

## JD / MA PROGRAM IN LAW AND HISTORY OF ART

### 1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The goal of the program is to produce Law School graduates sophisticated in the understanding of artworks and their histories. Art law is becoming a field of increasing prominence both in legal practice and legal research. For law students interested in the area, an MA in art history would provide invaluable experience with art in a curatorial or museum context and in an academic setting, with potential application to law practice. Students will be introduced to methods of art historical research and to theories of visual culture as well as to the analytic language of the art historical discipline.

### 2. ADMISSION

The JD/MA in Art History Program admits a small number of carefully selected applicants each year. This policy assures the individual student attention that is critical to a productive academic experience. Admission to the program is contingent upon admission to the Law School. Admission to the JD/MA Program in Art History is not necessarily dependent upon previous art historical course work or any other specific program of study at the undergraduate level. Students are selected for intellectual promise, skill in spoken and written communication, and conceptual and analytical ability. All prospective students are encouraged to contact the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Art, Art History & Visual Culture before applying, in order to discuss the program and its suitability for their individual goals.

### 3. COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS

The JD/MA in Art History student is required to complete a total of eight graded courses (24 graded units) for completion of the MA degree. Of the eight courses, the student may request permission from her advisor to take up to two courses in other departments and up to two independent studies, depending on whether the student elects the thesis or the non-thesis degree track (see Thesis and Non-Thesis Track below). Students should select courses that enable her/him to gain mastery in one field within the discipline (see Plan of Study below). For students

electing to write a thesis, work in these areas will form the basis of their Master's thesis. Please note that the Graduate School establishes specific J.D./M.A. requirements that students should read carefully. These requirements can be found at Requirements for JD/MA/MS. In particular, note that the student will pay tuition for 30 credit units even if only 24 credit units are graded (the remaining 6 credit units will be recorded as ungraded research units). Students should also note that joint degrees are interdependent. If the full requirements of both degrees are not met, the student will not receive either degree.

#### 4. PLAN OF STUDY

Upon acceptance into the program, each student must write up a one-page plan of study in consultation with an advisor within the Department. The plan of study should specify a major area of concentration as well as a specific subject area (i.e. medieval art with a concentration on sculpture; contemporary architecture with a concentration on public monuments; art and markets). This plan of study should also outline the relationship between these subject areas and the student's interests in law and legal issues (i.e. the trafficking of *spolia*; intellectual property). It should be updated and revised each February, at which time it is submitted to the entire faculty for review.

#### 5. WORKING WITH AN ADVISOR

All students must select a primary advisor. This advisor should have expertise in the area of concentration designated by the student. Students on the thesis-track must also assemble a committee of two additional faculty members whose work intersects with that of the student's elected subfields.

#### 6. THESIS AND NON-THESIS TRACK

The JD/MA program in Art History enables students to follow one of two tracks, a **thesis track** or a **course-intensive track**.

**a. Thesis track:** In addition to 6 courses in the department, students on the thesis track will take 2 additional independent studies in their second or third years. At the end of the first unit of independent study, the student will produce a 10-15 page annotated bibliography that reviews the major literature of relevance to the thesis. This bibliography can draw on course work done over the previous 2 years, and will be evaluated by the student's committee. At the end of the second unit, they will be expected to produce a thesis of 30-40 pages in length. Upon completion of the thesis, the student will have an oral defense of the thesis with a committee of 3 professors (his/her advisor and 2 others). The defense will occur at the end of the 6th semester, after all the other Master's requirements have been fulfilled, and after the written work has been read and approved by

the three committee members. This will constitute the culmination of the Master's program and fulfillment of all necessary work for the degree

**b. Course-intensive track:** Students on this track will take 8 classes in the department. Upon completion of coursework, students in this track will select 3 exemplary papers written during the course of their Master's program. These papers will be read by the student's advisor and 2 other members of the graduate faculty of the department. The student will have an oral defense with this committee to discuss the papers. This will constitute the culmination of the Master's program and fulfillment of all necessary work for the degree.

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