

ART HISTORY

WHY STUDY ART HISTORY?

Leonardo da Vinci. Frida Kahlo.
Lisa Reihana. Simon Denny.
Andy Warhol.

These are just some of the artists you will be exposed to and explore as you undertake study that moves from the Renaissance and Baroque periods to Māori and Pacific art, through contemporary art theory and museum studies and which looks at cross-cultural representation, photography and digital culture.

Learn to navigate the world of images and how artists challenge power with a degree in Art History.

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

Art History examines the many roles of visual arts across time and cultures – aesthetic, social, religious, political and economic. Explore painting and sculpture, whakairo, tatau and tapa, photography and design. We learn on campus, and in the museum, meeting house and art galleries. Nau mai, haere mai.

“As a curator of contemporary art, my work falls under three main areas: collecting contemporary art for the national collection, developing exhibitions and undertaking research that informs acquisition, books and our exhibition programme.”

“Our classroom was a gateway to the art community. We also frequented museums and galleries taking in exhibitions and applying our visual analysis and critical thinking in situ.”



Nina Tonga

Vaini and Kolofo'ou, Kingdom of Tonga

Curator Contemporary Art, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Art History

Bachelor of Arts (Hons)

Master of Arts

PhD



“We live in a world that is increasingly saturated by images and visual information. Being able to read and understand images across a range of media and art forms is crucial in articulating ideas and communicating effectively.”

Dr Caroline Vercoe
Professor Greg Minissale



Top: Vermeer, *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, c.1665 www.commons.wikimedia.org

Right: Marina Abramovic, *The Artist is Present*, 2010 www.commons.wikimedia.org

auckland.ac.nz/arts/art-history



ARTS

WHAT CAN I STUDY?

Art History examines the many roles the visual arts have played in different cultures and in different periods – aesthetic, social, religious, political and commercial. Explore not only painting, drawing and sculpture, but also architecture, photography, video, performance art, design and the graphic and decorative arts.

Get excited about your course options:



Stage 1 Course*

ARTHIST 114 - Understanding Art: Leonardo to Warhol

Is seeing learned? Can an image be read in the same way as a text? Understanding images is central to everyday life. Visual literacy is fundamental to all disciplines. This course provides students with tools for making sense of various kinds of images and objects: photographs, advertisements, paintings, film, television, comics, cartoons, monuments, buildings, maps, landscape, digital and internet images.

Stage 2 Course*

ARTHIST 230 - Art Crime

Explores the growing trend of art crime through a focus on five primary areas: theft, fraud, smuggling, forgery, and vandalism. These will be examined within the context of international and New Zealand case studies, including the theft of the Mona Lisa in 1911, Nazi looting in World War II, and thefts during the Iraq War in 2003. Ways to curb such crime, particularly the development of art crime squads, will also be discussed.

Stage 3 Course*

ARTHIST 317 - Contemporary Pacific Art

Focuses on work by contemporary Pacific artists, exploring the ways that they translate indigenous knowledge and urban experiences into gallery forms such as painting, installation, performance, film and video making. Themes such as migration and diaspora, language and memory, notions of homelands and return, and the creation of complex cultural identities will be explored.

Courses you could study*

Global Art Histories

Framing the Viewer: 20th Century Art

Artists and Patrons in Renaissance Italy

Complementary majors include:

Art History



Anthropology

Communication

English

History



“I enjoyed the range of eras, subjects, and approaches studied in Art History. It’s not only a great intellectual and creative discipline, but the small classes provide a unique teaching experience where you build close relationships with tutors, lecturers, and classmates.”

Emily Bell

Student: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Art History + Communication

*Course availability may be subject to change. For a full list of courses and up-to-date information visit the Arts website. Published August 2023

For enrolment information email:

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