Philosophy

The philosophy of the Fine Arts Department centers on the concept that observational skills are the cornerstone of all visual art disciplines. Cognition and processing of information are in fact key skills in any discipline, whether in the humanities or in the sciences. Studio classes are small and students from beginners to majors receive individual instruction. Every student is encouraged to develop the technical and analytical skills necessary to create artwork. The Fine Arts Department program is specifically geared towards enhancing visual perception. Such finely tuned skills can be of professional and personal benefit to any person.

Facilities

The Marshall Fine Arts Center, built in 1987, consists of classrooms for painting/drawing and photography. The painting/drawing studio is equipped for creating oil/acrylic painting, mixed media work, and work on paper. The photography facilities are composed of black/white darkrooms and are outfitted with the latest enlargers and a 26-inch roller processor for printing color. Additional digital facilities are located elsewhere. The foundry building, completed in 2005, has sculpture workshops for wood-working, clay, plaster, welding, and bronze casting. Printmaking is currently located in Locker Building adjacent to Ryan Gym. It is a fully equipped studio with facilities in etching, lithography, silkscreen, relief, and digital printmaking. Fine Art senior studios are located in Parker House, including nine individual studios with 24-hour access.

Faculty

The fine arts faculty members are: Professor William Williams, a photographer; Professor Ying Li, a painter; Associate Professor Hee Sook Kim, a printmaker; Associate Professor Markus Baenziger, Sculptor. The faculty members are active artists exhibiting their work regularly in the Mid-Atlantic region, nationally and internationally. Visiting artists sponsored by the Distinguished Visitors Committee of the College are an active component of the teaching program.

Curriculum

The 100 level represents our Introductory or Foundation courses and it consists of a selection of half-semester courses. A student may choose four out of five mediums: drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, and printmaking for credit. While one half-semester course does not allow sufficient time for a beginning student to master a given medium, a half semester gives ample time for acquiring a medium’s basic skills. In each discipline, the student learns to see and learns to coordinate his/her increasing skills of interpretation and expression to create individual art works.

The 200 level courses are called "Materials and Techniques." Having gained a solid basis from the Foundation courses, the student chooses a medium to pursue in depth for a
semester. At this level, the student is encouraged to explore the various materials and their uses to create a refined and distinctive body of work.

The 300 level courses are named "Experimental Studio," and continue where the 200 level courses left off. Here the student uses the acquired knowledge of materials and techniques in order to further express and broaden his/her artistic vision and ideas. In addition to scheduled classes, students are encouraged to work outside of class in the fine arts building on their own work. Adjacent faculty studios encourage this informal contact which is invaluable in learning the discipline of art making. This type of contact and mentoring is an important aspect of a student’s education in our department.

The 400 level course is "Senior Departmental Studies." The student reviews the depth and extent of experience gained, and in doing so creates a coherent body of work expressive of the student's insights and skills. At the end of the senior year the student is expected to produce a show of his or her work as a thesis requirement.

Major Requirements

Fine arts majors are required to concentrate in either painting, drawing, sculpture, photography or printmaking: four 100 level foundation courses in each discipline; two different 200 level courses outside the area of concentration; two 200 level courses and one 300-level course within that area; three art history courses to be taken at Bryn Mawr College or equivalent, and Senior Departmental Studies 499. For majors intending to do graduate work, it is strongly recommended that they take an additional 300 level studio course within their area of concentration and an additional art history course at Bryn Mawr College.

Minor Requirements

Fine arts minors are required to take four of 100-level foundation courses in painting (or drawing), sculpture, printmaking, and photography; two 200-level courses and one 300-level course within the chosen area of study; and one art history/theory/criticism, or visual culture course.

Graduates

About 20% of Haverford College students will take fine arts courses while enrolled in the College. The students who do major in fine arts and who wish to continue their education are able to get into the professional graduate art school of their choice. Our alumni are distinguished professionals active in the visual, creative arts and allied fields.