

ART HISTORY

Art History
510.430.2117
art_history@mills.edu

The Art History program in the Department of Art and Visual Culture at Mills takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of art and the visual world. We offer lectures and seminars in western, non-western, and modern and contemporary art. In addition to training students in the history of art and visual culture, our curriculum emphasizes the development of strong critical thinking and communication skills to prepare our graduates for advanced degree programs and careers in the art world and beyond. Many of our students combine the degree in art history with a minor or double major in diverse fields including chemistry, computer science, studio art, economics, and psychology. In recent years, our students have successfully pursued internships and careers at museums, auction houses, art education programs, and galleries. Graduates have also been admitted to competitive advanced degree programs in a variety of disciplines.

Our close relationship with the Mills College Art Museum enhances the student experience. Our Museum Studies Workshop gives advanced students the opportunity to curate all aspects of an exhibition under the guidance of the Museum director. The Museum supports classroom teaching and provides many students with hands-on experience in all phases of museum work, including curatorial duties, installation, and cataloging. Our students also benefit from several endowed programs. Special courses are regularly offered under the auspices of the Denise Beirnes Studies in Art History Endowment. Each year, the Jane Green Endowment for Studies in Art History and Criticism brings a distinguished scholar to campus to give a public lecture and classroom presentation. Students are encouraged to take advantage of our annual studio art lecture series and to participate in the many cultural events across campus throughout the year, including concerts, performances, and museum exhibitions.

Program Goals:

- Understand the historical, political, and cultural contexts in which art is created.
- Be able to analyze and critique works of art.
- Understand a variety of art historical theories and approaches.

Majors & Minors

Major

Art History Major—BA (<https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/art-history/art-history-ba>)

Minor

Art History Minor (<https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/art-history/art-history-minor>)

Faculty & Staff

Faculty

Meryl Bailey

Eugene E. Trefethen, Jr., Professorship in Art History
Associate Professor of Art and Art History

Art Room 106, 510.430.3289, mbailey@mills.edu
Professional Interests: Italian and Spanish art; early modern confraternities; Venetian art and culture; Sephardic art and culture; criminal justice and visual culture; portraiture

Nancy Fee

Assistant Adjunct Professor
Art Center 116, 510.430.3225, nfee@mills.edu

Sarah Miller

Assistant Adjunct Professor
Art Center 105, 510.430.3290, sarahmiller@mills.edu

Staff

Isabelle Chiosso

Faculty Administrative Assistant
Art Center 121, 510.430.2117, ichiosso@mills.edu