



CENTER FOR CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Major Possibilities: Art

Quick Facts

- About 62% of artists and related workers are self-employed.
- Pairing an art degree with a strong computer background can open doors in graphic design and advertising.
- The New York Arts Program offers Studio Art and Art History majors the opportunity to serve as apprentices or interns during a semester in New York City, working with faculty sponsors and taking related seminars. Internships help shape professional identities, develop 21st century career-readiness skills, and make meaning of the academic experience.

Studio Art Major Synopsis

Studio art majors can choose either a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Fine Arts track. The BFA in Studio Art is a pre-professional program in a liberal arts context that deals with art as an expressive medium. The major helps students acquire technical proficiency in a principal medium, knowledge of a variety of media processes, and liberal arts breadth in critical and verbal skills. The program prepares students who intend to apply to Master of Fine Arts programs and/or go on to professional artistic work as well as students who wish to work in fields such as art history, architecture, commercial art, design, arts administration, and art education. Art majors take courses in ceramics, painting, sculpture, drawing, and other media and are expected to choose a medium of focus by their sophomore year. An Architecture and Design minor is also offered by the Studio Arts department.

Sample Occupational Areas

VISUAL ART

Visual artists are those who create art for its own sake. Usually seeking customers independently, they use a variety of materials and techniques to create art for sale and exhibition. Often self-employed, visual artists may hold a second job unrelated to art in order to have a steady income.

- **Craft Artists** create handmade objects such as pottery, glassware, textiles, or other objects that are designed to be functional.
- **Fine Artists**, including painters, sculptors, and illustrators, create original works for their aesthetic rather than functional value.
- **Photographers** use creativity with composition and technical skills to produce and preserve images that visually tell a story.

COMMERCIAL ART

Artists who use their creativity to create works for a business are called commercial artists. They have less artistic freedom than visual artists, since they create works based on guidelines from their employer, but they have the benefit of a steady paycheck.

- **Art Directors** are responsible for the visual style and images in magazines, newspapers, product packaging, and movie and television productions. They create the overall design of a project and direct others who develop artwork and layouts.
- **Graphic Designers** create visual concepts (by hand or using computer software) to communicate ideas that inspire, inform, or captivate consumers. They develop the overall layout and production design for advertisements, brochures, magazines, and corporate reports.
- **Industrial Designers** develop the concepts for manufactured products, such as cars, home appliances, and toys. They combine art, business, and engineering to make products that people use every day. Industrial designers focus on user experience in creating style and function for a particular gadget or appliance.
- **Multimedia Artists and Animators** create animation and visual effects for television, movies, video games, and media.
- **Sustainable Design** is an emerging field that seeks to incorporate functionality, efficiency, aesthetics, durability, and long-term social, environmental, and economic sustainability into design across all sectors of society.

ART THERAPY

Recreational therapists plan, direct, and coordinate recreation-based treatment programs for people with disabilities, injuries, or illnesses. Art is one of the modalities recreation therapists can use to help maintain or improve a patient's physical, social, and emotional well-being.

ART EDUCATION

Teaching positions in art allow artists to use their creative abilities in a hands-on environment, though the need to tailor projects to students' ability levels restricts creativity. Art majors who receive their teaching certificates are qualified to teach art in K-12 schools. Teaching positions in higher education require at least a Master's degree in a specialized field.

ARTS ADMINISTRATION

An arts administrator manages activities and services that support the arts sector, including projects and initiatives provided by places such as theatres, galleries, museums, art festivals, community organizations, etc. In a small company, an administrator is likely to cover a number of functions, marketing and managing performers/audiences to handling finance and insurance. In large companies, the role may be more specific to an area such as programming, education, or sponsorship.

Sample Job Titles

Advertising Executive	Art Therapist	Gallery Owner/Operator	Picture Framer
Animator	Artist-in-Residence	Graphic Designer	Printmaker
Art Appraiser	Auction House Staff	Illustrator	Scenic Artist (film/theatre)
Art Critic/Reporter	Audio-Visual Specialist	Interior Designer	Sculptor
Art Director	Cartoonist	Lawyer (copyright, property, etc.)	Set Designer
Art Librarian	City Planner	Medical Illustrator	Textile Designer
Art Supply Store Clerk	Exhibit Designer	Museum Education Coordinator	Visual Merchandiser
Art Teacher	Fashion Designer	Photographer	Web page designer

Sample Internship Employers of SU Students

Ann Weber Interiors – Austin, TX	Kimbell Art Museum – Fort Worth, TX
Art Palace – Austin, TX	Melissa Meyer Studio – New York, NY
Austin Art and Frame – Austin, TX	Milan Gallery – Fort Worth, TX
Bruce Pearson, Independent Artist – New York, NY	Mobile Film School – Austin, TX
Christi Center – Austin, TX	Pentagram Design, Inc. – Austin, TX
Dougherty Arts Center – Austin, TX	Robert Blackburn Printshop – New York, NY
Flatbed Printshop – Austin, TX	Shirley Weiss, Independent Seamstress – Houston, TX
Ford, Powell, & Carson Architects – San Antonio, TX	Southwestern University – Georgetown, TX
Kerrville State Hospital – Kerrville, TX	Warm Heart Worldwide – Phrao, Thailand

Sample Full-Time Employers of SU Grads

Apple Certified Macintosh Technician (Tyrosys Corp.)	Gallery Attendant (Kimball Art Museum)
Art Instructor (Rodriguez Juvenile Facility)	Gardener (Monument Café Group, LLC)
Art Teacher (Art Works)	Graphic Designer (Kick It Marketing)
AutoCAD Drafter (Durcon)	Graphic Designer/Photographer (J. Bryant Boyd, Architect)
Development Assistant (UT Austin College of Fine Arts)	High School Art Teacher (Cypress-Fairbanks ISD)
Digital Producer (Raise Your Hand Texas)	Kitchen Designer and Sales Specialist (Lowes Home Improvement)
Drawing Assistant (Artist Marina Zurkow)	Potter (Francisco Pottery)
Freelance Visual Artist	Print Assistant (D&J Blueline)
Gallery Assistant (Mexican American Cultural Center)	Studio Manager (The Art Garage)

Professional Associations

Alliance of Artists Communities	National Art Education Association
American Art Therapy Association	National Association of Independent Artists
American Institute of Architects	National Association of Women Artists
American Institute of Graphic Arts	Society of Illustrators
American Society of Media Photographers	The Association of Medical Illustrators
Art Directors Guild (art directors in film and television)	The Art League

