

Book Arts

Book Arts is an excellent concentration for artists desiring a multi-media environment for their talents and who have a flair for diverse materials.

Printmaking, photography, fine paper, unusual and standard binding techniques, computer applications, drawing, painting and design all convene in the book. The idea of a book is not confined to its common commercial definition but can take many inventive forms.

The book can emerge from the creative process as a graphic novel, a sculpture, an installation, or any form at all.

Students with Book Arts concentration are valued in all graphic arts fields of employment.

Contact Us

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St. Ambrose University

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Visit the Art Department

Web site at www.sau.edu/art

For general information about St. Ambrose or how to apply:

Admissions Office

563/333-6300 or 800/383-2627

email: admit@sau.edu

www.sau.edu

Degrees offered and required credit hours

St. Ambrose offers a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Art with a concentration in one of four areas of study: Art Education, Book Arts, Fine Arts or Graphic Design. Minors in Art or Art History are available, as well. The Book Arts concentration requires 48 credits, including 24 credits of studio and art history, and 24 upper-level credits in book arts.

Program highlights and courses

The art and the craft of intimate communication is investigated by fostering an appreciation for the rich history of printing and the illustrated book. Traditional and contemporary practices integral to these fields are experienced firsthand: bodies of text are set letter by letter and printed by hand; an original painting might be scanned and digitally altered, later finding its way onto that same page; or an edition of hand-carved woodcuts in many colors adorn the interior of a handsome hand-bound book. From concept to finished work, the book is completely the student's own.

Courses during the first couple of years will include Drawing, Painting, Computers in Art, Art Through the Ages, 2-D and 3-D Design, Figure Composition and Anatomy, and Art of the 20th Century. Courses specific to the major include Introduction to Printmaking, Letterforms for Graphic Designers, Photography, Photo Processes and Printmaking, Art of the Book, and a senior capstone in which students work in their area of personal focus to complete the art work for their senior show.

See our course catalog at www.sau.edu/catalog for a full description of required and elective courses.

Resources

Drawing and painting studios are equipped with easels, drawing benches and tabourets. They accommodate still-life setups, a model stand and critique areas. Individual studio space is available for upper-level Fine Art majors.

The printmaking studio has presses and support materials for relief, intaglio, silkscreen, and lithographic printing. Digital and photo-mechanical printmaking equipment includes an analog darkroom, stat camera, exposure units, and additional equipment necessary for burning screens, alternative processes and photopolymer plates.

In the book arts studio, students will find a fully-equipped press room complete with an array of lead type and several presses including: a Vandercook 325, two Chandler & Price floor presses, and several proof presses.

The photography lab is geared to black-and-white photography with Beseler and Simmons-Omega enlargers supporting up to 16-by-20 inch prints and formats up to 4-by-5 inches. Digital photography applications also are carried out in the Mac lab.

The graphic design Macintosh lab contains scanners, color and black-and-white laser printers, Wacom tablets, digital cameras, and designated graphic design software.

A smaller lab is set aside for upper-level majors.

The Catich and Morrissey Galleries are housed in the Galvin Fine Arts Center, and display revolving shows of fine and applied art from around the country as well as the work of seniors in Fine Arts, Book Arts and Graphic Design.

Financial assistance

St. Ambrose has many financial aid opportunities for students with special art talents. Demonstrated need is not a requirement for receiving a portfolio award although art scholarships are contingent upon all established financial aid policies. Awards are fully renewable every year until graduation. Art scholarship candidates must submit a portfolio of 10 to 15 pieces of artwork. Complete art scholarship portfolio review information, including the deadline for priority consideration, is available at www.sau.edu/art.

About the faculty

Kathryn Anderson MFA, Assistant Professor

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Prof. Anderson teaches Introduction to Printmaking and courses in Graphic Design and Book Arts. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in visual communications-illustration from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. Her areas of interest include printmaking, drawing, mixed media and the book arts. She began teaching at St. Ambrose in 2004.

Leslie Bell MFA, Professor and Department Chair

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Prof. Bell teaches drawing, painting, photography, and illustration, helping to strengthen the bond between commercial and fine art. He believes that art principles are universal-that each discipline should inform the other. Prof. Bell received his Master of Fine Arts degree from Northern Illinois University where he was employed as an illustrator. He was a professional musician for years fronting bands and playing harmonica in the pit orchestra for Circa 21 Dinner Theatre's Big River. Prof. Bell began teaching at St. Ambrose in 1974.

Kristin Quinn MFA, Professor

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Prof. Quinn teaches painting, drawing and foundation design. She received her Master of Fine arts degree from Indiana University. She is a professional artist who says she is not sure that she ever consciously chose to be an artist, but that making art was something she can't remember not doing. Her love of the natural world is reflected in her painting as well as in her gardening, cooking and digging of fossils. Prof. Quinn began teaching at St. Ambrose in 1989.

Terri Switzer PhD, Associate Professor

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Prof. Switzer teaches art history. After living in Eastern Europe and Russia during the 1990s, she received her doctorate in art history from Indiana University. Prof. Switzer has taught in

both Europe and the United States, and has extensive museum experience, having worked at the curatorial and director levels since 1995. Her research focuses on Central European art, but she is equally excited by a wide range of interdisciplinary topics, from comic book heroines to Russian icons. Prof. Switzer began teaching at St. Ambrose in 2002.