The Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Art prepares students for a professional career in the field of contemporary studio art, with an emphasis on interdisciplinary practice. Graduates will be cultural producers, fluent in technical, theoretical and professional components of a 21st Century artistic practice. Graduates will be prepared to compete in the field of visual art, where they may make their contribution as artists, curators, critics, gallerists and teachers.

Curriculum

The BFA in Art offers a comprehensive curriculum that encourages students to work together and combine efforts and learning experiences in a shared creative environment. First and Second year students explore a broad range of media such as painting, drawing, photography, ceramics and transdisciplinary studio in foundation courses designed to develop technical proficiencies. The degree also exposes students to the context and history of contemporary art in classes such as; Modernism, Contemporary Art History, and Contemporary Gallery Practice, where students regularly visit galleries in Los Angeles. Juniors and Seniors take medium specific and interdisciplinary studio courses that promote critical and conceptual thinking which feed the development of individual artistic voices. The capstone experience cumulates in Junior and Senior exhibitions in the Guggenheim gallery where students learn how to write artists statements, hang and promote their exhibitions. Biannually, students work together to install shows juried by visiting professional artists and gallerists.

Visual Thinker Lecture Series

The Department of Art hosts lectures every semester designed for students to explore visual culture from a wide range of art professionals across disciplines offering opportunities to learn, be inspired, and network. Recent scholars and artist include: Lexis-Olivier Ray, Kimberli Meyer, lauren woods, April Bey, Nancy Baker Cahill, Mark Steger, June Edmonds, Rachel Mason, Zachary Drucker, Andrea Bowers, Curtis Santiago, Cara Despain, Dr. Nizan Shaked, and Rachel Epp Buller. www.chapman.edu/wilkinson/art/speaker-series.aspx

The Art Club

The Chapman University Art Club (CUAC) is a student led organization which provides a platform for community and social activities related to artistic practice outside of usual course curriculum. Students lead out of class critiques and exhibitions, and organize visits to contemporary galleries, museums, and art openings, immersing themselves in the dynamic Southern California art community.

Mentorships

Students work closely with a faculty committee on their capstone BFA Senior exhibition over the duration of a semester to brainstorm, prepare, & learn to professionally install their exhibition.

Internships

The department has established relationships with several top tier galleries in Los Angeles, and offer students competitive internships that provide professional experience and an insider’s look at the contemporary art world. Students have participated in internships with various artists, museums and galleries in the LA area including; Tyler Park Presents, Gavlak Gallery, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibition(LACE), American Museum of Ceramic Art, Francios Ghebaly Gallery, and others.

- BFA Senior Exhibition, Kennedy Cardenas
- Guggenheim Gallery
- BFA Junior Exhibition, Sloan Watson
Interdisciplinary

Our upper division 384 courses are an opportunity for students to engage in contemporary topics and create works using various mediums. Some of our 384 offerings are; Art and Spirituality, Installation Art, Curatorial Practices, and The Intersection of Art and Science, Collaborations with NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

▼ Eugene Kim, Studio Art Major

Guggenheim Gallery

The Guggenheim Gallery is the art program’s central hub to see productions from emerging and established artists as well as student work. A team of student gallery assistants and interns under supervision of the gallery coordinator helps research, curate, install, and document 2-4 curated exhibitions per year. The various gallery activities such as exhibitions, receptions, and workshops present a multitude of opportunities to see and learn about contemporary art as well as interact and make connections with exhibiting artists. Every spring our juniors and seniors curate their thesis exhibitions and every semester the departmental exhibition shows a large selection of student work. The gallery’s upper mezzanine offers a year-round exhibition and critique space that is utilized for in-class debates as much as student organized exhibitions, performances, and screenings. Follow us on Instagram @guggenheim.gallery

Liberal Arts Core

Students have the opportunity and freedom to explore a range of topics, concerns, and methodologies from historical culture, formal analysis and iconography to material culture, social history, and gender studies within their General Education core.

International Opportunities

Study the History of Art & Science in Florence, Italy

During the Interterm course ‘The Origins of Art and Science, the Rise of Machines, Technology and Astronomy,’ students have the opportunity to spend a month in Florence, Italy tracing the interconnection of Art and Science during the Italian Renaissance. This class explores the historical origins of art and science through sculpture, architecture, and painting.

Study International Cuisine and Curating

Learn to cook local Mediterranean cuisine in Greece and Italy, while studying the ancient and contemporary art histories of western Europe and the world. The biannual summer travel course, Art 389, makes pilgrimage to the renowned Venice Biennale, tours the expansive quinquennial exhibition Documenta (in Kassel, Germany), and examines curatorial strategies in both contemporary and historic museums and galleries in Athens, Berlin, Venice, and Kassel.

Global Studies

Chapman University students are encouraged to participate in study abroad programs in almost every part of the world. Studying abroad provides a unique opportunity which can open up fresh perspectives on international political, economic and social issues, interpersonal relationships and ultimate career choices. Please visit: http://studyabroad.chapman.edu/ for more information.
New students applying to the BFA Art program must submit both the Creative Supplement and Common Application. The Creative Supplement application requires the following pieces to be uploaded (please visit: https://www.chapman.edu/admission/undergraduate/applynow.aspx, for more information.)

The Department of Art Portfolio application requires you to submit four items to be considered:

1. **Statement of Interest:**
   The Department of Art at Chapman University is committed to fostering interdisciplinary dialogues. Please describe why you are interested in studying studio art at Chapman University, including your artistic and educational goals, and the academic and non-academic interests that influence your art. (500 words or fewer)

2. **Statement of two most successful works:**
   Art is visual communication. Pick the two most successful works in your portfolio and explain what makes them the most significant, including how the formal elements of the works support their meaning. (500 words or fewer)

3. **Signed Letter of Recommendation:**
   The letter of recommendation should be from an art teacher or art mentor that speaks to your creative talents and merits as a student. This letter is in addition to the letter of recommendation required in your Common Application, so you would be submitting two letters total.

4. **Media Uploads:**
   Upload 8-10 pieces from your portfolio that you feel best demonstrates your artistic talents. You may include design, drawing, photography, painting, ceramics, sculpture, or video. If AI generated tools are used in your portfolio, please identify in your statement and in the corresponding images which programs you used and why.

Current Chapman students wishing to declare a Major or Minor in Art must first meet first with one of the Studio Art full-time faculty: Professors Micol Hebron (hebron@chapman.edu), Lia Halloran (halloran@chapman.edu), David Kiddie (kiddie@chapman.edu), or Julie Shafer (jshafer@chapman.edu) to discuss the program & requirements. If you decide to move forward with the application, all the pieces listed above are required in order for your application to be considered.

Please visit: https://www.chapman.edu/admission/undergraduate/applynow.aspx or art@chapman.edu for more information.