

The Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History

Master of Arts in Art History



Curriculum

The Master's Program at the Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History introduces students to a global history of art by way of close engagement with artworks held in collections throughout Dallas and Fort Worth. In their coursework and independent research projects, students draw on privileged access to public and private collections, outstanding research resources, and the innovative and interdisciplinary research initiatives of O'Donnell Institute scholars to explore a broad range of material across geography, chronology and medium, and to build a strong foundation in historiography, theory and professional practices.



The intensive sixteen-month program is designed as a rigorous, immersive experience for the most motivated students, preparing graduates for top doctoral programs or arts careers. The curriculum comprises two Foundations courses (Practices of Art History and History of Materials and Techniques), five Master's Seminars that explore a body of material or research question that draw on faculty members' areas of expertise, and a Practicum in which students design and carry out an original project in the form of a scholarly essay, a small exhibition, a collaboration with a practicing artist, a conservation project, archival research or a data-driven art history project. Practicum projects may be carried out in collaboration with partner institutions including the Dallas Museum of Art, the Crow Collection of Asian Art, the Nasher Sculpture Center and The Warehouse.

Students pursue their coursework and independent research in close collaboration with mentors at the O'Donnell Institute and its partner institutions, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the intellectual life of a center for advanced research.

Career Options

Graduates of the program seek positions such as: educator; art historian; museum professional; researcher; collections manager; arts non profit professional; and various positions in research or an advanced level of professional practice.

Degree Program

The MA in Art History requires a minimum of 36 semester credit hours, including a practicum project. This degree is granted by the UT Dallas School of Arts and Humanities. For University admission requirements, view the Graduate Catalog at catalog.utdallas.edu.

About the Institute

The Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History is a center for innovative research and graduate education in the history of art. Research and teaching at the O'Donnell Institute embrace a global history of art that ranges across geography, chronology and medium. The first art history research institute founded in the digital age, the O'Donnell Institute explores in particular the intersection between the visual arts and the sciences and technology.

Contact Information

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