Departmental Facilities

The M.A. and Ph.D. programs in Art History offer advanced training in the study of visual and material culture from the Middle Ages to the present. The Department is strongly committed to the training of graduate students in a variety of approaches, methodologies, and issues including the study of art, science and technology; gender, class and society; material culture and object-based analysis; museums, collecting and cultural policy; word and image studies, and post-colonial analysis.

The Department of Art History and Art Conservation, offers, at the graduate level, in addition to the Ph.D. and the M.A. in Art History, the M.A.C. in Art Conservation. Recognizing the increasing need for art historians to know more about the history of technique, restoration, and the relation of conservation to art history, the Department has developed a number of advanced courses in the area of interaction between conservation and art history. It is uniquely equipped to do so with the art conservation program and its laboratories on campus and with several art historians and conservators actively doing research in the area. Ph.D. students interested in the overlap between the two disciplines have the option of carrying out a Ph.D. in Art History focusing on the field, Studies in Art History and Art Conservation. The interaction between art history and the museum is also addressed in advanced courses in the Department, which offers course credit to graduate students in art history for a practicum for M.A. students at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre and a directed research program for Ph.D. students in collaboration with the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Liaison is also maintained with other Departments in the Humanities, particularly Classics, English, History, the Languages, Gender Studies, and Cultural Studies, so that graduate students may take additional courses in such fields if needed. In the Sciences, interdepartmental liaison is maintained particularly with Chemistry and Physics, which are of interest to the art conservation program.

The Art Library located in the Stauffer Library comprises some 60,000 items (including exhibition catalogues) on all aspects of art history and on art technology, restoration, conservation and exhibition, supplemented by microfiche and microfilm facilities. The Department holds some 400,000 images of architecture, painting and sculpture, art technology, restoration, and conservation, in digital and traditional formats. Vast digital collections of texts and images are also available through the Queen's libraries. Graduate students also have access to the computers, printers, scanners, and software necessary for textual and visual research in the Winifred Ross Multimedia Room. Extensive Canadian archival material on art and architecture is also available elsewhere in Stauffer Library and the University Archives. The library also has rich holdings of rare books, including an unusually strong collection of European architectural treatises.

The Agnes Etherington Art Centre, which has a close working relationship with the Department, offers outstanding collections of West African, Inuit, First Nations, European, and Canadian art, including costumes, quilts, and decorative arts, and runs a vital exhibition schedule of contemporary art. Part of the permanent collection is on display at all times; the rest, which is in storage, is available to graduate students by appointment. The Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN), which permits access to information about the holdings of public collections across the country, is also accessible to graduate students through the Art Centre.

Financial Assistance

Apart from national and provincial awards, Graduate Awards may be made by the Department on the basis of merit. Teaching assistantships may be available to students in both the art conservation and art history programs. At the M.A. level, the Joseph S. Stauffer Foundation Scholarship is available to a student entering the second year of the Master’s program in Art History with evidence of intent to write a thesis on a topic in Canadian Art or Architecture. At the Ph.D. level, several Bader Fellowships, valued up to $30,000 each, will be awarded each year for research in Europe.