

The Masters in Fine Arts Program

At

The University of Cincinnati

THE MASTERS IN FINE ARTS PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

The Fine Arts Program at the University of Cincinnati offers work leading to the Master of Fine Arts degree with specialization in 2D Studio (Drawing, Painting, Printmaking), 3D Studio (Ceramic Sculpture, Sculpture), and Media Arts (Electronic Art and Photography). On average, the program enrolls forty graduate students in Fine Arts each year. The Fine Arts Program, along with the Art Education Program and the Art History Program comprise the School of Art, which is located in the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning.

RESOURCES

The University of Cincinnati is a comprehensive, urban university, and a member of the State system. Located on five campuses, the University has seventeen component colleges and divisions that provide a wide range of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs. About 33,000 students are enrolled at the University. The main campus is located in the hilltop section called Clifton, readily accessible to a variety of housing, a few blocks from three interstate highways, yet only minutes away from the downtown center and other cultural resources. Two hundred acres and an adjoining park give the University one of the more spacious urban campuses. A municipal university until 1974, the University of Cincinnati, and its programs continue to enjoy close relations with the city's agencies, institutions, and businesses; many of which provide resources for the Fine Arts Program and the School of Art.

The City of Cincinnati is an attractive city on the picturesque Ohio River. The three-state metropolitan area boasts a fine resident symphony orchestra and ballet company, accomplished amateur and professional theater groups, and a summer opera series. An outstanding system of city-county parks makes outdoor recreation both inexpensive and convenient. The Cincinnati Art Museum is one of the earliest collections in the United States and is still considered one of the finest. The Contemporary Arts Center brings a contemporary and experimental dimension to the art life of the city, while the famous Taft Museum is among the best private collections open to the public. Numerous private and commercial galleries hold continuous exhibitions that offer the graduate student additional opportunities for viewing and exhibiting contemporary art.

The College and the School of Art maintain the DAAP Gallery Downtown, the Reed Gallery in the Design, Architecture, Art and Planning building, and the Meyers Gallery in the heart of campus. These program a broad range of exhibitions including the MFA Thesis Exhibitions.

The University Library System has a collection of over 1.7 million bound volumes and includes the Langsam (Central) Library with its general research collection emphasizing the humanities and social sciences, the DAAP Library with its strong collection of Art and Art History related volumes, and the Classics Library, with its excellent collection of books on ancient Greek and Roman art and the ancient and medieval art and architecture. The University's holdings are complemented by the fine Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County and by the Library of the Cincinnati Art Museum.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

APPLICATION

The completed application should be received by February 1 and include the following: (see below for instructions)

1. University application and application fee (submitted online at <http://www.grad.uc.edu/>)
2. Portfolio (including a self-addressed, stamped return envelope)
2. Transcripts
3. Recommendations (3)
4. Statement of intent

GRE or GMAT tests are not required.

Except for the university application and application fee materials should be sent to the program director at the address below. Please submit materials in an envelope, without binders, folders, sheet protectors, etc., to:

Kimberly Burleigh, Professor
Director of Graduate Studies in Fine Arts, School of Art
College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning
University of Cincinnati
P. O. Box 210016
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0016

Contact Information: (513) 556-2075 - office
(513) 556-2887 – fax
Kimberly.Burleigh@uc.edu - email

PORTFOLIO

The portfolio should include:

- For 2D studio (*drawing, painting, printmaking*), & 3D studio, (*ceramic sculpture and sculpture*):
 1. Twenty (20) images, either in the form of slides or on digital media, labeled with the name of the applicant.
 2. An accompanying list stating the following information relative to each image: medium, size, date, and other descriptive information considered important.
- For Media Arts (Electronic Art and Photography): A minimum of two DVD/video tapes in which the applicant served a major role, i.e., producer, director, cinematographer, or animator. If the applicant served in any other capacity, please include a detailed description. Tapes may be ½” VHS or ¾” VHS. Other media appropriate to the applicant’s concentration may also be submitted (such as slides, disks or CD-ROMs).

Please see pages 7 and 8 for portfolio criteria for photography applicants.

- A self-addressed, stamped, envelope for the return of the portfolio. (*International applicants may submit portfolios in appropriate mailers.*)

TRANSCRIPTS

Submit all transcripts from previous colleges and/or art schools.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Include a *short* statement of intent describing the long-term goal to be met by graduate study. Include your specific area of interest; i.e., 2D Studio, 3D Studio, or Media Arts. (*Please see pages 7 and 8 for statement of intent criteria for photography applicants.*)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide three (3) letters of recommendation *written by people familiar with your academic and professional abilities*. Ask them to provide the following information:

- Who they are
- Their relationship to you
- Why they think you will succeed in the Graduate Fine Arts Program at the University of Cincinnati

Letters should be submitted in sealed envelopes with their name signed across the seal.

ADMISSION

The Fine Arts Graduate Program accepts approximately twenty new students each year. The Fine Arts Program does not make decisions on the basis of race, age, sex, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or handicap.

ADVANCED STANDING

Relevant graduate level courses completed at the University of Cincinnati, or another accredited college or university, may be applied toward a degree in Fine Arts. These are normally applied to the academic elective portion of the curriculum. In no case may the number of advanced standing hours be more than one-half of the total number of credits required for the degree. The determination of advanced standing for the student involved will be made by the Director of Graduate Studies and assessed through a petition to the Graduate Dean.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Foreign students can only be admitted with full graduate standing. If you are a foreign student, you must fulfill U.S. Immigration Service requirements and register with the International Services and Foreign Student Counseling. *The minimum university TOEFL (Test Of English as a Foreign Language) scores are as follows: 520 (paper-based test), or 190 (computer-based test), or 68 (internet-based test).* *Please have results submitted to the University of Cincinnati, using the university code of 1833.* The test should be administered in the country of residence prior to the time of application. The requirements may be temporarily waived if the applicant has completed an academic program of two years or more in an accredited American college or university. Upon arrival at the University of Cincinnati, the student will be asked to take a language proficiency exam. Students should contact the Director of Graduate Studies in Fine Arts about taking this exam. Carrying the specified health and accident insurance is required.

FINANCIAL AID

All applicants are considered for financial aid. There is no separate or additional form to apply for financial aid.

Many first and second year graduate students are awarded a University Graduate Scholarship (UGS) or a Graduate Assistantship (GA). The Director of Graduate Studies in Fine Arts administers allocations of these awards.

Please visit the following website for more information about tuition and fees.
<http://www.grad.uc.edu/tuition-and-fees.aspx>

University Graduate Scholarship

These are awarded to applicants on the basis of competitive excellence. This scholarship pays for full or partial tuition.

Graduate Assistantships

A program of Graduate Assistantships has been instituted to provide qualified graduate students with intensive, in-service training in college teaching or other professional experience. For Graduate Assistants who teach, this program combines regular classroom teaching experience with faculty supervision and counseling. Recipients of Graduate Assistantships who are assigned teaching duties hold regular appointments in the undergraduate program of Fine Arts within the College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning. All recipients of full Graduate Assistantships are required to devote up to 20 hours per week in their assigned duties. The teaching assignment normally consists of instruction of one studio course. Graduate Assistantship duties may also include shop monitoring, instructional support for faculty, and/or shop maintenance.

The Graduate Assistantships cover full or partial tuition and provide a cash stipend.

Other Awards

The Student Financial Aid Office at the University administers a variety of state and federal grants and loans based on each student's demonstrated financial need. Information can be obtained by visiting the *Graduate Studies* website at <http://www.grad.uc.edu/> or by contacting the Student Financial Aid Office at the address or phone number below:

Student Financial Aid Office
University of Cincinnati
PO Box 210125
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0125
Phone: (513) 556-6982
Fax: (513) 556-9171
E-mail: financialaid@uc.edu Website: <http://www.financialaid.uc.edu/>

Additional scholarship information can be found on the DAAP School of Art website at:
<http://daap.uc.edu/financial/scholarships>

REGISTRATION

PRE-REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

Along with an offer of admission, the following forms will be sent: If you plan to attend, please fill them out and return them to:

The University of Cincinnati
College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning
School of Art
P. O. Box 210016
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0016

1. A Supplementary Information form.
2. Intent to Attend form.

PORTFOLIO & STATEMENT OF INTENT CRITERIA
FOR APPLICANTS TO THE MFA PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Revised 2/21/06

In order to give you a clearer picture of what is expected in graduate school, we would strongly urge you to visit a variety of graduate photography programs. In addition to talking with the faculty, try to meet with some second-year students and ask them what it is like to be in that specific program. Ask them what is demanded of them once in the program, and what the challenges are. This will give you a sense of what to prepare yourself for, and to determine if this kind of program is for you. Graduate school is very tough, in ways that are difficult to describe, and talking with current grad students themselves can be an excellent way to inform yourself about it.

Portfolio Criteria

The portfolios of successful applicants to the University of Cincinnati's graduate Fine Arts photography program are rich in a number of ways. First, they possess consistency of idea. This means that successful portfolios show that the artist has worked long and hard on developing a particular concept/idea (not just that they have shot the same subject over and over). The photographs make a point, and are consistent in the meaning they convey, but can be varied in their approach to their subject matter (and not necessarily varied in terms of media used).

In terms of content, the photographs in a successful portfolio carry multiple layers of meaning in them, not just that which is immediately obvious. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!** In fact, it is probably the most important factor of all to us. This means that the pictures challenge the viewer to ask questions about what they are seeing, as well as encourage them to seek answers to those questions. One usually gets the sense of a very specific personality that created such a portfolio, because the pictures have a particular point of view that is recognizable.

Technically, most successful portfolios generally utilize one particular method (i.e. just black & white, or color, or alternative processes, or mixed media, etc.). The photos are technically excellent, but the pictures are not "about" technique. Technical excellence is not enough! It must be clear that the artist has harnessed a technique to serve an idea.

There are four different types of portfolio that are acceptable. They are listed below in order of preference, with Nos. 1 and 2 being strongly preferred:

1. 35mm slides, masked and legibly labeled with name, title, year, media, and "top of slide" noted. The portfolio should be between 20-30 slides in number and be submitted in full-sheet slide pages that have your name on them.
2. Jpeg images (72dpi) on a CD, between 20-30. Title, year, and media should be embedded in each image file. Images can also be presented in a PowerPoint slide show. Viewing instructions should be included with the disc.
3. Original prints, between 20-30, no larger than 11x14" in paper or mat size. Prints do not need to be matted or mounted, but must be submitted in a portfolio or print box.

4. Images on a web site, between 20-30. Title, year, and media should be visible onscreen when viewing the site.

In all cases, an image list that contains title, year, and media of each picture, plus any additional information that would help clarify what the committee is looking at should accompany the portfolio. In the case of CD portfolios, the image list should also have the file title of each photo to be viewed, so that matching the information on the list to the onscreen image is as easy as possible.

Statement of Intent

In addition to addressing some of your personal experience and interests, the statement of intent should convey an interest in exploring photography as a medium through for expressing thoughts and observations about topics you feel passionate about. These topics could be anything- your life, the human condition, the media, politics- it could be big issues or very small, seemingly mundane issues. What the committee looks for, regardless of the specifics of your interests, is a sense of urgency and passion about using the medium to explore realms/ideas that you are interested in and haven't yet had a chance to explore.