and varied range of primarily Western art from the Middle Ages to the present day. We also spend a term studying in Venice at our centre near the Grand Canal.

In your first year you'll take four modules, one of which is optional. You will study a historical survey of Western art and concentrate on late antique, medieval and Renaissance art in Classicism and the Arts of Christianity. In The Natural World and the Arts of Modernity, you will be introduced to a broad range of more recent images, ideas and approaches. Alongside these modules, your History of Art and Interpretation module will foster awareness of the relationship between art and its historical and physical context. You will also take an Italian language module, which will correspond to your level of proficiency in the language (whether you are a confident speaker or a complete beginner).

It is also possible to take a joint-honours degree (BA Italian and History of Art) which is offered by the School of Modern Languages and Cultures.

**OUR MODULES**

Below is a list of modules that have been offered in recent years. Our optional modules are subject to change, but give you an indication of the breadth of topics you can study.

### First-year core modules
- **HA1A1** Introduction to Art History: The Natural World and the Arts of Modernity
- **HA1A2** Introduction to Art History: Classicism and the Arts of Christianity
- **HA1B5** History of Art and Interpretation

### First-year short option modules
- **HA1A3** Architecture
- **HA1A5** Portraiture
- **HA1A6** Prints
- **HA1A8** Sculpture

### Second-year short option modules
- **HA2B1** The Spaces of Seventeenth-Century Dutch Painting
- **HA2B5** Art and Visual Perception
- **HA2B8** Art in an Age of Revolution
- **HA2B9** The Aesthetic Movement
- **HA2C0** From Fortress to Country House
- **HA2C5** A Fine Tomorrow
- **HA2D6** Italian Baroque

### Second-year Venice modules
- **HA2CS** Modern Art and Modernism
- **HA2F1** The Renaissance: North and South
- **HA2F2** Venice: Rise and Myth

### Second-year long view modules
- **HA2C4** Practical Art

### Second-year long view modules
- **HA2C5** Modern Art and Modernism
- **HA2F1** The Renaissance: North and South
- **HA2F2** Venice: Rise and Myth

### Final-year special subjects
- **HA3B2** Deconstructing Medieval and Early Modern Buildings
- **HA3C1** Lure of the Object
- **HA3C3** Mannerism
- **HA3C4** East Meets West
- **HA3C9** Visual Art and Poetry
- **HA3AL** Final-year Dissertation
MODULE HIGHLIGHTS

History of Art and Interpretation
This module will help you become aware of the relationship between art and its historical and physical contexts, and of approaches to the work of art which can help you understand them.

You will consider works of art in context at Waddesdon Manor and at other collections, learning how to look and how to interpret what you see.

Practical Art
You’ll explore your own practice via tutor-led workshops in a range of drawing languages and print which culminates in a body of work that expresses and reflects your ability as individuals and as independent practitioners.

Our students keep a sketch book of a high standard which will be an ongoing journal of their work, as it demonstrates evidence of research, practical art developments, experimentation techniques, workshops and extra-curricular activities.

The Lure of the Object
Why do works of art command our attention? How do they involve us in attempts to understand and find meaning? What do they require of us?

This module examines these questions in relation to European and American art from the nineteenth century to the present. Readings in aesthetic theory, art history and criticism will be supported by seminars that will require you to examine individual works closely and engage critically with their accompanying debates.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Typical Offers*
- BA History of Art (V350)
  A Level: ABB
- BA History of Art with Italian (V3R3)
  A Level: ABB
- BA Italian and History of Art (RV33)
  A Level: AAB, including a modern or classical language

*The typical offers listed are indicative. For more information go to warwick.ac.uk/ug

Tuition Fees
At the time of publication (11/17) Home/EU fee levels for 2018-19 entry were not yet agreed. Our fees, once confirmed, will be published online. Tuition fees for overseas students have been set for the academic year 2018/19, until the year 2020-21. For the latest information, please visit warwick.ac.uk/services/academicoffice/finance/fees

Course information
This course information was accurate at the time of printing. Our course and module content and schedule is continually reviewed and updated to reflect the latest research expertise at Warwick, so it is therefore very important that you check the website for the latest information before you apply and when you accept an offer.

Dissertation
Writing a dissertation on a topic of your own choosing is an opportunity to explore something you find fascinating in greater depth. You can focus on a single painting, sculpture, or building.

Or you can take a broad-brush approach to a particular issue or concern. Either way, you will work closely with a personal supervisor who will help you define your topic, frame your questions, and find the appropriate tools and resources for answering them. Writing a dissertation is also a way of demonstrating your ability to work independently - to employers or to those institutions where you are applying for further study.