

FINE ART

Professor & Head of Department

D Thorburn, BFA, MFA(Rhodes), TPP(New Mexico)

Professor

R Simbao, BFA(Stell), MWS, MPhil(Toronto), AM, PhD(Harvard)

Associate Professor

M de Jager, BFA, MFA(Wits)

Senior Lecturers

C Dixie, BFA(Wits), MFA(UCT)

B Mestre, BFA, MFA, PGDHE(Rhodes)

P Mnyaka, BA, BSS (Hons), MA, PhD(Fort Hare)

N Western, BFA, MFA(Wits)

T Poole, BFA, MFA(Rhodes)

Lecturers

Z Nsele, BFA, MA(Rhodes)

The Department of Fine Art, which is part of the Faculty of Humanities, provides comprehensive tuition in the practical and theoretical or historical aspects of the visual arts. In addition to offering an invaluable education for professional practice, courses offered by the department provide an advantageous grounding for students planning careers in arts education and the creative industries - including arts administration, community arts and curation. Most undergraduate students enroll for a BFA, a professional 4 year honours equivalent degree.

Studio Practice courses are those in which students engage with art making. Art History & Visual Culture courses do not involve the making of art but are studies in the theory and history of visual representations.

Students studying Studio Practice must also study Art History & Visual Culture as a major. Students may, however, study Art History & Visual Culture independently without also studying Studio Practice - either as a major or for only one or two year.

For the Rules that apply to Fine Art degrees and diploma, refer to the Faculty of Humanities Rules in this Calendar.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT

STUDIO PRACTICE

Studio Practice 1

Students are introduced to specialist media and a diversity of working methods through a series of projects. A programme of drawing is also taught.

Studio Practice 2

Students continue their study of specialist media and a diversity of working methods through elective projects. A complementary programme of drawing is also taught.

Studio Practice 3

Each student is based in a specialist media area (Digital Arts, Painting, Photography, Printmedia, or Sculpture) but, may work across media areas.

Teaching is primarily via projects leading toward a self-directed focus.

Studio Practice 4

Students remain based in a specialist media area (Digital Arts, Painting, Photography, Printmedia, or Sculpture) but may work trans-media. Lecturers support and facilitate the making of a cohesive and self-directed body of work.

ART HISTORY & VISUAL CULTURE

Art History & Visual Culture 1

There are four broad themes constituting the course material, each of which is explored in a term. These typically include: Popular Culture; Art Genres; Museums and the Politics of Display; Space and Meaning.

Art History & Visual Culture 2

This course offers an exploration of Modernist and Postmodernist practices in the visual arts. It goes beyond Western Modernism and Postmodernism discussed in the typical canon of Art History, and includes courses on African Modernisms and contemporary Global Art.

Art History & Visual Culture 3

The course focuses on select topics within the overall theme of “Art, Power and Society”. The curriculum includes courses on local as well as international topics.

Art History & Visual Culture 4

This course, which is only for BFA students, comprises two courses and a research essay.

POST-GRADUATE STUDIES OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT

Art History Honours (BA Hons)

This course comprises three papers, as well as an independently researched long essay (of approximately 10 000-15 000 words). To be considered for entrance into this course, students must have completed a major in Art History and should have achieved above-average marks in their final year of undergraduate study.

Master of Arts in Art History (MA)

Students write a thesis on an approved topic within the field of Art History. To be considered for entrance into this study, students must have completed either an Honours degree in Art History or a BFA.

Master of Fine Art (MFA)

Two options are offered for this degree:

Option A: The degree is by Practice as Research and the candidate produces an exhibition or installation of original work as well as a dissertation of 12 000 – 15 000 words positioning this artwork in relation to an existent body of work or theory.

Option B: The degree is in Curatorial Practice which caters specifically for candidates looking to develop their capacities and understanding of professional curatorial practices. A candidate is required to curate an exhibition (rather than producing an exhibition of own work) in an established art museum or gallery and to develop a thesis of between 25 000 and 30 000 words exploring the curatorial theme, logistic approach, and exhibition strategy.

Doctor of Philosophy in Art History (PhD)

Students write a thesis on an approved topic within the field of Art History. To gain entrance into this study, students would normally have completed an MA in Art History. Students who have completed a MFA rather than an MA may qualify for entrance into the degree if they have strong abilities in history and theory.