In an increasingly disposable world, works of art and visual culture from across time and place continue to speak to us, although what they say may change. Understanding how visual and material choices create meaning, and how those meanings express and affect the world, is the pursuit of art history.

The mission of the Department of Art at Chapman University is to offer a comprehensive education that develops the technical, perceptual, theoretical, historical, and critical expertise needed for successful careers in visual art, graphic design and art history. The department supports artists, designers, and scholars within a rigorous liberal arts environment that enriches the human mind and spirit. We foster the artistic and academic growth necessary to encourage lifelong study and practice of the arts through a curriculum that contains strong foundation and history components as a basis for continued innovations in contemporary practice and scholarship.
Majoring and Minoring in Art History

Our program is founded on the principal that art is a vital feature of visual and material culture, especially in relation to the politics of space, place and representation. The capacity to critically examine how the visual world shapes, creates, and constitutes our reality, and the ability to articulate those concepts, is deeply consequential.

Art History majors go on to become curators, conservators, art restorers, art dealers, art auctioneers, architects and architectural historians, teachers and professors, cultural heritage workers, journalists, filmmakers, game design consultants, and lawyers, to name only a selection.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

• Our faculty are specialists in the fields of: Ancient Mediterranean culture; cultural heritage protection, and the archaeology of human activity in space; Latin American visual and material culture; East Asian art; European and American modernism; Russian and Soviet art; history of photography; Black American art; and contemporary art.

• We work closely with The Escalette Collection, which focuses on modern and contemporary art and is an accessible resource for the campus community.

• Art History majors pursue internships in cultural institutions across the United States.

SAMPLE COURSES OFFERED FOR A MAJOR IN ART HISTORY

• Brazilian Art 1500–2000
• The Ancient Greek City
• Arts of China and Japan
• Art of the Ancient Americas
• The Art of Fashion
• Black Subjects in White Art History
• Gender, Art, and Western Culture
• Soviet/Post-Soviet Art
• Culture(s) of Outer Space
• History of Photography

48 UNITS TOTAL

MINOR REQUIREMENTS:

• Minor in Art History

24 UNITS TOTAL

Learn More

For more information on how to apply, please contact the Office of Admissions at admit@chapman.edu or (714) 997-6611 or visit their webpage at www.chapman.edu/admission/index.aspx.

To visit the art department website, please scan the QR code.

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