The Department of Art and Art History at The University of Alabama provides an innovative, energetic, and interdisciplinary learning environment that focuses on academic excellence in the areas of art history and studio art.
We provide specialized education for majors and minors, as well as offer general enrichment to students working within the broader context of a university-wide liberal arts curriculum.
Our graduate program in the Department of Art and Art History encourages a high level of creative thinking and intellectual inquiry, training students to become practicing artists, teachers in higher education, or professionals in other art or art-related fields.
Our introductory-level courses aim at developing in students a lifelong appreciation for the visual arts from a global perspective. Our upper-level curriculum continues this goal while also preparing students for graduate study or for positions within the art world, including museum administration, publishing, communication arts, and design.
Programs within the Department of Art and Art History provide an informative, resourceful atmosphere that encourages artistic initiative and scholarly investigation.
The Paul R. Jones Collection of American Art includes one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of 20th-century African American art in the world, amassed over decades by Paul Raymond Jones, who has been described by Art & Antiques magazine as “one of the top art collectors in the country.” Jones donated the 1,700-plus piece collection valued at more than $4.8 million to the College of Arts and Sciences at The University of Alabama in October of 2008. The collection includes art in a variety of media from more than 600 artists, including Romare Bearden, P. H. Polk, Jacob Lawrence, and Benny Andrews.
The Sarah Moody Gallery of Art in Garland Hall presents a year-round schedule of exhibitions devoted to contemporary arts, providing artistic and cultural enrichment for the university and West Alabama communities. Exhibits and lectures complement degree programs and courses in the Department of Art and Art History expressing diversity in visual arts, design, and the history of art and culture.
The Sella-Granata Art Gallery is housed in Woods Hall. It is a year-round student exhibition space featuring graduate and undergraduate thesis exhibitions, exchange exhibitions with other colleges and universities around the country, and provides venues for student-generated exhibition proposals.
More student work from the Department of Art and Art History.
Past participants in the Visiting Artists and Lecturers Program include Judy Pfaff, Mel Chin, Cornelia Parker, Deborah Willis, Yve-Alain Bois, Ursula Von Rydingsvard, Patterson Sims, and many others. The Paul R. Jones Lecture Series supports art history courses and enhances the way art works in the Paul R. Jones collection can be used in the curriculum. The series is sponsored by the Department of Art and Art History and the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences.
At the Annual Graduate Student Symposium in Art History graduate students present current research papers with a keynote address by a working scholar in art history.
The Crimson Ceramics Society is a student organization that brings visiting artists and lecturers to campus and holds a ceramics sale each year to raise funds for student scholarships.
Faculty members are committed to teaching excellence, research, and service. They incorporate traditional methods with emerging scholarship in their teaching and research, regularly publish in regional, national, and international publications, and participate in exhibitions and public presentations.
Financial Support for Graduate Students

Departmental half-time and full-time assistantships are available and awarded based on merit and faculty recommendation. The Graduate School offers Graduate Council Fellowships which require graduate faculty nomination.
With the Sarah Moody Gallery of Art, the Paul R. Jones Collection of American Art, and our other resources and programs, the Department of Art and Art History is an important resource for the university, and is an integral part of the local and statewide arts community.