MFA STUDIO ART

(845) 257-3830

Master of Fine Arts

The nationally accredited MFA program offers varied and extensive opportunities for graduate study in a unique setting. Our location is just 90 minutes north of New York City in the historic Hudson River Valley, allowing access to cutting edge artists, historians, critics and curators. The campus features expansive facilities, private and semi-private secure studios, and extensive computer labs and digital fabrication technologies. Additional exhibition spaces complement the prestigious Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art.

The intensive and selective two-year MFA program includes specializations in Ceramics (30CE), Metals (30ME), Painting and Drawing (30PD), Photography & Related Media (30PH), Printmaking (30PR), and Sculpture (30SC). The Art Department faculty members are dedicated teachers and practicing artists with significant national reputations.

SUNY New Paltz is regularly included among the best schools in the Northeast and its Metals program has consistently been ranked among the best in the nation.

Financial assistance and tuition waivers are available. Students interested in a career in academia and pedagogical forms of collaboration have opportunities to assist and frequently teach their own undergraduate course.

Emphasis is placed on disciplinary rigor and interdisciplinary scholarship guided by committed conceptual inquiry. Our graduate program is more than a collection of students, faculty and facilities; we are a dynamic learning community engaged in and encouraging of authentic research, personal growth and a professionally sustainable art practice.

Ceramics

The Ceramics program cultivates the conceptual, technical, and professional growth of its graduate students by providing an environment balanced among pragmatic skill development, critical and theoretical dialogue, and intensive studio research geared toward a process of making and thinking, resulting in innovative and dynamic outcomes. We encourage students to have a strong sense of responsibility, self-reliance, and confidence. Faculty guide students in independent research and individual approaches to their practice. The curricular structure challenges students to critically evaluate their work within a material-specific and an interdisciplinary framework, as well as in theoretical and professional contexts. Students are encouraged to work with methodologies that explore the boundaries of the field while demonstrating an understanding of historic and contemporary ecologies. With private graduate studios within the program’s expansive 10,000 square foot facility, and access to a broad range of traditional and contemporary technologies, the program provides students with the resources and the latitude necessary to develop an authentic, significant contribution to the field. Web site: www.newpaltz.edu/ceramics

Metal

The Metal program is an active area of study that engages a wide variety of ideas, objects, images, and modes of making toward critical and dynamic outcomes. Students and faculty form a community of inquiry that seeks to expand the field’s discourse. The rigorous curriculum provides opportunities to explore the technical, aesthetic, and conceptual aspects of contemporary jewelry and metalsmithing in a state-of-the-art facility with faculty who are actively engaged artists and who exhibit and lecture internationally. The 10,000 square-foot studios supply equipment for working in a range of traditional and contemporary methods, instruction and access to expanding digital technologies, and designated private studio spaces for each student. Web site: www.newpaltz.edu/metal

Painting & Drawing

The Painting/Drawing program encourages the technical, conceptual, and professional development of its students through a balance of intensive studio experience and critical and theoretical dialogue. Students working in traditional, experimental, and multimedia formats are challenged to assess their work in a contemporary context. The program’s 10,000 square-foot facility in Smiley Art Building includes private 200 square-foot studios for each MFA student. Web site: www.newpaltz.edu/painting

Photography & Related Media

The Photography program engages students in an expanded field of artistic lens-based practice to critically interrogate and deepen their creative research within a vibrant community of artists. Photography is an ever changing field with a short and tumultuous history and immense and growing relevance in today’s shifting cultural and social context. We support our students in their process of independent experimentation as they hone their critical awareness, skills, and concept, and position themselves with their unique voice and vision in the field. The Photography program offers a range of state-of-the-art digital and analog facilities and equipment. Website: http://www.newpaltz.edu/photography/

Printmaking

The Printmaking program views the field expansively, honoring tradition while moving the medium ever forward through the use of digital, sculptural means to create two and three-dimensional and installation-based works. The program encourages students to formulate and articulate their philosophical and personal concepts and translate them into visual works, meeting these objectives by offering a mix of intensive studio experience with critical and theoretical dialogue. The printmaking studios are state-of-the-art facilities containing a full range of new and top-of-the-line equipment and presses. In our 10,000 square foot studio spaces students have the capability of working with intaglio, lithography, silkscreen, monotype, woodcut, and hand-papermaking as well as contemporary photography, digital, and mixed media printmaking processes. Access to the Art Department’s stellar Wood Studio and Digital Fabrication labs round out the offerings within the printmaking area. Web site: www.newpaltz.edu/printmaking

Sculpture

The graduate Sculpture program embraces and cultivates the diversity and complexity of what is defined as sculpture today. The program supports investigations that encompass installation, intervention, performance, sound, video, new media as well as more traditional approaches to sculpture. The Sculpture program encourages independent exploration, experimentation, critical awareness, and engagement in the issues, forms and contexts of contemporary, professional investigation. The program challenges and expands on the individual graduate student’s rationale and modes of working. In a flexible program encompassing the breadth of today’s sculptural possibilities, each
student has the opportunity to articulate an individual vision and make a significant contribution to the discipline.

The overall footprint of the sculpture facilities encompasses 10,000 square-feet of space, which is divided into individual studio space for MFA and BFA students, general class workspace, an area for wood working, welding and metal fabrication. The facilities also include a separate room for experimental work such as installations. Equipment includes welding and metal working tools and machinery, wood working tools and machinery, video and sound equipment and a computer lab for digital image, sound and video production. Web site: www.newpaltz.edu/sculpture (http://www.newpaltz.edu/sculpture)

Graduate Program in Art

- MFA in Studio Art (http://catalog.newpaltz.edu/graduate/fine-performing-arts/art/mfa-art)

ARS501. Graduate Art Seminar . 3 Credits.
An examination of critical and theoretical ideas, social and political conditions, and new environments and technologies that have influenced the perception and production of the visual arts. A range of contemporary art including both experimental as well as more traditional forms is considered. All MAAS and MFA students are required to take this course.
FEE FOR TICKETS AND TRANSPORTATION.

ARS511. Introduction to Graduate Studio Research. 4 Credits.
ARS 511 is an intensive studio methods course in which students will both re-engage with their artistic practice as well as be introduced to a range of contemporary art making strategies.

ARS512. Graduate Studio Research I. 2 Credits.
In this online studio research course, students will learn and implement a range of visual research methods and techniques and apply them to their teaching practice as well as to their own studio work.

ARS513. Graduate Studio Research II. 2 Credits.
In this online studio research course, students will learn and implement a range of visual research methods and techniques and apply them to their teaching practice as well as to their own studio work.

ARS521. Ceramics I . 3 Credits.
Focus on the development of content within the student’s work. Research of ceramic history and processes. Examination of critical and theoretical ideas through readings, discussions, and critiques.

ARS523. Clay and Glaze Materials . 3 Credits.
Research of raw materials (clay and glaze), firing processes at several temperatures. The class stresses the individual research based on empirical techniques and calculations. The class is divided into equal parts of technical lectures and labs.

ARS524. Ceramic Sculpture . 3 Credits.
Emphasis on the execution of defined and personally developed ideas, through form, surface and color. Formal, critical, individual, and issues of material/process will be considered and discussed in relation to contents.

ARS525. Contemporary Issues in Clay . 3 Credits.
Seminar that focuses on the cognitive aspects of ceramics. The course will be comprised of: discussions, presentations, research, field experience, and professional practice as related to the medium.

ARS531. Metal I . 3 Credits.
Introduction to various theoretical and critical concerns in metal. Students work collaboratively and independently to develop aesthetic and procedural modes while gaining awareness of the field’s expanding discourse.

ARS535. Problems in Metal I. 3 Credits.
Provides concentrated time to develop a progressive, critical dialogue regarding one’s creative production, developing interests and avenues of exploration.

ARS541. Painting I . 3 Credits.
Advanced experimental study with emphasis on contemporary approaches to content, process, format, and materials. Studio experience is balanced with critical/theoretical dialogue. Students may register for up to two sections of painting per semester.

ARS551. Photography and Related Media I. 3 Credits.
Advanced study of photography and related media with emphasis on contemporary approaches to content, process and materials. Focus on board artistic research combined with critical dialogue.

ARS552. Photography and Related Media II. 3 Credits.
Advanced study of photography and related media with emphasis on contemporary approaches to content, process and materials. Focus on project development based on artistic research combined with critical dialogue.

ARS561. Printmaking I . 3 Credits.
Projects and individual study in advanced printmaking conceptions and techniques.

ARS562. Printmaking II . 3 Credits.
Projects and individuals study in advanced printmaking conceptions and techniques. Students may enroll in Printmaking I, II and III simultaneously.

ARS571. Sculpture I . 3 Credits.
Projects and individual study in advanced sculpture conceptions and techniques.

ARS572. Sculpture 2 . 3 Credits.
Projects and individual study in advanced sculpture conceptions and techniques.

ARS573. Sonic Measures . 3 Credits.
Sonic measures is an advanced, interdisciplinary course which explores the realm of sound as material for imaginative expression and as support for other multimedia work in video installation and performance.

ARS574. Sculpture Situations . 3 Credits.
Sculpture Situations is an advanced course which addresses the contexts in which sculpture operates in contemporary art. The course investigates installation, site intervention/alteration, video art and performance.

ARS576. Site Projects . 3 Credits.
To provide ground-work for developing skills in preparation of proposals and grants, dealing with public art, architecture and environmental ideas in model form. For senior Art majors and graduate Art majors.

ARS578. Artist Survival Skills. 3 Credits.
Seminar focuses on professional skills utilized by artists for survival in the field. Students investigate contemporary professional practices relevant to artists. Topics may include: grant writing, documentation of artwork, web presence, and exhibition opportunities.
ARS79. Contemporary Ideas in Sculpture. 3 Credits.
Seminar explores critical viewpoints relevant to the field of sculpture. Course is structured around readings from contemporary and historical sources, presentations, written and verbal responses, and field research.

ARS93. Art Studio Selected Topic. 3-12 Credits.
Selected topics courses are regularly scheduled courses that focus on a particular topic of interest. Descriptions are printed in the Schedule of Classes each semester. Selected topics courses may be used as elective credit and may be repeated for credit, provided that the topic of the course changes.

ARS594. Fieldwork in Art. 1-12 Credits.

ARS595. Independent Study Art. 1-12 Credits.

ARS690. Studio Critique. 3 Credits.
Studio Critique facilitates regular, one-on-one interaction in each student's studio environment. The class focuses on a rigorous individual examination of research methodologies, material processes and conceptual inquiry.

ARS700. Graduate Critical Dialogues. 3 Credits.
An interdisciplinary class that will concentrate on critiques and discussions of student work. The class includes presentations, visiting artist dialogues professional practice, and the option to develop collaborative projects. Required elective for MFA students. Elective class for MA students, repeatable for credit.

ARS705. Graduate Drawing. 3 Credits.
Individual and group projects on an advanced level employing a variety of subject matter and techniques. May be repeated for credit.

ARS706. Thematic Studio. 3 Credits.
This course focuses on individual thematic investigations in contemporary art practice and collaborative art making. Students will learn to create arts-based research engaged as studio art practice and modes for reflecting on art pedagogy.

ARS714. Studio Graduate Research III. 4 Credits.
ARS 714 is a 6-week summer course taken concurrently with Graduate Seminar and ARE 721. In this course, students will complete and mount their capstone studio exhibition.

ARS725. Ceramics II. 3 Credits.
Students pursue a realm of inquiry and investigation at an advanced level. This inquiry assimilates technical and critical research the student has pursued as they work toward developing a cohesive body of work. May be repeated for credit. Students may enroll in Ceramics I, II, III and IV simultaneously.

ARS726. Ceramics III. 3 Credits.
Continued advanced study as described in 09725, Ceramics I. Students may enroll in Ceramics I, II, III and IV simultaneously.

ARS727. Ceramics IV. 3 Credits.
Continued advanced study as described in 09725, Ceramics I. Students may enroll in Ceramics I, II, III and IV simultaneously.

ARS731. Metal II. 3 Credits.
Building on comprehension of the field's historical, contemporary and critical discourse, students develop their research and consider their work in context to the broader field. Continuation of ARS533. Students may enroll in Metal I, II, and III simultaneously.

ARS732. Metal III. 3 Credits.
Students expand and further develop a research agenda conversant with the theoretical models of the discipline. Students may enroll in Metals I, II and III simultaneously.

ARS734. Problems in Metal II. 3 Credits.
Students identify specific concerns in relation to their inquiry in metal, jewelry and objects, establishing material investigations and a range of studio outcomes. Students may enroll in Problems in Metal I, II and III simultaneously.

ARS735. Problems in Metal III. 3 Credits.
Students further clarify the direction of their research, identify and develop strategies in their work as it pertains to subject matter, process, format, context, and imaging. Students may enroll in Problems in Metal I, II, and III simultaneously.

ARS740. Book Arts. 3 Credits.
Book Arts is an interdisciplinary course, designed to introduce students to the concepts and techniques used in making artists' books. Topics to be explored include the visualization of ideas in book form, the book as a physical object, the use of a variety of materials and forms, narrative progression and combining text and images. Traditional book formats and binding techniques will be taught, but emphasis will be on innovative uses of the book as a vehicle for ideas. This course is designed to be interdisciplinary, and requires that students have prior experience in a variety of studio techniques so that those techniques can be used in the course.

ARS742. Painting II. 3 Credits.
Advanced experimental study with emphasis on contemporary approaches to content, process, format, and materials. Studio experience is balanced with critical/theoretical dialogue. Students may enroll in Painting I, II, III and IV simultaneously. Students may register for up to two sections of painting per semester.

ARS743. Graduate Digital Painting Lab. 3 Credits.
Multi-media studio course introducing digital art studio practice focused on digital imaging and cross-media experimentation; builds on skills, techniques, and critique of digital art concepts like compositing, appropriation, collage, and remixing. Direct and transfer printing taught for varied substrates.

ARS745. Painting III. 3 Credits.
Individually planned studio research. Critical/theoretical discourse is combined with advanced technical and conceptual approaches to image development. May be repeated for credit. Students may enroll in Painting I, II, III and IV simultaneously. Students may register for up to two sections of painting per semester.

ARS746. Painting IV. 3 Credits.
Individually planned studio research. Critical/theoretical discourse is combined with advanced technical and conceptual approaches to image development. May be repeated for credit. Students may enroll in Painting I, II, III and IV simultaneously. Students may register for up to two sections of painting per semester.

ARS750. 3 Credits.
Introduction to photographic studio lighting with strobes and hot lights, on-site lighting, and on-camera lighting. Creation of constructed images and related concept and creative project development.

ARS751. Photography and Related Media III. 3 Credits.
Advanced study of photography and related media with emphasis on contemporary approaches to concept, process, and materials. Focus on conceptual and technical precision in project development combined with critical dialogue.
another source, usually paper.

Techniques. It results in a one-of-a-kind image that is developed on a flat plate with oil and/or water-based mediums, and then transferred to printing techniques in relation to concept and content.

**ARS768. Photo Silkscreen. 3 Credits.**

This versatile process, Photo Silkscreen, will allow the student to transfer drawings or computer printouts on transparencies to their screens. Using water-based inks, the images will be printed on paper, fabric, plexiglass or a diverse range of other surfaces.

**ARS771. New Media 3D + 4D. 3 Credits.**

Students will explore the use of new digital media in the third and fourth dimensions by investigating digital video, DVD authoring, and interactivity/robotics. Students will spend equal time in the computer lab and sculpture studio.

**ARS773. Sonic Measures. 3 Credits.**

Sonic measures is an advanced, interdisciplinary course which explores the realm of sound as material for imaginative expression and as support for other multimedia work in video installation and performance.

**ARS774. Sculpture Situations. 3 Credits.**

Sculpture Situations is an advanced course which addresses the contexts in which sculpture operates in contemporary art. The course investigates installation, site intervention/alteration, video art and performance.

**ARS775. Sculpture Projects. 3 Credits.**

Projects and individual studio research in advanced sculpture conceptions and techniques. May be repeated for credit. Students may enroll in Sculpture I and II simultaneously.

**ARS776. Site Projects. 3 Credits.**

To provide ground-work for developing skills in preparation of proposals and grants, dealing with public art, architecture and environmental ideas in model form. For senior Art majors and graduate Art majors.

**ARS780. Internship in College Art Studio Teaching. 3 Credits.**

Student audits an undergraduate studio course and assists the instructor in planning and instruction. Internship includes a bi-weekly seminar exploring issues of college-level teaching in the arts. May be repeated for credit.

**ARS782. Studio in Intermedia Design: VRL. 3 Credits.**

Production and critique of studio work in graphic design and photography generated in response to the theory seminar. Assigned and self-directed projects or problem investigations relative to candidate’s area of interest and research conducted in seminar. May be repeated for credit.

**ARS784. VRL Studio. 3 Credits.**

Specialized course studies in graphic design and photography related to study project of the candidate, elected from offerings of the graduate level. Approval of the candidate’s advisory committee and approval of the instructor are required. May be repeated for credit, courses are non-sequential.

**ARS785. Graduate Study in Design: VRL II. 3 Credits.**

Specialized course study in graphic design and photography related to study project of the candidate, elected from offerings of graduate level. Approval of the candidate’s advisory committee and approval of the instructor are required. May be repeated for credit, courses are non-sequential.
ARS788. MFA Thesis in Intermedia Design: VRL. 6 Credits.
Execution and presentation of a body of significant work in graphic
design/photography as evidence of the candidate's level of
accomplishment. Project selected in consultation with VRL faculty and
thesis committee. Paper and slides required. Must be repeated once for
credit.

ARS790. Thesis in Art Studio. 3-12 Credits.
Students complete and exhibit a body of creative work culminating the
graduate degree. MAAS candidates complete one semester of Thesis for
3 credits. MFA candidates complete a total of 12 credits, Thesis I and II
for 6 credits each. MFA candidates must convene a thesis committee. An
artist statement and appropriate documentation of the thesis exhibition
are submitted to the college library. Required form available in the
Records and Registration Office.

ARS793. Art Studio Selected Topic. 3-12 Credits.
Selected topics courses are regularly scheduled courses that focus on
a particular topic of interest. Descriptions are printed in the Schedule
of Classes each semester. Selected topics courses may be used as
elective credit and may be repeated for credit, provided that the topic of
the course changes.

ARS794. Fieldwork In Art Studio. 1-12 Credits.

ARS795. Independent Study Art. 1-12 Credits.

ARS799. Continued Registration. 1-6 Credits.