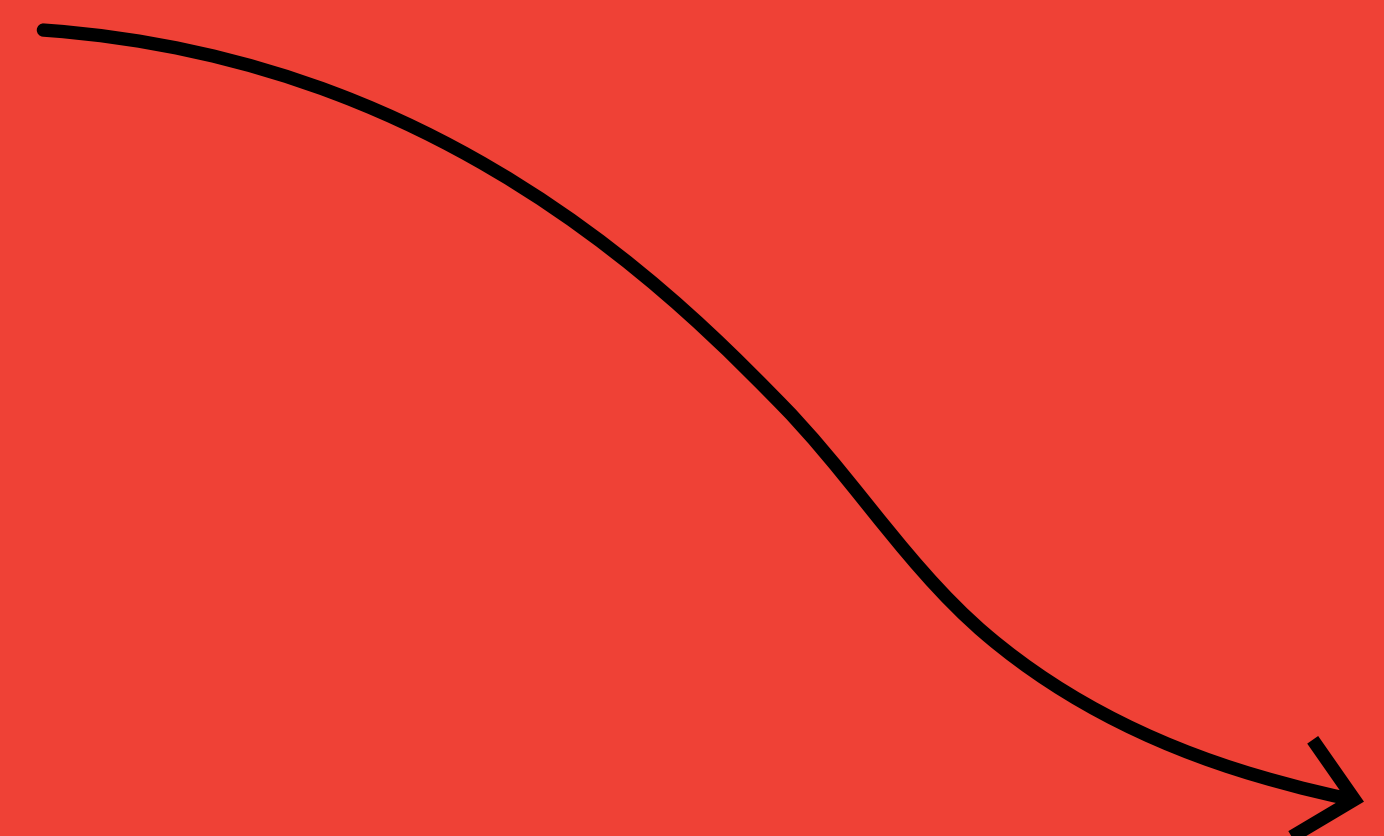


Cal Poly Pomona



2024

ART HISTORY  **RY**
Newsletter

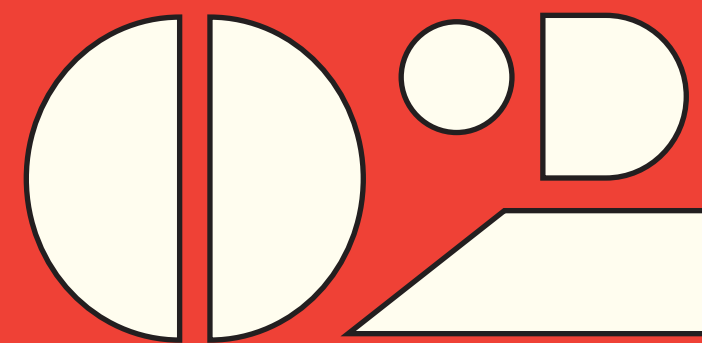


Department of Art
College of Environmental Design

CONTENTS



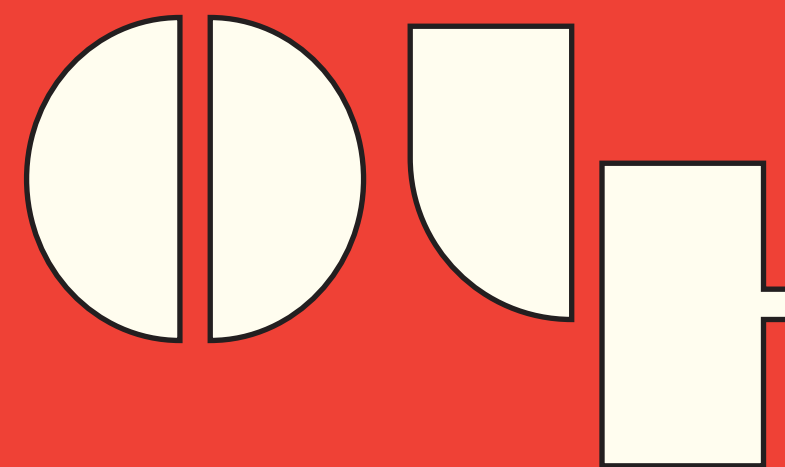
About Art History at CPP



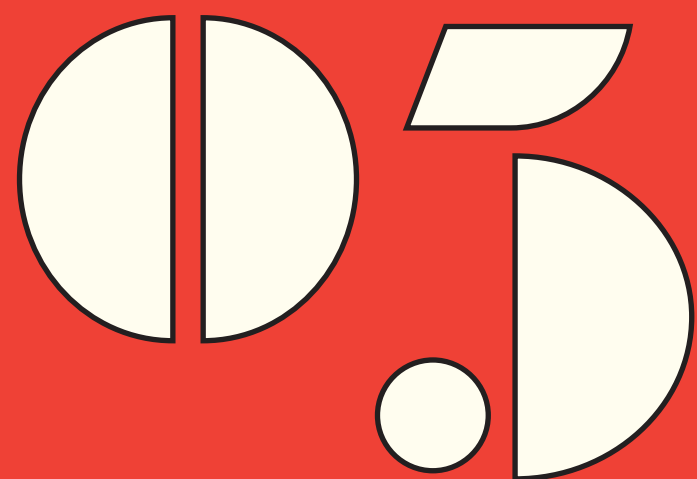
Faculty



Program News



Current Students



Alumni News



Career Paths in Art History

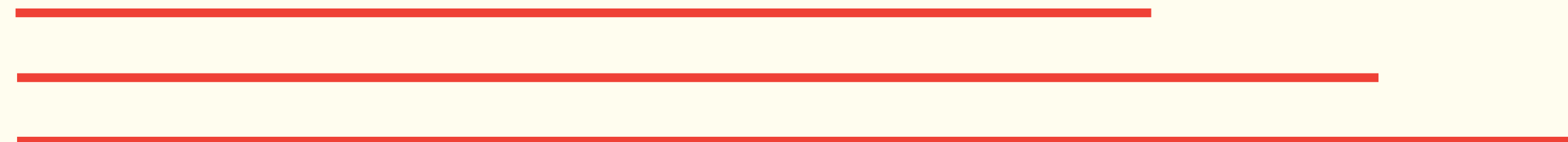
about art history at CPP

For the B.A. in Art History, our majors study the production, reception, and experience of art, architecture, design, mass media, and other artifacts that manifest visually or tangibly. Art historians may study any period, region, or cultural tradition. Our courses span the globe and every age. We regularly offer courses in areas as diverse as “Contemporary Art,” “Medieval Art,” “Japanese Art,” and “Art and Architecture of India.” Through such courses, students become familiar with significant works and styles, differing ways of interpreting them, and an understanding of the social functions and impacts of visual and material culture.

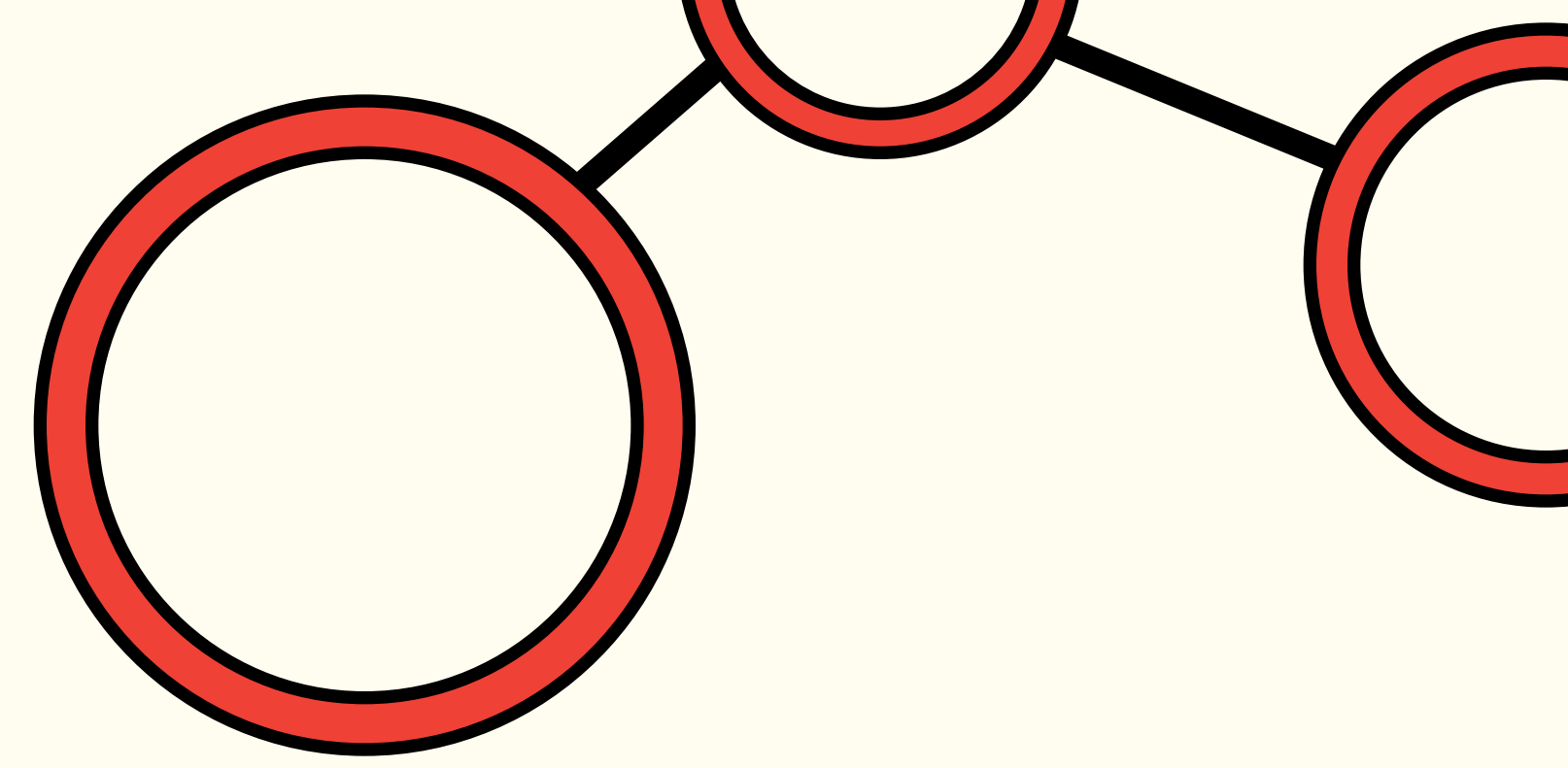
Students pursuing the B.A. in Art History must practice verbal and written communication as well as skills of interpretation, critical thinking, and research. These are foundations for various careers in and beyond art history. (A summary of common career paths for those with a B.A. in Art History is included in this document.) To best prepare students for careers in the field, our curriculum requires students to take elective courses for additional expertise or a minor most compatible with their goals. The faculty is dedicated to advising our students in this highly personal, yet consequential, process.



Art History 2023 Graduates



Faculty



Dr. Alison Pearlman

Ph.D., Art History, University of Chicago, 1997

Dr. Alison Pearlman has a love of writing and a penchant for interpreting trends in contemporary art, the marketing of culture, and food and restaurant design. What do trends say about the people who create them, those who buy into them, and the cultural conditions that foster the exchanges? Pearlman's books *Unpackaging Art of the 1980s*, *Smart Casual: The Transformation of Gourmet Restaurant Style in America*, and *May We Suggest: Restaurant Menus and the Art of Persuasion* span those interests. Pearlman teaches courses in modern and contemporary art and design history as well as the senior seminar for art history majors. For Pearlman, there is a moment in the senior seminar when the beauty of the art history program culminates and comes into focus: the students present their independent research in a conference-style talk with visual aids, and their peers offer them valuable feedback in a constructive and caring spirit. It is immensely gratifying to see the students reach a level of cultural and historical awareness, critical thought, and professional generosity that will sustain them in any career path.



Dr. Karlyn Griffith

Ph.D., Art History, Florida State University, 2014

Dr. Karlyn Griffith investigates how layers of meaning are built within the visual world of the Middle Ages, especially in popular culture. This line of inquiry takes Griffith from illustrated manuscripts to the reuse of Roman materials in medieval and early modern objects and spaces. Her recent publications explore the art of the book and analyze illustrated manuscripts as art objects, rather than merely receptacles of information. Griffith's research combines interdisciplinary approaches, such as from literature and archaeology, with traditional art historical practices of stylistic analysis and iconographical interpretation. These methods allow art to be viewed from the perspective of the cultures that made and used particular objects and monuments. They also form the framework of her courses. In class Griffith espouses the discipline of looking. This, combined with analyzing and articulating deductions, is the core of critical thinking. Students hone these skills in her Roman, Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque art and architecture courses. Griffith also coaches students in a other important and transferable skill: cogent, persuasive writing. Critical thinking and writing provide the foundation for success not just in college courses, but especially in navigating the inevitable twists in their future career paths.

Program News

Trying Again: What Do You Want from Graduate School (but didn't know you needed)?

On March 18, 2024, the B.A. in Art History held its annual Art History Speaker Series event. The purpose of the Series is to expose art history majors and other students in the College of Environmental Design to career paths and advanced research in the field.

This year, we were proud to have as our guest lecturer Alida Jekabson, a second-year doctoral student in the History of Art and Architecture at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she is also the Murray Roman Curatorial Fellow at the Art, Design, and Architecture Museum. Jekabson earned her M.A. in Art History and an Advanced Certificate in Curatorial Studies from Hunter College at the City University of New York.

Her talk, entitled "Trying Again: What Do You Want from Graduate School (but didn't know you needed)?" was generous and revelatory. Jekabson shared her experiences in the field, and how they shaped her personal and intellectual growth. She relayed her work in cultural institutions of varying sizes and specialties as an intern and curatorial assistant; how she got inspired to apply to graduate school; how she found, with persistence, the right doctoral

program for her; how she developed her research interests, and how she balanced working for a living with cultivating the resources and networks she needed to pursue art history.

Jekabson also described her diverse research interests, including the circulation of Latin American and Eastern European art and material culture in United States museums and world's fairs as well as transnational modern art related to craft, dress, and folk traditions. These specialties developed over years of work prior to entering the doctoral program at UCSB, through the internships she pursued while earning her M.A. and doing curatorial work at the Museum of Arts and Design as well as Wave Hill in New York.

At the end of her talk, Jekabson shared some work habits that have so far served her well. Among them, she stressed "taking risks—the first choice is not always the best choice," "seeing exhibitions or attending events outside [her] field/research interests," and "there is no rush; there is no...perfect timeline; take the time to get professional work experience (so you can treat school like a job)!"



Alida Jekabson

Current Students **Senior Thesis Papers**

Jessica Cho

"Analyzing Color and Light in Monet's Late Water Lilies"

Desiree Cormier

"After Congo Square: Voodoo Ritual Objects in a More Opressive Louisiana"

Rachel Dozier

"Bling Battles: Crafting Persona in Mid-2000s Hip-Hop through Chains and Grillz"

Lisette Guzman

"The Great Wall of Los Angeles: The Impact of the Mural on Minority Communities"

Robert Jeng

"Taking It to the Bank-sy: How the Artist Upended Conventions for Marketing and Valuing Art"

Maia Martinez

"Indispensable and Unconventional: Baroness Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven's Role in New York Dada"

Johanis Quiroz

"La Calavera Garbancera: How the Image Became an Icon for Day of the Dead"

Arely Villegas

"Beyond Asco: The Art of Patssi Valdez"

Stephen Woo

"The Artistic Origin of Memento Mori"



Follow [@arthistorycollectivecpp](https://www.instagram.com/arthistorycollectivecpp) on Instagram!

Georgette Collard

Congratulations to Georgette Collard (class of 2023), who, in Fall 2024, will enter California State University Fullerton's M.A. in Art History program. Undoubtedly, Georgette will bring a wide range of professional experiences to her graduate work.

Currently, she works as an exhibit specialist at Fullerton Museum Center. The Center, also known as the official Leo Fender Gallery, has a history of acclaimed exhibitions featuring works by artists as renowned as Andy Warhol and Jose Guadalupe Posada. Georgette's responsibilities encompass the conception, construction, and installation of exhibitions. In this role, she collaborates closely with the museum director and plays a key role in finalizing floor plans, determining lighting requirements, arranging objects, ensuring exhibit-casing security, and overseeing graphics. She enjoys a collaborative relationship with the Center's curators, who give her the opportunity to contribute to exhibition curation.

In December 2023, the Center debuted the first solo show Georgette curated. *Piazza Fantasia: An Ode to Angelo's and Vinci's Ristorante* honors Angelo's and Vinci's, a restaurant and Fullerton community staple, founded by actor and dancer Steven Peck and his wife Cynthia, in operation for fifty-two years. When the restaurant closed, the décor was donated to the Center. The exhibition, held in one of its small galleries, celebrates the restaurant's significant impact on Fullerton residents.

Alongside her position at the Center, Georgette has interned as an associate producer for the YouTube series "Arttrippin'," set to premiere in Spring 2025. Led by Dr. Megan Lorraine Debin, the series uniquely explores the history of art with a focus on marginalized artists.



Georgette Collard

alumni NEWS

Piper Bridgman



Piper Bridgman

Piper Bridgman (class of 2023) had the honor of presenting the senior thesis she wrote for her B.A. in Art History at Cal Poly Pomona at the 2024 State University of New York (SUNY) New Paltz Undergraduate Art History Symposium. This annual online event, launched in 2019, is open to applicants from all over the world and is highly competitive. Piper's acceptance speaks to the quality of her work while at CPP. (Not surprisingly, Piper was also honored at last year's commencement ceremony as a College of Environmental Design McPhee Scholar and Valedictorian!).

This year's Symposium was a four-day event that convened approximately 150 presenters. In an afternoon session of April 12, 2024, dedicated to art of the ancient world, Piper presented "The Curious Decline of *Damatio Memoriae* and Its Failure to Fully Revitalize." Of the six scholars in her session, Piper was the sole representative from the entire west coast.

When not otherwise distinguishing herself, Piper has been busy taking organic chemistry, a requirement for applying to graduate programs in her desired specialty of art conservation.

CAREER PATHS

Scholarship

Required Credentials:

A Ph.D. in Art History or Visual Studies is required. Depending on the field of specialization, a Ph.D. in Classical Studies or Archaeology may be an appropriate alternative.

Recommended while an Undergraduate at CPP:

Students may pursue minors offered at CPP that are compatible with their interests in graduate education. The History Minor, for example, is always complementary to art history. Alternatively, since a Ph.D. in Art History or Visual Studies will require an examination in graduate school in two foreign languages, French or German is recommended, additional coursework or a minor in French may be desirable. Students with an interest in the burgeoning field of digital humanities—which includes digital art history, a growing specialization within art history scholarship—may wish instead to pursue the minor in Digital Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts (Digital Media).

Curatorship

Required Credentials:

Typically, a master's degree is required for museum curating. M.A. degrees in Art History, Museum Studies, or Curatorial Studies are relevant.

Recommended while an Undergraduate at CPP:

Pursue a museum or gallery internship while a senior. The art history faculty regularly announces and encourages internship opportunities at local museums. The Curator of the university's Kellogg Art Gallery and Huntley Art Gallery regularly offers work opportunities for students. We offer academic credit for only one, the Gallery Assistant Internship supervised by the Curator of the university's Kellogg Art Gallery and Huntley Art Gallery. For the Gallery Assistant Internship at the Kellogg and Huntley galleries, students assist in the research of artists and artworks, art-collection inventory, production of exhibition checklists, art labeling and captioning, cataloging, archiving and documenting collections, and maintenance of data. The position is ideal for students interested in learning art collections management and other related museum and gallery skills. Required duties also include gallery attendance (greeting patrons, attendance-taking, distributing visitor surveys, providing security for artworks), general gallery maintenance (painting, cleaning, etc.), assisting with installation and de-installation of artworks (help with moving walls, art handling, hanging and presenting artwork, unpacking and packing of artworks, lighting of artworks), assisting with receptions and events, promotion through social media, and some administrative and clerical duties. Majors in art history may be given specialized projects to build further professional skills and expertise.

Museum Education

Required Credentials:

An M.A. in Museum Education or Museum Studies is typical.

Recommended while an Undergraduate at CPP:

Consider pursuing a museum internship while a senior.

Art Conservation

Required Credentials:

An M.A. in Art Conservation or Technical Art History is required.

Recommended while an Undergraduate at CPP:

Graduate programs in this area may require a record of specific courses taken and/or work experience. For an example, see the UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology's UCLA/Getty M.A. in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage <http://conservation.ucla.edu/>. The site lists the requirements for admission into the program. Typically, applicants must have a B.A. in a relevant area (such as art history); a variety of additional coursework in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences; and documented practical experience in conservation.

Collections Management

Required Credentials:

Collections managers typically work in museums, but may also work in any institution that requires managing a collection of objects. Librarianship is vast. There are librarians in corporate, public, academic, museum, and government institutions. For collections management, it is common to have an M.A. in Collections Management or a master's degree in Library and Information Science (MLIS). Those wishing to pursue Art Librarianship should additionally pursue an M.A. in Art History. Some graduate programs, such as the Pratt Institute in New York City, ready students for both degrees.

Recommended while an Undergraduate at CPP:

Students who want to pursue collections management for museums or other art-exhibiting institutions should consider a museum internship while a senior. Those who think they might want to work in libraries should consider interning in a library. They may need to take a college-level course in statistics that includes descriptive and inferential statistics and pass it with at least a C. Admission to the MLIS at UCLA, for example, requires such a course.

Art Editing & Publishing

Required Credentials:

With a B.A. in Art History, a student will have a good foundation in the subject area, but will need further development of skills in writing and editing, journalism and publishing. This can be accomplished in many ways, including work experience and education credentials. An M.A. in English, Journalism, or Arts Journalism is a fine option for the latter.

Recommended while an Undergraduate at CPP:

Consider pursuing an English minor, a Journalism minor, or a double major in English or in Communications.

Art Administration

Required Credentials:

An M.A. in Arts Administration or Arts Management or Art Business (depending on area of interest) is desirable. The Sotheby's Institute of Art at Claremont Graduate University, for example, offers an M.A. in Art Business and an M.A. in Arts Management.

Recommended while an Undergraduate at CPP:

Consider a minor in Finance, Marketing Management, Business Law, or General Management.

Art Law

Required Credentials:

Acquire a J.D. (Juris Doctor degree) specializing in intellectual-property law or, as offered by Case Western Reserve University, a dual degree of J.D./M.A. (Art History and Museum Studies).

Recommended while an Undergraduate at CPP:

Choose a Political Science Minor, and, from the elective courses, select those pertaining to law. Take the LSAT exam (required for application to law schools).



Designed by

Quinn Andrews | Fernanda Castillo | Charlotte Wong

