

Fine Arts

Students interested in careers in studio arts, art-related professional occupations or graduate studies will find St. Ambrose's integrated, liberal arts approach to art-making highly valuable. As a Fine Arts major at St. Ambrose, you'll learn to incorporate life experience into your investigation of the complex language of form and content. The Art Department's role is to extend and support the student's growth as an artist. You're encouraged to develop your creative ambition in a personal and independent manner. The faculty strives to understand the nature of every student's creativity in order to guide them toward mature artistic statements.

Contact Us

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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 Fine Arts concentration requires 45–46 credits, including 24 credits of studio and art history, and 24 upper-level credits in drawing and painting.

Program highlights and courses

The Fine Arts program provides an environment that supports and challenges an individual's creative growth. Fine Arts majors at St. Ambrose learn to create compelling art as well as to appreciate the world through a fine-tuned aesthetic sensibility. Practical work is project-based and involves a range of art materials and techniques. Oil painting, drawing and other media become new expressive voices for the artist.

Projects are designed to develop real world technical skills that convey ideas in a meaningful way. The curriculum fosters the student's ability to be competent, ethical and productive members of the art community of the world. Throughout the course work, emphasis is placed on a combination of practical and creative skills and on relevant topics for contemporary artists and their audiences. Visiting artists and field trips further enrich students' experiences.

Courses during the first couple of years will include Drawing, Painting, 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 Figure Drawing, Painting 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

One full wing of the Galvin Arts Center is devoted to art activities. Drawing and painting studios comprise a large area and 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 Arts majors.

The graphic design Macintosh lab contains scanners, color and black-and-white laser printers, Wacom tablets, digital and designated graphic design software. A smaller lab is set aside for upper-level 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.

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, Graphic Design and Book Arts.

Financial assistance

Art scholarships are available to students who show exemplary talent in their artwork.

For application and portfolio submission guidelines visit www.sau.edu/art.

Alumni

For decades, alumni of St. Ambrose's Fine Arts program have been highly regarded in the art and business worlds. A number of graduates in the 1970s and 1980s went to work in Kansas City as artists at Hallmark Cards and other graduates are pursuing their art in various ways. For detailed profiles, visit the Art Department web site.

- Elementary art teacher, Geneseo School District, Geneseo, Ill. Graduated in 2005.
- Art therapist, New Mexico. Graduated in 2002.
- Costume designer, *Saturday Night Live*, New York, N.Y. Graduated in 1993.
- Graphic design and communication services, Art Institute, Chicago, Ill. Graduated in 1998.
- Lead sculptor and director of development, Isabel Bloom Ltd., Davenport, Iowa. Graduated in 1981.
- Associate Professor of Art, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio. Graduated in 1983.
- Professor of Studio Art, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, Mass. Graduated in 1971.

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 a 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.