College of Liberal Arts
Degree Type(s)
B.A., B.F.A.

Link to major's website
B.F.A. degree requirements
B.A. degree requirements
Minor available

The B.A. in Art program provides instruction in the visual arts by emphasizing the various materials and concepts used to understand the nature of visual language. Students then choose additional courses from areas such as drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, photography, sculpture, and experimental and media arts. Admission is based on portfolio evaluation. The program is oriented toward professional practice or admission to a masters degree program.

The College of Liberal Arts Advantage: More Than a Major

When you study Art at the University of Minnesota, you gain the added advantage of a College of Liberal Arts education. At CLA, the liberal arts mean you get more than just a degree in one major or another; it means you will be exposed to different areas of study, to different ways of thinking and learning. In fact, the liberal arts teach you how to learn—how to ask the right questions, how to problem solve, and how to innovate. The liberal arts highlight the complexities of our world, because here at CLA you will study not just, say, politics or art but also where politics and art intersect, where science and ethics intersect, where economics and the environment intersect.
In summer 2017, graduating senior Prerna traveled with undergrads, grad students, and professors to the Documenta Art Festival in Germany, the Venice Biennale, and the Münster Sculpture Projects in a surprising and “serendipitous” schedule. Her travels dramatically changed her perspective on careers in the art world.

Read more about Prerna's story, and learn more about our undergraduate program.

Student Experiences

Internships: Gain Valuable Experience in the Twin Cities and Beyond

Did you know? CLA Career Services has its very own internship reflection course! Students taking an internship can use this course to reflect on ways that their work experience is preparing them for successful careers - and receive credit for the work.

Learning Abroad Options in Art: Prepare to Lead in a Global Economy

“We have shifted our view of study abroad from being simply an option for our students, to what is now an essential experience for those pursuing any of the art disciplines. The making of art doesn't happen in a vacuum and thus requires an expanded understanding of cultural, social, and historical dynamics that extend beyond our own familiar boundaries.”
—Clarence Morgan, Professor and Chair of the Department of Art

Learn more about study abroad for Art majors.

Student Organizations: Find Friends and Grow as a Leader

• Happy Accidents
Undergraduate Research: Turn Curiosity into New Knowledge

We encourage you to participate in research during your time at the U. There are many opportunities for collaboration between faculty and students in the Department of Art, and we strive to provide a supportive intellectual environment for student scholars from varying racial, ethnic, religious, social class, sexual identity, and national backgrounds.

Meet Our Faculty

Associate professor and multimedia artist Chris Larson tackles themes of history, location, and time, traveling all across the country. Now, as a 2018 Guggenheim Fellow, he spends a lot of his time in a basement in Tennessee. His advice: focus on the process and never turn down a show.

Read more about Professor Larson's work.
Howard Oransky fell upon Ana Mendieta’s artwork by chance forty years ago, inspiring him to curate the first full-scale gallery exhibition of her films. This fall, Covered in Time and History: The Films of Ana Mendieta was on view in Paris, with University of Minnesota contributors, alumni, and sponsors there to witness it.

Read more about Professor Oransky's work.

Meet Our Alumni

CLA Graduates: Successful Careers and Purposeful Lives

CLA graduates succeed in many different careers — law, health care, medicine, business, government, teaching, advertising, arts and entertainment, international relations, and more — precisely because they understand how to navigate a complex and interconnected world. As our alumni explain below, “Being a good employee means being curious, and continuing to evolve, and learn, and educate yourself, and I can think of no stronger foundation for doing that than a liberal arts education.”

“An education in the liberal arts is a springboard to lifelong career success”
-- Dean John Coleman

You might also explore

Graphic Design
Art History

Associated Careers

Architects, Art Directors, Audio-Visual Production Specialists, Craft Artists, Curators, Elementary, Middle, and High School Teachers, Fine Artists, Illustrators, Photographers, Recreational and Creative Arts Therapists

Admission Information

FRESHMAN: Admission information

TRANSFER STUDENTS: Requirements for the College of Liberal Arts

Beyond admission, if you have questions about transferring, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) has transfer advisors to help. Please feel free to contact them about any of the topics below!

• Course plans before transferring
• Estimated time to graduation
• Career preparation in CLA
• Getting ready for orientation, if admitted
• Connecting with major/minor departments