MFA Studio Art
HISTORY OF HUNTER COLLEGE

Hunter was founded in 1870, making it one of the oldest public institutions of higher learning in the country. The school was created by the New York State Legislature as a women’s college for teacher training. Unlike nearly all schools at the time, it was open to all qualified applicants regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity. This proud tradition of impartial admissions is still part of the Hunter ethos today.

Located in the middle of Manhattan’s Upper East Side, the school grew beyond a teaching college to confer bachelor’s degrees in 1888. Early in the 20th century branches were established in Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island, although the Brooklyn campus quickly developed into the independent institution of Brooklyn College. In the 1930s a campus in the Bronx was added. In the 1950s men were admitted to the Bronx campus, which eventually spun off to become Lehman College. In 1964 the original college became coed, ending its reign as the pre-eminent women’s college in New York. The majority of students (about 75%) are still female.

In 1970, the City University of New York instituted an open admissions policy to guarantee college education to any New York City high school graduate who wanted it. To accommodate the resulting influx of students, Hunter opened new buildings in Manhattan and the Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, or the Center for Puerto Rican Studies. In 2006 Hunter opened the Bella Abzug Leadership Institute to run programs for women.

Hunter College is the largest college in the City University of New York (CUNY) system with around 21,000 students. Students come from 60 different countries. More than half are the first in their family to attend college. In part because the school was originally a teacher training institute, the college operated schools for gifted children where their students could practice teaching. The elementary and high schools are still in operation.

The main campus is extremely close to Central Park, the Frick, the Asia Society Museum, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The main campus houses the School of Education, the School of Arts and Sciences, and the CUNY doctoral studies program. The buildings are connected by skywalks.
Hunter’s three-year MFA program allows students the time for prolonged, intense focus on studio practice, contemporary art, and theoretical issues. Hunter’s ideal location in Manhattan offers students and faculty many sources of intellectual, cultural, and creative activity. In New York, as nowhere else, the student has access to the changing ideas and forms of contemporary art. This is crucial to the achievement of our educational goal: to develop professional artists capable of continued growth once they leave the relatively structured university environment.

The program is designed to offer broad training for artists in the development of critical and analytical visual thinking as it relates to their work. In this programmatic context all students are encouraged to develop their own art through constant peer contact in the studios, individual work with faculty tutors, critical seminars focusing on student work, and classes in the theory, criticism and history of art. In addition, many artists, curators, critics and historians are invited to meet with students.

**WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?**

The Art Department seeks candidates who show independent artistic ideas developed through a committed, motivated work process. Admission to the program is on a competitive basis receiving around 600 applications each year and accepting around 50 total students split between fall and spring semesters.

MFA applicants must have an undergraduate baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution (BA, BFA, or BS), and MUST HAVE 24 credits in studio art and 9 in art history. Applicants must also have maintained a 3.0 GPA overall, and a 3.0 GPA in art courses.
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The core of the program is the coupling of the seminar and tutorial courses. The focus of a seminar is the critical discussion of student work in a group setting while a tutorial is meant to be a one-on-one dialogue with a single professor throughout a semester. With three credits per course the seminar and tutorials fulfill 18 of the total 48 required credits and should be taken during one’s 1st, 3rd, and 5th semesters.

The Mid-Program Review allows students to present their artwork to all full-time Studio Faculty members; this must be completed during a student’s second round of tutorial and seminar (usually the third semester). This review allows students to receive feedback from all full-time faculty by the student’s midpoint in the program. It also allows faculty to assess a student’s progress in the program and offer guidance.

In the sixth semester the program culminates with the MFA thesis show. Thesis students work closely with a chosen full-time faculty MFA faculty member to write a thesis statement and prepare work for the final show. A catalog of the MFA Thesis show is printed every semester.

Students must complete all 48 credits within the three-year time limit and must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher in order to graduate.

Candidates must complete 48 credits, distributed as follows:

- **9 credits tutorial** - a tutorial is a one-on-one meeting with a professor
- **9 credits seminar** - a seminar is a group critique
- **9 credits studio electives** - examples are Audio/Sound, Drawing, Sculptural Methods, etc.
- **9 credits art history electives** - one art history course must be Theory and Criticism
- **6 credits free electives** - can be art history, studio, TA, or exchange program credits
- **6 credits for final thesis project**

Total 48 credits
The program of study for the MFA program begins with the required tutorial and seminar courses. The following is an example of how courses should be taken throughout a student’s three years at Hunter:

**Year 1**

**Semester 1** - 9 credits
- Grad Tutorial I
- Grad Seminar I
- Art History or Studio Elective

**Semester 2** – 9 credits
- Studio Elective
- Studio Elective
- Art History

**Year 2**

**Semester 3*** – 6 credits
- Grad Tutorial II
- Seminar II

*The second time a student registers for seminar and tutorial the student must participate in the Mid-Program Review-- students may take a studio elective or art history course if they feel it will not take away from their Mid-Program submission

**Semester 4*** – 9 credits
- Studio Elective
- Free Elective (Studio, Art History, or TA)
- Art History

*Once a student has passed Mid-Program they can participated in the Exchange Program using the six “Free Elective” credits

**Year 3**

**Semester 5** – 9 credits
- Grad Tutorial III
- Grad Seminar III
- Free Elective

**Semester 6** – 6 credits
- MFA Thesis Project

48 credits total
TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

MFA students interested in learning how to teach may apply to TA for credit after having passed the Mid-Program Review. TA’s work closely with full-time faculty members in undergraduate and graduate classrooms gaining an understanding of what it takes to run a classroom and develop a successful teaching philosophy. Qualified students may receive Federal Work Study as compensation for TAing.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Students can apply to study abroad for a period of one semester at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris; Glasgow School of Art, Scotland; The Frank Mohr Institute in Groningen, Holland; or Universität der Künste Berlin. Students must have passed Mid-Program Review to be eligible to participate. Questions? Contact gradart@hunter.cuny.edu.

LECTURES & EVENTS

There are lectures and events hosted by the Zabar Visiting Artist Program, MFA Student Organization (MFASO), Cisneros Foundation, Hunter Galleries, Kossak Foundation, and many other organizations and groups affiliated with Hunter College. Recent guests include Laura Owens, Stanley Whitney, Yvonne Rainer, and Hamza Walker. These events and lectures happen often throughout the semester providing a forum for the presentation of ideas by artists, critics, historians and faculty members. Students are encouraged to participate in any and all events and are welcome to propose their own.
OPEN STUDIOS

Every semester students open their studios to the public on a Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Often students schedule special performance events in conjunction with open studios. The event is run by MFASO (the MFA Student Organization) and brings a wide range of visitors from artists, curators, writers, alumni, and more to the studios.

HUNTER MFA/BFA OPEN STUDIOS
MARCH 14-15, 2014
12:14-4:10 pm
3/15 2-3 pm
220 HUDSON ST
NEW YORK, NY 10014

Open studios will take place on Friday, March 14, 6-9 pm.

PHOTO CREDITS:
Hunter College MFA/BFA Open Studios Committee

HUNTER
The City University of New York
The Hunter College Galleries are comprised of four exhibition spaces devoted to professionally organized exhibitions that extend and support the educational programs of the Art Department of Hunter College:

**The Bertha & Karl Leubsdorf Art Gallery** - Ground Floor of the West Building, 68th Street Campus

**The MFA Gallery** - 205 Hudson Street (The entire exhibition program maximizes student and faculty participation in order to expand the parameters of the graduate programs in both fine arts and art history.)

**The Artist’s Institute** - 132 E 65th Street

**The Hunter East Harlem Gallery** - Silberman School of Social Work Campus, East 116th Street
**FACILITIES**

Studio space is available for all matriculated graduate students at the Master of Fine Arts Building at 205 Hudson Street (near Canal). In the building, there are several shared workshop areas including a wood shop, metal shop, clay studio, computer lab, as well as black-and-white and color photo darkrooms. There are designated classrooms used for group critiques and an area for long-term projects. The building has a loading dock and freight elevators, allowing for the easy entry of bulky or large materials for making art. The building, which is for workspace only, is accessible to students seven days a week from 7 AM to 1 AM throughout the year. All studio critique seminars are held at the MFA Building. All studio tutorials are scheduled to meet at students’ studios in the MFA Building.

**STUDIO SPACES**

Studios are accessible from 7AM to 1AM throughout the year save Christmas and New Years day. The following is a break down of how studios are allocated based on seniority:
MFA BUILDING OVERVIEW

1st floor gallery*

* Gallery space depicted in white

www.hunter.cuny.edu/art
2nd floor
3rd floor

Room Numbering Code

300 – 319
Art Department administration, classroom, and workshop spaces

STUDIOS
320 – 349
Watts-Canal side of building
350 – 369
Debrosse side of building
370 – 389
West side of building

* Even numbered studios are on perimeter; odd numbered studios are interior

390 – 399
Maintenance rooms
4th floor

Room Numbering Code

400 – 419
Art Department administration, classroom and workshop spaces

STUDIOS
420 - 449
Watts-Canal-Hudson side of building
450 - 469
Desbrosses side of building
470 - 499
West side of building
* Even numbered studios are on perimeter;
  Odd numbered studios are interior

490 - 499
Maintenance rooms

HU贯彻
The City University of New York
GET TO KNOW US

FULL-TIME STUDIO FACULTY
Drew Beattie
Andrea Blum
Daniel Bozhkov
Joel Carreiro
Susan Crile
Lisa Corinne Davis
Constance De Jong
Valerie Jaudon
Reiner Leist
Jeffrey Mongrain
Carrie Moyer
Paul Ramirez Jonas
Juan Sanchez
Nari Ward
Thomas Weaver
Brian Wood

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Emily Braun
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Thierry De Duve
Hendrik Dey
Cynthia Hahn
Lynda Klich
Michael Lobel
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Harper Montgomery
Maria Antonella Pelizzari
Joachim Pissarro
Howard Singerman
Tara Zanardi

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Carlos Rigau

Graduate Admissions Office
gradadmissions@hunter.cuny.edu

Registrar/OASIS/One-Stop
212-772-4474

Bursar’s Office
212-772-4401

Financial Aid
212-772-4820/4821

www.hunter.cuny.edu/art
TUITION AND FEES

Normally students take between six and nine credits per semester for fall and spring. This credit load leaves in-state tuition around $5,461.90-$8,101.90 per year ($2,730.95-$4,050.95 per semester) and out-of-state tuition at around $9,841.90-$14,671.90 per year ($4,920.95-$7,335.95 per semester).* Students are able to earn in-state residency status after living in New York for one calendar year. Usually our incoming students only pay one semester of out-of-state residency if they move here to attend Hunter. Check the tuition calculator on Hunter’s website for up-to-date details about tuition and fees.


FINANCIAL AID

For a student to be considered for any and all funding opportunities they must first submit a FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (US Department of Education). To submit your FAFSA please visit https://www.fafsa.ed.gov. Work Study and Perkins Loans are available according to need for qualified students. A FAFSA application establishes eligibility for College Work Study, Graduate Tuition Waivers, and Perkins Loans.

Tuition waivers are sometimes available to qualified students. The average allocation is approximately $1,000 per student per semester. The amount varies depending upon the availability of funds. All scholarships and awards through the Art & Art History Department are by nomination.

For funding available to international students please visit http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/student-services/is/loans-for-international-students

The Financial Aid Office is located in Room 241 North, (212) 772-4820.

More information available at http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/onestop/finances/financial-aid

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

To learn more about visa requirements as well as opportunities and information available to you please visit the International Students Office website:

http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/studentservices/is
APPLICATION DEADLINE JANUARY 15TH

The MFA program application is split into six concentrations, from which you must select one: Painting, Photography, Printmaking/Drawing/Works on Paper, Sculpture, Clay and Casting, Combined Media (Installation, Performance and Video. NOT Mixed Media or Collage.) Once accepted, students are no longer attached to these concentrations; Hunter MFA students are viewed as artists.

From the pool of applicants we receive, we will accept around 25 students for the fall and 25 for the following spring. Accepted students will be notified of the semester they have been allocated to; either fall or spring. Allocations are based on internal numbers and requirements and do not reflect the quality or desirability of an accepted student. International students are generally assigned to the spring semester to allow time for the visa process.

THE APPLICATION INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

-A statement of purpose describing your work, your goals, and how attending Hunter will help you achieve those goals

-Transcripts from accredited undergraduate institution (if you are unsure of the accreditation of your institution please contact Graduate Admissions prior to submitting your application: www.hunter.cuny.edu/graduateadmissions)

-10 Images (and or three minutes of video) submitted via Slideroom ($15.00 fee)

-Two letters of recommendation from former instructors, preferably professors who teach studio art (submitted online via applyyourself)

-TOEFL score (if applicable). Applicants who have taken all or part of their undergraduate education in a country where English is not the native language must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and earn a minimum score 60 (not counting the speaking component) on the IBT TOEFL
**F.A.Q.**

Q: Regarding the admission requirements, what is considered a studio art class and an art history class?
A: Only classes labeled as studio art or art history on your transcript will count towards the admission requirements.

Q: Can you accept classes taken at non-accredited institutions?
A: Only classes taken at regionally accredited institutions for credit can be used to fulfill the admission requirements.

Q: Are there any exceptions made to the admission requirements? Can I be given credit for life experience?
A: We cannot make any exceptions to the admission requirements, and we cannot count life experience in place of college credit.

Q: Can I apply to more than one concentration?
A: Applicants must choose only one concentration to apply to.

Q: Is it possible to have my portfolio reviewed before I apply?
A: We cannot review any portfolios before the application deadline.

Q: Is a resume/CV required? How can I submit it?
A: A resume or CV is optional, and can be uploaded in the "Work History" section of the Graduate Application for Admission.

Q: What are the requirements for the digital images to be submitted for the portfolio?
A: Any jpeg image less than 5MB is acceptable. The recommended image size is approximately 1024 px by 768 px (72 ppi).

Q: How many images may I submit?
A: 10 are required and no more are permitted.

Q: How long should the statement of purpose be?
A: Approximately 750 words. The Statement of Purpose is an artist’s statement explaining the ideas central to your approach, artists and thinkers who have affected your practice, your goals and aspirations.

Q: When will I hear if I have received an interview?
A: You should receive notification by mid-March.

Q: When will interviews take place?
A: Applicant interview dates are internal dates shared with applicants asked to interview. If you need to know the date prior to submitting your application you can email the department directly.

Q: When will I hear if I have been accepted?
A: You should receive acceptance by early April.

Q: Can you tell me why I was not accepted?
A: It is impossible to offer critiques of work or give more specific feedback, as many different faculty members are involved in the admissions process.
Hunter College MFA & BFA Studio Art Building
205 Hudson Street
New York, New York