The School of Art + Art History + Design engages and educates students in the essential and cutting edge issues of visual history and literacy, the creative process and visual communication, and innovative and socially responsible design. We work closely with leaders in the arts and business communities to ensure that our students understand the role that this education will play in their future success as professionals and global citizens.

Highlights

The School’s annual lecture series, Critical Issues in Contemporary Art Practice and the Kollar American Art Lecture — in addition to lectures given throughout the year by visiting guests — brings a dynamic roster of renowned artists, art historians, and designers to campus to inform and engage students, faculty, staff, and the community at large.

The Jacob Lawrence Gallery, also known as “The Jake,” is an active paraeducation site for students of the School. Through its dynamic program of exhibitions, lectures and symposia, and residencies, The Jake encourages students to experience and experiment with the capacity that art, art history, and design must teach and engage with the community.

The UW Design Alum Blog (uwdesignalum.net) chronicles the lives and careers of designers who graduated from the nationally-ranked Division of Design. The mission of the blog is to demystify life after graduation for current design students. The project began as the joint senior capstone of Donna Seo and Roy Kim (both 2015 alums) with support from Professor Karen Cheng and 2009 alum Francis Luu.

The Student Voice Project (SVP) supports programming to help undergraduates recognize that the dynamic learning offered in the School leads to limitless potential to find jobs and build careers. SVP offers proactive workshops, events, and opportunities that prepare students to move from the classroom into their future.

The generosity of private donors and corporate sponsors continues to provide art, art history, and design students with yearly scholarships and awards now totaling almost $500,000.
Education

The School offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in Art, Art History, and Design. Our faculty members are top educators in their fields as well as nationally and internationally recognized professional artists, scholars, and designers. Our faculty exhibit, publish, and lecture on a global stage and are active in a wide variety of professional organizations. They frequently collaborate with arts organizations, institutions, and businesses, forging strong community relationships resulting in innovative outcomes and enriching, unique opportunities for our students.

Our students come to the School from diverse backgrounds and all share a passion for experiential learning through the study and practice of the visual arts, art history, and design. They come together in our classrooms and studios to participate and learn through research, experimentation, creative thinking, and critical dialog. Classes support stimulating collaborations with peers and close mentoring relationships with faculty.

Students are recognized for their creative achievements and academic merit through many scholarships, awards, exhibitions, and public presentations. They graduate with a collaborative mind set, confidence, and the critical problem-solving skills needed to participate in a wide range of personal, professional, and creative pursuits.

Arts Community and Business Partnerships

Through the School’s Student Voice Project, students participate in career fairs, alumni meet-ups, networking opportunities, internships, volunteer opportunities, and research projects that help them link their learning at the UW with their professional goals. Presently our students are working with career professionals at Adobe, Digital Kitchen, Fluke, Microsoft, Boeing, Amazon, Intel, Getty Images, Facebook, the Museum of Pop Culture, the Seattle Art Museum, the Museum of Glass, the Henry Art Gallery, the Burke Museum, Nordstrom, Starbucks, IKEA, Anthropologie, Crate and Barrel, to name a few.

Our alumni pursue a wide range of careers as practicing artists, designers, academics, and business owners; art directors; fashion, interior, graphic, interaction, and product designers; arts administration professionals; museum and gallery owners, curators; art appraisers; managers in non-profit organizations; art educators; film and digital animation specialists; art conservators; and public relations, advertising, marketing, retail, and merchandizing professionals.

Global Learning

The School participates in and contributes to art, art history, and design communities through faculty and student exchanges, research, study abroad opportunities, exhibitions, and conferences throughout the world. Our faculty-led study abroad programs and exploration seminars provide students with a global learning experience in Italy, Spain, England, and the Netherlands, while allowing them to receive credits toward their UW degree.

RECENT UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

- Boyer and Elizabeth Gonzales Scholarship
- Doris Totten Chase Endowed Scholarship
- Crabby Beach Foundation Endowed Scholarship in Art
- Jane and David Davis Endowed Fellowship in Art
- Jacob and Gwendolyn Lawrence Endowed Scholarship
- Lloyd W. Nordstrom Art Scholarship
- Hinckley-Martin Endowment
- Ben and Grace de Cillia Endowment
- Lambda Rho Endowment in Art
- A & S Dean’s Medal
- Fulbright Grants
- Mary Gates Research and Leadership Grants
- Bonderman Travel Grants

FACULTY ENDOWMENTS

Dale Chihuly Endowed Chair in Glass
Wyckoff Milliman Endowed Chair in Art
Cheney and Mary Cowles Endowed Professorship
Jack and Grace Pruzan Endowed Faculty Fellowship
Hermine Pruzan Endowed Faculty Fellowship
Floyd and Delores Jones Endowed Professor in the Arts
Donald E. Petersen Professorship in the Arts
Kollar Endowed Chair of American Art History
Donald E. Petersen Fellowship in the Arts

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