INTRODUCTION

Eastern’s bachelor of arts degree in Visual Arts is designed to promote academic excellence through strong, distinctive art programs that embrace diverse artistic disciplines and encourage cultural understanding. The program’s award-winning faculty engage in a wide range of creative approaches to art making and aesthetic and historical discourse.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Eastern’s Visual Arts program provides concentrations in art history, digital art and design, painting and drawing, printmaking, and sculpture. These concentrations give students the foundation they need to pursue advanced degrees or other courses of study.

The art history concentration is designed to acquaint students with world art of the past and present and to develop students’ understanding of style and the ways in which art can illuminate and perpetuate a culture’s history, beliefs, and values. The program encourages students to travel abroad and prepares students for careers in the museum and gallery world.

Eastern’s digital art and design concentration is a well-integrated program with its roots firmly planted in the fundamentals of art making. The program’s faculty are exhibiting studio artists as well as design and new media professionals. They strive to offer courses that reflect the dynamic nature of the design and new media field, and prepare their students to enter the professional world with a solid understanding of both design and technology.

The painting and drawing concentration aims towards the development of the ability to organize effectively and express a set of personal ideas in visual form. Students use basic tools, techniques, and processes to work from concept to finished product. Students can study painting and drawing abroad through a summer program that takes them to different countries to make artwork and experience different cultures.

The printmaking concentration educates and trains students in the art of printmaking in an inspiring, stimulating, and safe environment. Students learn traditional as well as other alternative methods, using nontoxic printmaking applications.

The sculpture concentration works with a variety of materials. Emphasis is on creative expression and the relationship of content and form. Sculpture students learn figurative modeling, carving in various materials, metal construction and mixed media assemblage, and ceramic sculpture.

TRENDS IN THE FIELD

Visual Art students are increasingly participating in professional off-campus internships, and work closely with Eastern’s Akus Gallery. Digital imagery has become an important part of the department as a whole. The Digital Art program now offers studies in 2D and 3D animation, allowing students the opportunity to break free from commercial boundaries in the field. Students take a wide range of courses that prepare them for illustration, art therapy, or museum work, as well as graphic design professions.
STUDENT SUCCESS

Graduates of Eastern’s Visual Arts program are currently employed by Wadsworth Atheneum; AAA; Aetna; Associated Press; Connecticut Magazine; ESPN; Essex Art Center; Greenwich Web Works; Les Howe Associates; Miranda Creative; Moroso Performance Products; Reminder newspapers; Stanley Works; Sonalysts Studios; Timex, Inc.; The Chronicle; Thompson Elementary School; and Yale University. Students have progressed to graduate study programs at a wide range of colleges such as Western Connecticut State University and Pratt Institute, NY.

CAREER OPTIONS

- Advertising and marketing
- Art conservator
- Art director
- Art librarian
- Art restorer
- Art teacher
- Art therapist
- Artist representative
- Arts administrator
- Commercial artist
- Creative director
- Curator
- Drafting technician
- Exhibition designer
- Fashion designer
- Gallery director
- Graphic designer
- Illustrator
- Industrial designer
- Information designer
- Interior designer
- Jewelry designer
- Leader industries
- Model maker
- Museum guide
- New media designer
- Professional artist (book arts, digital and new media artist, installation artist, painter, printmaker, sculptor)
- Three-dimensional renderer/designer
- Visual resources curator

“The time and energy spent at Eastern’s Art Department proved immensely worthwhile. The faculty was exceptional, offering multi-faceted approaches to learning. A tapestry of ideas emerged — and perhaps more importantly — were encouraged. Eastern’s art instructors were deeply honest and sensitive to the needs of their students. Thanks to the Art Department, I was able to see two wonderful monks make a sand mandala. I heard powerful lectures and saw equally powerful imagery. I was challenged both in and out of the studio classes and lecture rooms. Hence, I was given tools and resources that will serve me well for years to come.”

HILLARY OPPERMAN ’09

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Visual Arts Department Chair Gail Gelburd at (860) 465-0195 or gelburdg@easternct.edu or Carla Sheldon at (860) 465-0197; or visit www.easternct.edu/visualarts/.