

## GRADUATE PROGRAM IN ART

### School of Art Montana State University

#### MASTER OF FINE ARTS PROGRAM

The MFA degree requires 60 credit hours of coursework, including a minimum of 15 credits of thesis. This degree is designed for the professional artist or craftsperson, including those who plan to teach art on the college level, with specializations in the following areas: painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, metalsmithing and drawing.

#### Distribution of Credits for the MFA Degree:

Major Studio Area.....	15 credits (500 level)
Other Studio.....	15 credits (500 level)
Art History & Seminars in Art.....	9 credits (400 or 500)
Thesis.....	15 credits (Art 590)
Graduate Seminar.....	6 credits (Art 500)

TOTAL	60 credits
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#### CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE

An evaluation of the application is made by the faculty of the School of Art based upon the following materials:

1. Official Transcripts: No action is taken on any application until transcripts from the undergraduate school from which you graduated and all transcripts of post- baccalaureate work have been received.
2. Letters of Recommendation: Three letters are required addressing the applicant's capacities and abilities to pursue a graduate program. No form is required, these may be submitted electronically.
3. Image Portfolio: Up to twenty images representative of the applicant's most current work. It should be strongly emphasized that admission to the MFA program is highly competitive, and consideration by the faculty of the quality of the applicant's work (as represented by images of good quality) is a very important factor. When submitting your portfolio you will need to combine all images into 1 pdf document Because of space considerations, please **do not** upload videos. Include an image list with dimensions, medium and date the work was completed.
4. Current Resume and Artist Statement

In addition to these four items, a completed application form must be submitted, along with an application fee of \$60.00 (the online application can be filled out at <https://www.applyweb.com/msug/>. Any questions can be emailed to [art@montana.edu](mailto:art@montana.edu) or called in to 406-994-4501. Our deadline is February 15 for the following fall semester.

## **ASSISTANTSHIPS**

Teaching assistantships are awarded on the basis of portfolio review, strong letters of recommendation, and high undergraduate GPA's and to students who have shown evidence of teaching ability. No special forms are required to apply for a teaching assistantship, just indicate in your statement or resume if you are interested in an assistantship.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

Financial aid is available to graduate students who show evidence of financial need. While such assistance may take various forms, most graduate students receive aid through loans or the work/study program. For further information, see the Graduate Bulletin. The Financial Aid Office at MSU handles such matters.

Fellowships are not made available by the School of Art. Recruitment scholarships become available to newly accepted students from time to time; they are usually awarded on the basis of artistic merit and academic promise and do not require a special application procedure.

## **STUDIO SPACE**

The School of Art attempts to assign all graduate students to semi-private studio space whenever possible. When available space is limited preference will be given to full-time students and to students taking thesis credits in the program.

## **FACULTY REVIEWS**

Each student's progress is reviewed by the School of Art faculty at the end of Autumn and Spring semesters. Special emphasis is given to students completing their first semester of residence as well as to those having their pre-thesis review. Certain days at the end of the semester are designated as times for the faculty to visit each student's studio and view and discuss current work. Students working in thesis are not subject to these reviews.

## **TRANSFER CREDITS**

Some credits can be transferred from graduate study at other institutions and applied to this program. The specifics of such transfers are addressed in the Graduate Bulletin, and students should inquire about the procedures for requesting approval of transfer credits as soon as they arrive for their first semester of attendance.

## **DEADLINES**

All applicants wishing to enter the graduate program must have their complete applications on file by February 15th for the following academic year.