ART HISTORY
Art history is the study of art created in the past by individuals from various cultures and parts of the world. The art historian seeks to interpret and understand works of art of many types, ranging from the monumental to small scale, by learning about artists' lives and their societies. Graduates with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History are equipped for a wide range of professional careers - in museums, galleries, auction houses or publishing. An Art History major is not only a sound preparation for any professional field, it may also provide a distinct advantage for entry into those fields, given the increasing preference of law, medical, and professional schools for students with a broad intellectual background.

RELATED CAREER TITLES FOR ART HISTORY

The following list contains a representative sample of job titles of some, but certainly not all, of the careers you might consider. Some of these jobs may also require education beyond a bachelors' degree.

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EMPLOYMENT SETTINGS FOR ART HISTORY MAJORS

Museums
Colleges and Universities
Publishing Companies
State Government
Corporations
Art Galleries
Federal Government
Auction Houses

RELATED MAJOR SKILLS

A major does not necessarily dictate a career. Your major will provide you with invaluable skills and knowledge. Below you will find a list of valuable skills that you may acquire through your curriculum in art history.

• Attention to Detail
• Self-discipline
• Interpretive Skills
• Appreciation of Aesthetics
• Patience
• Organization Skills
• Interpersonal Skills
• Intense Research Skills

• Creativity
• Time-Management
• Critical Analysis
• Open-minded
• Adaptability
• Communication Skills
• Presentation/Public Speaking
Academic Careers: Teaching at colleges and universities
At the University level, this requires an active research career. Community and smaller colleges may focus on teaching.
Preparation includes:
   a. Ph.D. in Art History.
   b. German, French, and other appropriate languages.
   c. Research oriented with publication or curating career.
   d. Maximum involvement with people.
   e. Good computer, writing, and communication skills are essential.
   f. Commitment to University community.

Museum Work
1. Curatorial
   a. Ph.D. in Art History expected to curate a major collection.
   b. MA in Art History can serve for smaller or more general collections.
   c. Some to extensive research.
   d. Can involve exhibition curating or management or existing collections, or both.
   e. Often involves interaction with donors and collectors.
   f. Political and interpersonal skills are essential.

2. Education
   a. MA in Art History or Art Education.
   b. No languages necessary.
   c. Some research depending on level of audience.
   d. Good communication skills.

3. Exhibition installation ("preparators")
   a. Handle and move objects, design mounts, move cases and vitrines, hang or install objects.
   b. BA or MA in Art History, or any degree in Art.
   c. No language necessary.
   d. No research.
   e. Works well with curators and designers and registrars.
   f. Some manual skills, artistic training.

4. Registrar
   a. BA or MA in Art History or Museum Studies.
   b. A foreign language is helpful, since you may have to travel or communicate with persons abroad.
c. Keeps records on accession, legal status, copyright issues, condition, and location of every object in the Museum collection.

5. Administration, such as Director or Assistant Director of Museum.
   a. Ph.D. in Art History with established research record and/or administrative experience and training for top positions. Museum Science degree may serve for art collections of middle stature or non-art museums.
   b. Foreign languages essential for top positions.
   c. Fundraising, working with donors, collectors.
   d. Administrative and budget skills.
   e. Maximum involvement with people.
   f. Leadership; vision; ability to deal with the rich and powerful and those who know a great deal about art.

Publishing.
Persons with art history degrees and strong writing and research skills may find or create a niche in the publishing world. Survey texts need editors and illustration-acquirers, and of course, designers. Publishers need editors and copyeditors.
   a. Some involvement with people depending on position.
   b. Business and/or graphic design experience helpful.

Freelance Writing (Criticism, Art-related, Travel, etc.)
   a. BA in Art History; advanced degree may be helpful.
   b. Languages may be necessary.
   c. Maximum research.
   d. May need to be aggressive in obtaining assignments or in marketing work.
   e. High tolerance for economic uncertainty.

Art Librarian
   a. Usually MA in Art History and MLS.
   b. Languages very helpful to necessary.
   c. Some research covering a wide gamut of topics.
   d. Some involvement with people.
   e. Good communication and writing skills.
   f. Excellent administrative and management skills.
   g. Computer and technology skills essential.
   h. Attention to detail.

Visual Resources Materials Librarian
   a. BA or MA in Art History is helpful.
b. Languages are helpful.
c. Managerial skills essential.
d. Computer and technology skills essential.
e. Attention to detail.

**Independent Producer or consultant to TV and Film Productions.**
Degrees in Art History can lead to knowledge about the visual production of cultures across time. With a creative mind and powerful initiative, art historians can produce educational or historical films or consult with filmmakers on the history, art, costumes, etc., of an era.

a. Maximum involvement with people.
b. Languages helpful.
c. Can involve research.
d. Training in TV or film production; good business and writing skills; strong organizational skills.

**Preservation and Conservation**

a. MA or beyond in Art History
b. Special training or a graduate degree in conservation or preservation. This may involve 2 years of college chemistry.
c. Strong artistic skills.
d. Languages useful.
e. Some involvement with people.

**Art Gallery and Auction Houses, Corporate Curatorial work, Art Investing Advisor.**

a. BA; MA or PhD may be necessary depending on position.
b. Languages may be useful.
c. Considerable interpersonal skills.
d. Marketing, communication, and writing skills.
e. Training in handling objects, connoisseurship.
f. Ability to communicate with those who are quite knowledgeable about art; may also need installation and interpretive skills.
g. May need business or investment training.

Also, Medical and Law schools often appreciate the kind of well-rounded humanities education, languages, and research skills that an art history degree demands.
RELATED WEB SITES

Art History Network http://www.arthistory.net/jobs.html
Job Guide for Humanities and Social Sciences http://www.matrix.msu.edu/jobs/
MonsterTRAK www.monstertrak.com
Employment opportunities in art history
http://www.careers.ucr.edu/students/graduates/jobs/ArtHistory.html
Museumstuff.com http://www.museumstuff.com/links/history/employment/
Career Alternatives for Art Historians http://www.nd.edu/~crosenbe/jobs.html
Art Museum Network http://amn.org
The Association for Art History - national job listings, publications and conferences
http://www.indiana.edu/~aah
Association of Art Historians: news & issues, publications, jobs, resources
http://www.gold.ac.uk/aah
American Association of Museums http://www.aam-us.org
The Art History Network http://www.arthistory.net/
The Mother of All Art History Links Pages http://www.umich.edu/~hartspc/histart/mother/
Art History Resources on the Web http://witcombe.sbc.edu/ARTHLinks.html
The Art History Research Center http://art-history.concordia.ca/AHRC
Art History Network http://www.arthistory.net/index.html
The Metropolitan Museum of Art http://www.metmuseum.org
ArtSource http://www.ilpi.com/artsourcesourcehome.html
UCLA Arts Library: Selected Internet Sources in Art & Art History
http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/arts/websites/wwwart.htm
The Archive http://www.artarchive.com/core.html
ArtSiteGuide.com http://www.artsiteguide.com/