

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

HISTORY OF ART & ARCHITECTURE

GRADUATE PROGRAM

2026-27

Boston University
Department of History of Art & Architecture
College of Arts & Sciences
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*Information in this booklet is accurate as of September 1, 2026.
The department reserves the right to change fees, program requirements, plans of study, the academic calendar, or
to make any other changes deemed necessary or desirable, giving advance notice of changes when possible.*

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The Graduate Program

The Boston University Department of History of Art & Architecture offers programs of study leading to the Master of Arts (MA) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees. In addition, we also offer a Certificate in Museum Studies, which is usually completed in conjunction with the MA. These programs are designed to prepare students for careers in teaching, museum curatorship, administration, and related fields. Faculty offer graduate courses in most areas of art history, including African, American, Asian, Caribbean, European, Islamic, and Latin American art. The preferred application deadline for January 2027 admission (MA only) is October 15, 2026; applications are accepted until November 15, 2026; the deadline for September 2027 admission (MA or PhD) is January 15, 2027. Entering PhD students who already hold an MA from another accredited university may receive credit for up to eight out of sixteen courses.

The Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) and the members of the Graduate Studies Committee administer the Graduate Program. The Graduate Studies Committee is responsible for admissions, financial aid, and academic standards. Questions about requirements and curriculum should be directed to Professor Ross Barrett, Director of Graduate Studies (rcb@bu.edu); questions about requirements for admission and financial aid should be directed to Professor S. Rebecca Martin, Director of Graduate Admissions (srmartin@bu.edu). The History of Art & Architecture faculty reviews the academic standing of each graduate student every semester. Students whose work is deemed unsatisfactory may be asked to withdraw from the graduate program; the decision of the faculty in this regard is final.

Course Structure

Graduate students may enroll in four types of courses: practica, colloquia, seminars, and directed studies.

Practica (AH-501 and AH-502): Offer internships or other hands-on training designed to provide direct experience with art historical work in a professional setting, such as a museum or gallery. These courses are arranged and administered by the Director of Museum Studies.

Colloquia (700-level courses): Are related to undergraduate lecture courses in the same subject. Students enrolled in colloquia are required to audit the lectures in the related undergraduate course, as well as attend a separate section for graduate students. The graduate section functions as a workshop and discussion group in which students are introduced to professional-level bibliographical and methodological tools in the subject.

Seminars (500-level, 800-level courses): Courses at the 500-level present topics in history of art and architecture at an advanced introductory level and are open to graduate students and qualified undergraduates. Courses at the 800-level deal with specific topics or problems in the history of art and architecture, which are investigated in-depth and from various points of view; they are open to graduate students only. Seminars on curatorial issues can be taught in a museum or gallery.

Directed Studies (AH-901/902): May be taken as reading courses in areas for which no colloquia or seminars are being offered, or in order to work on research projects usually, but not necessarily, related to the doctoral dissertation. Students wishing to pursue a directed study should submit a well-founded, clearly formulated proposal to the instructor with whom the student plans to work and to the Director of Graduate Studies. All directed studies must be approved by the DGS.

Transfer Credit

Master's candidates may receive transfer credit for up to two courses taken outside of Boston University, provided that these courses have been taken as part of a graduate degree program but not used toward the awarding of any other degree.

Leave of Absence

Students may petition the Graduate School for a maximum of two semesters leave of absence prior to fulfilling degree requirements. However, students must be registered either for course work or as continuing students for the semester preceding and the semester during which degree requirements are completed.

Financial Aid

MA FUNDING

A limited number of merit-based tuition scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis to students entering the MA program. Given satisfactory academic progress, the aid package is renewed in the second year of study. Financial aid is not awarded solely for the second year of study. Applicants do not apply for aid. Interest in being considered for aid is indicated by checking the appropriate box in the application.

PHD FUNDING

A variety of fellowships, assistantships, and grants are available to qualified degree candidates. All offers of admission to the doctoral program are accompanied by up to five years of fellowship support (tuition and fee coverage in addition to an annual stipend). While on fellowship, PhD students perform three years of service, generally as a Research Fellow or a Teaching Fellow in undergraduate courses; on occasion students may be assigned other roles that involve work for the University. Students typically serve as Research Fellows during their first year and summers of studies and as Teaching Fellows during their second and third years. Fourth and fifth-year students receive a non-service Training Fellowship.

Grants in the Field of American Art: Doctoral students engaged in writing dissertations on American Art can apply to the Beaze and Harry Adelson Research and Travel Fellowship for American Art, which funds dissertation research and travel expenses up to \$2,500.

History of Photography Grants: Kate and Hall Peterson have given the department a discretionary fund for the support and encouragement of doctoral studies in the history of photography.

Fellowships in Asian Art History: The Richard and Geneva Hofheimer Fellowship and the Ralph C. Marcove Fellowship are two endowed fellowship funds that support graduate studies in Asian art history.

Graduate Travel Grants: The Art History Alumni Association Fund and the Patricia Hills Endowed Graduate Fellowship Fund provide funds for students giving papers at conferences. For detailed instructions for application eligibility and reimbursement, see the Sample Examinations and Forms section of the handbook.

Foreign Language Area Studies Scholarship: Students in their second year of studying an African language can apply for a FLAS Scholarship through the African Studies Center. The FLAS offers both summer funding and funding for an entire academic year. See Professor Becker for more information.

In addition, the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences distributes travel grants (both a **short-term and a long-term Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship and Graduate Research in the United States Fellowship**) once a year for students conducting research outside of Boston. Students must be nominated by the department for the GRAF and GRUF awards.

Teaching in Boston University Summer Term

Doctoral candidates are eligible to teach undergraduate courses during the Summer Term. In the fall semester, the Department Chair will circulate application submission instructions to all eligible graduate students.

*Please review information, links, and forms available in the
[Current Student Resources](#) tab on the upper right of the
History of Art & Architecture site
<http://www.bu.edu/haa/>*

The MA Program in History of Art & Architecture

Applicants for the MA degree choose from one of three tracks: a general track, a track with specialized focus on the history of architecture, and a track with specialized focus on the History of Asian Art & Architecture.

History of Art & Architecture

Applicants for the MA track in History of Art & Architecture must have a background of coursework equivalent to an undergraduate minor in our department at Boston University. Those who do not have sufficient backgrounds in the History of Art & Architecture may be required to take additional courses prior to admission to the MA program. The time limit for the completion of the MA requirements under the regulations of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences is three years, though most students complete the degree in two years.

The Director of Graduate Studies serves as the initial advisor for all entering MA students. We encourage MA students to choose a faculty advisor who specializes in the student's field of interest as soon as possible. This professor will then serve as an MA student's primary advisor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Eight courses are required; the average course load is two courses per semester. Five of these eight courses must be distributed among the following ten areas of concentration, including at least one course covering art outside of Europe and the United States: 1) Ancient, 2) Medieval, 3) Renaissance, 4) Baroque and 18th Century, 5) American, 6) Latin American, 7) Modern, 8) Asian, 9) African, or 10) Islamic. In addition, students must take at least one colloquium (700-level), one graduate seminar (800-level), and one course in art-historical methodologies. Students enrolled in colloquia are required to audit the lectures in the related undergraduate course, as well as attend a separate section for graduate students.

Of the three other courses, two may be in areas other than History of Art & Architecture with the permission of the Director of Graduate Studies.

It is possible to obtain a Certificate in Museum Studies in conjunction with the MA degree. A minimum total of 8 courses would be required, which must include AH520 and AH521, plus an elective course to reflect their specific course of study to be decided in consultation with the Director of Museum Studies. In addition, students must complete a graduate-level internship at a museum or non-profit arts organization; both the elective and the internship require the approval of the Director of Museum Studies. The internship may be taken as AH501 or AH502.

LANGUAGE EXAMINATION

Reading knowledge of one modern foreign language is required for the Master's Program in the History of Art & Architecture. Language proficiency can be demonstrated through the language examination offered by this department or the successful completion of a reading course sponsored by the Graduate School. The department examination or Graduate School-sponsored course must be taken before the end of the second semester of residence and passed before approval of the Master's Scholarly Paper Form. The language will be determined by the faculty advisor and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin, and Spanish are the recommended languages.

The language examinations are given in the department twice each year, at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. The DGS will email information at the beginning of each semester. The exam consists of a scholarly text to be translated with the help of either a digital or print dictionary. Exam dates are listed in the calendar of events in this handbook. The examination may be taken no more than two times. Sample passages are on file in the main office and can be viewed upon request. The Department of World Languages & Literatures offers noncredit language reading classes in German, French, Spanish, and Italian for graduate students. Enrolling in such classes and passing the final examinations will fulfill the departmental requirements. An additional language may be required for some graduate seminars. Entering students should ensure that they have adequate language training before beginning the program.

MASTERS SCHOLARLY PAPER

Details on the Masters' Scholarly Paper can be found at: <https://www.bu.edu/haa/academics/graduate-program/ma-program/the-ma-scholarly-paper/> and below.

The final requirement for the MA degree is the preparation of a scholarly paper, which typically begins as a seminar paper that is subsequently revised and expanded according to professional standards of presentation. The Scholarly Paper should improve upon the initial seminar paper by aiming for greater originality of argumentation and research. The Scholarly Paper Form must be submitted as soon as the topic is approved by the primary advisor, but in no case later than three months prior to the submission of the finished paper.

The Scholarly Paper is intended as an exercise in writing a publishable essay for a peer-reviewed journal. The paper's length and format reflect the manuscript submission guidelines for the *Art Bulletin*, published by the College Art Association, the primary national organization for art historians. Scholarly Papers should be between 10,000 and 15,000 words in length (including footnotes), or approximately 25 to 30 pages in 12-point Times New Roman font. The structure of the paper will vary according to the student's field, but every paper should have a separate cover page that contains, in addition to the student's name and paper title, the submission date and the names of the two faculty readers.

Students must meet the following deadlines as they develop their papers:

April/Early May: (1st year of study): Select a paper topic in consultation with your academic advisor who will act as your *first reader*. Identify a second reader for the project. Write an abstract for your paper and attend MA paper workshop. Make plans for summer research and writing.

Early May: (1st year of study) You must complete the first section of the MA Scholarly Paper Form (Proposed Topic), and have it signed by your first reader. Once signed, you must submit the form via the HAA website before the last day of classes.

Summer between 1st and 2nd years of study: Write the first draft of your paper.

October 15: (second year of study): First draft due to first reader.

January 21: Intent to Graduate Forms due to GRS for May 2027 degrees.
(visit the GRS site for exact dates and directions)

February 15: Second / final revised draft due to both first and second readers.

March 30: Final version of your MA Scholarly Paper should be uploaded via the HAA website with both readers' approval.

April 6: Approval form, signed by both readers, due to DGS.

Late-April: Presentations of MA papers at department symposium, exact date TBA each year.

After the first and second readers have approved it, the final paper is to be uploaded via the History of Art and Architecture website for the Graduate Studies Committee's review. Although it is common practice for both readers of the paper to be faculty members in the Department of History of Art & Architecture, the second reader can be affiliated with an outside program; in this case, the DGS and first reader must give their written approval. Upon completion of the MA paper, an electronic copy of the MA paper and of the MA paper approval form will be sent to the DGS and to the department administrator. In late-April, students will deliver short (c. 5-10 -minute), formal presentations of their Scholarly Papers to an audience of graduate students and faculty.

Graduation Information for MA in the History of Art & Architecture (all tracks):
<https://www.bu.edu/cas/academics/ma-ms-academics/graduation-information/>

History of Architecture

Applicants for the MA track in the History of Architecture must have a background of coursework equivalent to an undergraduate minor in the History of Art & Architecture at Boston University. Those who do not have sufficient backgrounds in the history of art and architecture must audit AH 205. The time limit for the completion of the MA requirements under the regulations of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences is three years, though most students complete the degree in two years.

The Director of Architectural Studies serves as the initial advisor for MA students specializing in architectural history. Students may choose another faculty advisor at any time.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must take a total of eight courses; the average course load is two courses per semester. Of these eight courses, students must take two architecture-themed seminars. Students take six further courses, of which two may be in art history, city planning, or other related fields. Courses are chosen in consultation with the student's advisor and the Director of Architectural Studies or the Director of Graduate Studies.

It is possible to obtain a Certificate in Museum Studies in conjunction with the MA degree with a specialization in architectural history, but a minimum total of 10 courses would be required, which must include two architecture-themed seminars chosen in consultation with the student's advisor or the Director of Architectural Studies, plus one other to be decided in consultation with the Director of Museum Studies. In addition, students must complete a graduate-level internship at a museum or non-profit arts organization; both the elective and the internship require the approval of the Director of Museum Studies. The internship may be taken as AH 501 or AH 502.

LANGUAGE EXAMINATION

Reading knowledge of one modern foreign language is required for the Master's Program in the History of Art & Architecture. Language proficiency can be demonstrated through the language examination offered by this department, or the successful completion of a reading course sponsored by the Graduate School. The department examination or Graduate School-sponsored course must be taken before the end of the second semester of residence and passed before approval of the Master's Scholarly Paper Form. The language will be determined by the faculty advisor and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin, and Spanish are the recommended languages.

The language examinations are given in the department twice each year, at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. The DGS will email information at the beginning of each semester. The exam consists of a scholarly text to be translated with the help of either a digital or print dictionary. Exam dates are listed in the calendar of events in this handbook. The examination may be taken no more than two times. Sample passages are on file in the main office and can be viewed upon request. The Department of World Languages & Literatures offers noncredit language reading classes in German, French, Spanish, and Italian for graduate students. Enrolling in such classes and passing the final examinations will fulfill the departmental requirements. An additional language may be required for some graduate seminars. Entering students should ensure that they have adequate language training before beginning the program.

MASTERS SCHOLARLY PAPER

Students concentrating in History of Architecture follow the general guidelines for the MA paper.

History of Asian Art & Architecture

Applicants for the MA track in the History of Asian Art & Architecture must have a background of coursework equivalent to an undergraduate minor in History of Art & Architecture at Boston University, i.e., five courses in the History of Art & Architecture, including at least one survey-level course and one upper-level course in Asian art and architecture. In addition, two years of college work or the equivalent in modern Chinese or Japanese should be completed. Applicants with deficient backgrounds may be required to take additional courses prior to admission to the MA program. The time limit for the completion of the MA requirements under the regulations of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences is three years, though most students complete the program in two years.

It is possible to obtain a Certificate in Museum Studies in conjunction with the MA degree with a specialization in Asian art and architecture. A minimum total of 8 courses would be required, which must include AH520 and AH521 plus an elective course to reflect their specific course of study to be decided in consultation with the Director of Museum Studies. In addition, students must complete a graduate-level internship at a museum or non-profit arts organization; both the elective and the internship require the approval of the Director of Museum Studies. The internship may be taken as AH501 or AH502.

COURE REQUIREMENTS

Eight courses are required; the average course load is two courses per semester. Students are required to take five courses in Asian art and architectural history. They must include the basic colloquia courses: AH 726 – Arts of Japan, and AH 727 – Arts of China. Students who have already taken courses comparable to the Arts of China and the Arts of Japan may substitute other courses with the consent of the Director of Graduate Studies. Students take three other courses in Asian art and architecture, including at least one graduate seminar and one course in art- historical methodologies. The final three of the eight courses are electives. Students may take courses in related fields such as Asian history, literature, and religion, or use them towards the Certificate requirements.

LANGUAGE EXAMINATION

All students specializing in Asian art must acquire proficiency in modern Chinese or modern Japanese. Language proficiency in Asian languages can be demonstrated through the language examination offered by this department or successful completion of a third-year (sixth-semester) course in modern Chinese or modern Japanese offered by the Department of World Languages & Literatures. In the case that the student is specializing in a field of Asian art and architecture that is not Chinese or Japanese, the language requirement should be determined with the student's advisor.

MASTERS SCHOLARLY PAPER

Students concentrating in History of Asian Art & Architecture follow the general guidelines for the MA paper.

The PhD Program in History of Art & Architecture

Internal MA degree students who are interested in continuing into the PhD program must apply through the regular admissions process organized by the Graduate School. Admission to the PhD program is dependent upon the student's overall preparation and qualifications, including their coursework, scholarly paper, ability to do independent research, support from a departmental doctoral advisor, as well as the appropriateness of their academic goals.

Applicants holding the MA degree from outside Boston University and deemed by the Graduate Studies Committee to be without strong History of Art & Architecture backgrounds may be admitted to the PhD program with special student status and be expected to complete two graduate courses on a probationary basis. In order to remain in the program, the student must earn a grade of at least B+ in each course. The Graduate Studies Committee will then review the student's progress and notify the student of their decision. Applicants from outside Boston University without evidence of reading competence in a modern foreign language must pass a language examination by the end of their first semester of residence at Boston University. All PhD students must choose a faculty advisor during their first semester of study.

Students matriculating for the PhD degree indicate to the Director of Graduate Studies a preliminary choice of one of two tracks: a general track (which includes students specializing in Asian and other non-Western art and architecture) and a track with specialized focus on the history of architecture.

Details and forms related to the *PhD Program in History of Art & Architecture* can be found at:
<https://www.bu.edu/haa/current-student-resources/>

History of Art & Architecture

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Sixteen courses are required for the PhD track in History of Art & Architecture. PhD students are required to take eight post-MA courses; students entering with an MA degree from an accredited university may receive credit for up to eight classes. Post-BA PhD students must fulfill all MA requirements (including eight courses) prior to advancing onto Doctoral studies. The average course load is three or four courses per semester. It is recommended that two of these eight courses be in disciplines other than history of art and architecture. Two of the History of Art & Architecture courses must be graduate seminars (800-level).

PHD LANGUAGE EXAMINATION

A second language is required for all students in the doctoral program in History of Art & Architecture. The language will be determined by the faculty advisor and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. It may be necessary in some areas of specialization for the student to pass an examination in a third language, determined by the advisor and approved by the DGS. Students specializing in African art and architectural history must successfully complete four semesters of an African language as their second language. For students specializing in Asian art, in addition to proficiency in modern Chinese or modern Japanese (depending on the chosen field of specialization), students must acquire reading knowledge in a second language. The second language can be either an Asian or a European language, as decided in consultation with the student's advisor. To meet the requirement for reading knowledge of a second language, students can take the language examination offered by this department, successfully complete a reading course offered by the Graduate School, or enroll in language courses in the Department of World Languages & Literatures. In the case of an Asian language, successful completion of second-year modern Chinese, Japanese, or Korean satisfies the department language requirement. **The requirement for a second language must be fulfilled by the end of the second semester of post-MA residence. A student may not take the qualifying examination until the PhD language requirement has been satisfied.**

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

The PhD qualifying examination is taken following the completion of coursework. It consists of an oral and written component and is a prerequisite to the writing of the dissertation. It is designed to confirm the student's mastery of a field of specialization and a comprehensive knowledge of two others. There will be at least three examiners, with at least one History of Art & Architecture faculty member who is a specialist in the major field. It is expected that fields will include at least three different media or areas of endeavor (painting, sculpture, architecture, decorative arts, photography, or the history of criticism), and will also span at least two centuries (or significantly more, depending on the standards of the art historical area involved).

A Qualifying Examination Form is available on the student resources portion of the departmental website. After conferring with the primary advisor about the areas of concentration, the date of the exam, and the names of the examiners, as well as confirming that the student has completed all requirements, the student will submit the signed form to the DGS for approval. It is expected that the form will be submitted to the DGS as soon as the areas of specialization are determined, but in no case later than three months prior to the scheduled date of the examination. The student must coordinate the date and place of the examination with the Department Administrator and each of the examiners. No qualifying exam may be taken before all incomplete grades have been resolved and two foreign language exams have been passed.

The oral portion of the qualifying examination lasts two hours and incorporates images and discussion. The written component of the exam consists of a research paper designed to demonstrate the student's facility in carrying out research in one of the chosen fields of expertise. The examiners will prepare either a single topic or a choice of topics for the research paper at the conclusion of the oral examination. Within two weeks of accepting the assigned topic, the student must produce a research paper of approximately twenty pages, with footnotes and a bibliography. Students will receive a report on their performance on the qualifying examination from the primary advisor. This statement will incorporate other examiners' reports, or those will be appended as separate statements. The written report will go into the student's file.

DISSERTATION

A dissertation prospectus signed and approved by the first and second readers must be submitted to the Director of Graduate Studies for approval within four months (or at the end of the summer) following successful completion of the qualifying examination. Upon acceptance by their first and second readers, a digital copy of the prospectus should be given to the DGS to be filed with the Graduate School Office and in the student's HAA department file. Submission of a signed and approved prospectus delineates successful passage to candidacy. That is, students must complete all

doctoral requirements, except dissertation, including passing oral and written qualifying exams as well as filing an approved prospectus to be considered PhD candidates.

The Department will notify the College Art Association for posting in their “Dissertations in Progress” section, published annually on their website at www.caareviews.org/dissertations. After the first and second readers approve a completed draft of the dissertation, the candidate will make arrangements to defend the dissertation before a committee of five or more persons, including the first and second readers.

Graduate School procedures regarding the prospectus, abstract, and final oral defense committees must be followed. The PhD Dissertation Defense Abstract form should be submitted at least three weeks prior to the final oral exam (a.k.a., the defense). The Final Oral Examination form should be submitted approximately three weeks prior to the exam. The format of the dissertation should follow the Graduate School’s Dissertation Format Requirements, available in PDF form on the Forms, Policies, and Procedures link of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences website. In all other respects, the form of the final draft will follow *A Guide for Writers of Dissertations and Theses* and current supplements available in <https://library.bu.edu/theses/>. Note the deadlines published in the calendar at the back of this handbook for submission of the first draft to the department and of the final draft to the Graduate School. At least two weeks prior to the defense of the dissertation, the candidate should make an appointment with the GRS Records Officer for an electronic review of the format. Please visit the following link for more information: <https://www.bu.edu/gpr/thesis-and-dissertation-guidelines-and-resources/>

History of Architecture

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Sixteen courses are required for the PhD track in History of Architecture; students entering with an MA degree from an accredited university may receive credit for up to eight classes. The average course load is three or four courses per semester. It is recommended that two of these eight courses be in disciplines other than the History of Art & Architecture. Two of the courses must be graduate seminars in architectural history (800-level), determined in consultation with the advisor.

PHD LANGUAGE EXAMINATION

A second language is required for the doctoral program in History of Art & Architecture. The language will be determined by the faculty advisor and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. It may be necessary in some areas of specialization for the student to pass an examination in a third language, to be determined by the advisor and approved by the DGS. Students specializing in African art and architecture history must successfully complete four semesters of an African language as their second language. For students specializing in Asian art, in addition to proficiency in modern Chinese or modern Japanese (depending on the chosen field of specialization), students must acquire reading knowledge in a second language. The second language can be either an Asian or a European language, as decided in consultation with the student’s advisor. To meet the requirement for reading knowledge of a second language, students can take the language examination offered by this department, successfully complete the reading course offered by the Graduate School, or enroll in language courses in the Department of World Languages & Literatures. In the case of an Asian language, successful completion of second-year modern Chinese, Japanese, or Korean satisfies the department language requirement. **The requirement for a second language for all post-MA students must be met by the end of the second semester of residence. A student may not take the qualifying examination until the language requirement has been satisfied.**

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

The PhD qualifying examination is taken following the completion of coursework. The exam consists of oral and written portions and is designed to confirm the student’s mastery of a field of specialization and a comprehensive field. There will be at least three examiners, with at least one History of Art & Architecture faculty member who is a specialist in the major field.

The specialized field should be a focused and clearly defined area of study related to the student’s future dissertation topic. The comprehensive field should span at least two centuries in time and cover the history and theory of at least three of the following areas of study:

1. Architecture
2. Landscape Architecture
3. Urban Planning
4. Preservation
5. Material Culture

A Qualifying Examination Form is available on the current student resources section of the departmental website. After conferring with the primary advisor about the areas of concentration, the date of the exam, and the names of the examiners, as well as confirming the completion of all requirements, the student will submit the signed form to the DGS for approval. It is expected that the form will be submitted to the DGS as soon as the areas of specialization are determined, but in no case later than three months prior to the scheduled date of the examination. The student must coordinate the date and place of the examination with the Department Administrator and each of the examiners. No qualifying exam may be taken before all incomplete grades have been filed and two language exams have been passed.

The oral portion of the qualifying examination lasts two hours and incorporates images and discussion. The written component of the exam consists of a research paper designed to demonstrate the student's facility in carrying out research in one of the chosen fields of expertise. The examiners will prepare either a single topic or a choice of topics for the research paper at the conclusion of the oral examination. Within two weeks of accepting the assigned topic, the student must produce a research paper of approximately twenty pages, with footnotes and a bibliography. When all three examiners have read and approved the research paper, the student will be notified of successful passage by the primary advisor or the DGS. Students will also receive a written report on their performance on the qualifying examination from the primary advisor. This statement will incorporate other examiners' reports, or those will be appended as separate statements. The written report will go into the student's file.

DISSERTATION

A dissertation prospectus signed and approved by the first and second readers must be submitted to the DGS for approval within four months (or at the end of the summer) following successful completion of the qualifying examination. Suggestions for the format of the prospectus can be found on the dissertation prospectus approval form and in the Sample Examinations and Forms section of the handbook. Upon acceptance by the Committee, two copies of the prospectus should be given to the Director of Graduate Studies; one copy will be filed with the Graduate School Office, and the other will remain in the student's file in the department. The Department will notify the College Art Association for posting in their "Dissertations in Progress" section, published annually in the June issue of *The Art Bulletin*. After the first and second readers approve a completed draft of the dissertation, the candidate will arrange to defend the dissertation before a committee of five or more persons, including the first and second readers.

Graduate School procedures regarding the prospectus, abstract, and final oral defense committees must be followed. The PhD Dissertation Defense Abstract form should be submitted at least three weeks prior to the final oral exam (a.k.a., the defense). The Final Oral Examination form should be submitted approximately three weeks prior to the exam. The format of the dissertation should follow the Graduate School's Dissertation Format Requirements, available in PDF form on the Forms, Policies, and Procedures link of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences website. In all other respects, the form of the final draft will follow *A Guide for Writers of Dissertations and Theses* and current supplements available in <https://library.bu.edu/theses/>. Note the deadlines published in the calendar at the back of this handbook for submission of the first draft to the department and of the final draft to the Graduate School. At least two weeks prior to the defense of the dissertation, the candidate should make an appointment with the GRS Records Officer for an electronic review of the format. Please visit the following link for more information: <https://www.bu.edu/gpr/thesis-and-dissertation-guidelines-and-resources/>

PhD Requirements

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the Department of History of Art & Architecture guarantee five full years (12 months each) of financial support for students who maintain **Satisfactory Academic Progress**. All requirements for the doctorate, including dissertation, must be completed within seven years (exceptions require a petition to GRS). A leave of absence of up to two semesters is permitted for appropriate reasons, but the leave period counts towards the seven-year time limit. A full-time or certified full-time PhD student who is in good academic standing and who becomes the primary caregiver of an infant or adopted child will receive a one-year extension of their approved time to degree. Given these time constraints, students should work closely with their dissertation readers to devise an efficient schedule for research, writing, and revision. Faculty and students share responsibility for adhering closely to this schedule.

The following achievements are required to maintain **Satisfactory Academic Progress**:

1. Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
2. Have no more than 2 failing grades (lower than B- or an incomplete grade older than 12mo) and/or W grades.

3. Meet all milestones of the degree, such as language exams, qualifying exams, and dissertation prospectus, on the schedule specified by the program.
4. Meet all milestones of the degree with sufficient quality of work as specified by the program.
5. Satisfactorily fulfill all service fellowship obligations, as specified by the program.

A student may be dismissed from their academic program for failure to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (<https://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/policies/suspension-or-dismissal/>). The determination of a student's failure to make satisfactory academic progress must be based on the program's annual graduate student review, which must include but cannot be limited to advisor assessment of student progress. If a student is not on track to maintain satisfactory academic progress based on the quality of their work, the program must place the student on academic probation and give the student sufficient feedback, opportunity, and time to improve their performance. Students who fail to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress also may be put on financial aid probation or have their financial aid discontinued until their academic progress is deemed satisfactory.

If a student fails to address concerns regarding satisfactory academic progress by the end of the probationary period, the program should submit a request for the student's dismissal to the Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. The Associate Dean will then notify the department if the request for dismissal is valid. Following the program's communication to the student of the dismissal and its rationale, the Associate Dean will then send a letter of dismissal to the student. A student who is dismissed for failure to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress may appeal the decision to the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences by submitting a written appeal that explains any mitigating circumstances within 14 days of the notice of dismissal. A dismissal that is upheld by the Dean may be appealed to the University Provost.

The following is a general timetable for students entering the doctoral program without an MA degree:

By the end of the first year

- Completion of eight courses
- Pass first language exam

By the end of the third semester

- Completion of Master's Scholarly Paper

By the end of the second year

- Completion of eight more courses

By the end of the third year

- Pass second language exam
- Pass Qualifying Exam
- Submit Dissertation Prospectus

By the end of the fifth year

- Defend Dissertation

The Following is a general timetable for students entering the doctoral program with an MA degree:

By the end of the first year

- Completion of eight courses
- Fulfill first language requirement

By the end of the second year

- Pass second language exam
- Pass Qualifying Exam

By the end of the fifth semester

- Submit Dissertation Prospectus

By the end of the fifth year

- Defend Dissertation

SERVICE REQUIREMENTS FOR PHD STUDENTS

As part of their financial aid package, PhD students are required to perform three years of service (including summers) as teaching fellows or research fellows or in other roles that involve work for the University. All service assignments require 20 hours of work per week in accordance with the 2024-27 BUGWU CBA. Students typically serve as Research Fellows during their first year of study and Teaching Fellows in their second and third years of the program. Research Fellows work with a faculty member on a project beyond their own thesis research. Teaching Fellows gain pedagogical and professional experience under the close supervision of the faculty members who have the formal responsibility for the courses to which the teaching fellows are assigned. This includes teaching course content to undergraduate students and developing skills that will benefit future academic, museum, and other careers. Obligations include instructional and grading duties assigned by the department. Fellows should expect a variety of experiences from different courses and professors. This is an opportunity to learn flexibility and adaptability to a range of circumstances and mentoring styles. Fellows register for no more than four full courses per semester (16 credits), although three courses plus the TF assignment are recommended. For more information visit: GRS information: <https://www.bu.edu/cas/admissions/phd-mfa/fellowship-aid/aid-for-phd-students/>.

The Certificate in Museum Studies

The departmental certificate in Museum Studies is awarded to students who have completed the four components that satisfy the certificate's requirements. It is not a stand-alone certificate but is awarded in conjunction with a graduate degree. Courses must include AH520 and AH521. Students choose an elective course to reflect their specific course of study in conjunction with the Director of Museum Studies. Possible options include (but are not limited to) AH524, AH576, AH804 (when it is a conservation seminar), or suitable courses from other departments and the Metropolitan College's graduate program in Arts Administration. Additionally, students must take a graduate-level internship at a museum or non-profit arts organization; both the elective and the internship require the approval of the Director of Museum Studies. The internship may be taken as AH501 or AH502.

These courses may be taken either as part of or in addition to the courses required for the MA or the PhD. Students enrolled simultaneously in the MA program and pursuing the Museum Studies Certificate may complete both sets of requirements by taking nine courses instead of the eight for the MA alone. The Museum Studies Certificate is also open to MA students in cognate disciplines of graduate study. The Department has ongoing internship placements at a range of institutions, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy; the Photographic Resource Center; the Peabody-Essex Museum; the Boston Public Library; the Harvard University Art Museums; the List Visual Arts Center at MIT; the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; Historic New England; and several smaller historical house museums.

The learning outcomes for the Certificate in Museum Studies:

- Acquire familiarity with different methodologies in museum studies.
- Develop a critical understanding of current principles, practice, and contemporary debates in Museum Studies.
- Develop skills required to mount exhibitions and gain practical experience in applying those skills.
- Be prepared for a curatorial or museum career.

Graduate Courses in History of Art & Architecture

Courses taught by the History of Art & Architecture faculty are complemented each semester by related courses taught in other departments and programs. Students are encouraged to consider related course offerings in the American Studies Program and in the departments of Archaeology, English, History, Classics, Romance Studies, and World Languages & Literatures. Such courses must have the prior approval of the student's advisor or the Director of Graduate Studies in History of Art & Architecture. For descriptions of courses, see the GRS bulletin.

Undergraduate/Graduate Practica and Courses

AH 500	Topics in History of Art & Architecture
AH 501*	Practicum in Museum Studies, semester I
AH 502*	Practicum in Museum Studies, semester II
AH 503	Art Historical Methods
AH 504	Topics in Religion and the Visual Arts
AH 507*	Digital Curation
AH 520*	The Museum and Historical Agency
AH 521*	Curatorship: Exhibition Development
AH 527	Topics in Art and Society
AH 530	American Art and the City
AH 531	Modern Asian Art in a Global Context
AH 532	Japanese Print Culture
AH 533	Seminar: Greek Art and Architecture
AH 534	Seminar in Roman Art
AH 539	Muslim Societies: An Interdisciplinary History
AH 541	Courtly Commissions: Ottoman Art and Architecture
AH 543	Latin American Art and the Cold War
AH 545	Seminar: Black Feminist Art
AH 546	Places of Memory: Historic Preservation and Practice
AH 548	Global Heritage Conservation
AH 553	Documenting Historic Buildings and Landscapes
AH 554	Boston Architectural and Community History Workshop
AH 557	High Renaissance and Mannerist Art in Italy
AH 563	Global Baroque: Art and Power in the Seventeenth Century
AH 574	Topics in African Art
AH 580	Architectural Technology and Materials
AH 584	Greater Boston: Architecture & Planning
AH 585	Twentieth-Century Architecture and Urbanism
AH 587	Green Design
AH 589	Topics in Nineteenth-Century Art
AH 591	Seminar in Photographic History
AH 598	The Sister Arts

Graduate Colloquia

AH 699	Teaching College Art History
AH 716	African Diaspora Arts in the Americas
AH 725	Arts of Asia
AH 726	Arts of Japan
AH 727	Arts of China
AH 733	Greek Art and Architecture
AH 734	Roman Art and Architecture
AH 742	Medieval Art and Religion
AH742	Latin American Art
AH 745	Romanesque Art
AH 747	Gothic Art
AH 748	The Medieval Book
AH 750	Early Renaissance Art
AH 751	High Renaissance Art
AH 753	Renaissance Architecture and Theory
AH 757	Renaissance Art
AH 758	Michelangelo
AH 759	Northern Renaissance Painting
AH 761	Baroque Art
AH 762	Venice and Its Arts
AH 764	Documenting Historic Buildings
AH 765	Baroque Art in Northern Europe
AH 766	Eighteenth-Century Art
AH 767	Material Culture

AH 771	Nineteenth-Century Photography
AH 776	American VernacularArchitecture
AH 777	American Furniture and Allied Arts, 1630-1830
AH 779	Visual Culture in the 19th Century United States
AH 782	Nineteenth-Century Architecture in Europe and America
AH 783	American Architecture
AH 784	American Art
AH 785	American Painting Until 1900
AH 786	Twentieth Century American Painting
AH 788	British Painting
AH 790	Nineteenth-Century Painting and Sculpture
AH 791	Twentieth-Century Painting and Sculpture
AH 792	Contemporary Painting and Sculpture
AH 795	History and Criticism of Photography
AH 798	Colloquium in Twentieth-Century Architecture

Graduate Seminars

AH 802	Art Historical Writing
AH 803	Seminar at the Museum of Fine Arts, Semester I
AH 805	Professional Development and Placement Seminar
AH 804	Seminar at the Museum of Fine Arts, semester II
AH 812	Portraiture
AH 820	Seminar: Asian Art
AH 822	Seminar: African Art
AH 830	Ancient Art
AH 833	Greek Art and Architecture
AH 834	Roman Art and Architecture
AH 837	Greek and Roman Art
AH 844	Medieval Art and Architecture
AH 846	Romanesque and Gothic Art
AH 848	The Medieval Book
AH 851	Fifteenth-Century Italian Painting and Sculpture
AH 853	Renaissance Art and Architecture
AH 854	Sixteenth-Century Italian Painting
AH 863	Baroque Art and Architecture
AH 864	Southern Baroque Art and Architecture
AH 866	Eighteenth-Century Art and Architecture
AH 867	Material Culture
AH 881	American Furniture
AH 884	Nineteenth-Century Architecture
AH 886	American Painting
AH 887	American Art
AH 888	Twentieth-Century American Painting
AH 889	Nineteenth-Century Art
AH 893	Twentieth-Century Architecture
AH 887	African American Art
AH 888	Twentieth-Century American Painting
AH 889	Nineteenth-Century Art
AH 891	Photography
AH 892	Approaches to Architectural History
AH 893	Twentieth-Century Architecture
AH 895	Twentieth-Century Art

*Please review the information, links, and forms available in the
[Current Student Resources](#) tab on the upper right of the
History of Art & Architecture site
<http://www.bu.edu/haa/>*

Faculty

Daniel M. Abramson	dabr@bu.edu	Professor; 18th-20th c. American and European Architecture <i>Director of Architectural Studies</i>
Heba Alnajada	hnajada@bu.edu	Assistant Professor; Global Modern and Contemporary Architecture <i>On leave, Fall 2026 and Spring 2027</i>
Ross Barrett	rcb@bu.edu	Professor; American Art <i>Director of Graduate Studies</i>
Cynthia Becker	cjbecker@bu.edu	Professor; African Art <i>Chair</i> <i>On leave, Fall 2026</i>
Jodi Cranston	cranston@bu.edu	Professor; Renaissance Art <i>Associate Chair</i>
Anne Feng	annefeng@bu.edu	Assistant Professor; Chinese Art
Jan Haenraets	janh@bu.edu	Professor of the Practice, Preservation Studies Program
Melanie Hall	hallmj@bu.edu	Associate Professor; British Art, Museums and Historic Preservation <i>Director of Museum Studies</i>
Deborah Kahn	debkahn@bu.edu	Associate Professor; Medieval Art <i>On leave, Spring 2027</i>
S. Rebecca Martin	srmartin@bu.edu	Associate Professor; Greek Art <i>Director of Graduate Admissions</i>
William D. Moore	moorewd@bu.edu	Associate Professor; American Material Culture <i>Joint appointment with American Studies Program</i>
Ana María Reyes	amreyes@bu.edu	Associate Professor; Latin American Art <i>Director, Center for Latin American Studies</i>
Jonathan Ribner	jribner@bu.edu	Associate Professor; Nineteenth-Century and Modern Art
Nicole Smythe-Johnson	nsmythej@bu.edu	Assistant Professor, Caribbean and African Diaspora Art
Alice Y. Tseng	aytseng@bu.edu	Professor; Japanese Art and Architecture
Carolyn White	clw@bu.edu	Professor; Contemporary Archaeology, Built Environment, Material Culture <i>Director; Preservations Studies Program</i>
Gregory Williams	ghw@bu.edu	Associate Professor; Contemporary Art
Michael Zell	mzell@bu.edu	Professor; Baroque and Eighteenth-Century Art. <i>Interim Chair, Fall 2026</i>

Department Administration

Interim Chair, Fall 2026: Michael Zell

Chair, Spring 2027: Cynthia Becker

Associate Chair: Jodi Cranston

Director of Graduate Studies (DGS): Ross Barrett

Director of Graduate Admissions (DGA): S. Rebecca Martin

Director of Architectural Studies (DAS): Daniel M. Abramson

Director of Museum Studies (DMS): Melanie Hall

Staff

Susan Rice

srice@bu.edu

Department Administrator

Ân Vông

vonga@bu.edu

Program Coordinator

Student Resources

A selection of the most commonly used resources; including forms, policies, and procedures can be found on the department's website under the **Current Student Resources** tab (located in the menu bar of every page), or by visiting the page directly at <http://www.bu.edu/haa/current-student-resources/>. This page is a good first step in sourcing information.

GSHAAA

GSHAAA's student-run website provides a great deal of useful information, links, and other shared resources.

BUGWU

The BU Graduate Student Workers Union (BUGWU, Service Employees International Union, Local 509) represents graduate students employed by the University to provide research, instructional, or teaching services. To be considered a part of the bargaining unit, graduate student employees must be enrolled in Boston University graduate programs and must receive compensation in exchange for providing research, instructional, or teaching services. The following are expressly excluded from the bargaining unit: Non-Service Fellows; all other graduate students, undergraduate students, temporary employees, casual employees, confidential employees, managers, guards, and supervisors as defined in the National Labor Relations Act.

For more information about the BU Graduate Student Workers Union please visit:

<https://www.seiu509.org/boston-university/>

GRS Forms, Policies, & Procedures

An expansive list of information; including detailed information about degree requirements, procedures, forms, and policies is also provided by the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences on their pages for MAs (<https://www.bu.edu/cas/academics/phd-and-mfa-academics/>) and for PhDs (<https://www.bu.edu/cas/academics/phd-and-mfa-academics/>).

Departmental Activities

The annual **Boston University Graduate Symposium on the History of Art & Architecture** is held each spring at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and is open to the general public. The Symposium is sponsored by the graduate students of this department, who solicit abstracts and select speakers from universities throughout the U.S. and Canada. The Symposium provides an opportunity for younger scholars to share their recent research in a professional forum. Further information can be obtained from the Symposium's coordinators.

Faye G., Jo, and James Stone Gallery. Some graduate students in the M.A. program serve as Gallery Assistants at Boston University's Stone Gallery, conducting research, as well as organizing and facilitating exhibitions. The Stone Gallery is located at 855 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215; Tel: 617/353-4672; <http://www.bu.edu/art/>.

The **Graduate Student History of Art & Architecture Association (GSHAAA)** is active in organizing intellectual and social activities for the graduate students. GSHAAA provides opportunities for graduate students to give papers to their colleagues, participate in reading groups, and attend lectures given by invited guest speakers. The Association also attempts to diminish the distance between the faculty and the students by inviting professors to give informal talks to the graduate students. GSHAAA raises funds for the operation of its activities through various enterprises, such as the sale of books donated by professors and students. For more information on GSHAA activities you can visit: <https://www.bu.edu/haa/community/student-organizations/graduate-student-history-of-art-architecture-association/>

SEQUITUR is an online scholarly journal produced by the graduate students of the Department of History of Art & Architecture at Boston University. SEQUITUR is a biannual publication dedicated to addressing current events, issues, and personalities in art and architectural history. Appearing in the fall and spring, SEQUITUR features essays, exhibition and book reviews, interviews, and research and field reports. Its purpose is to promote the scholarship and professional experience of HAA graduate students by providing an online platform through which to publish material and to acquaint students with academic editorial processes and peer review.

THE GUILD

The Medieval and Renaissance Guild is a graduate student-run organization dedicated to the study of the medieval and early modern periods. Through monthly workshops and other scholarly gatherings, members engage in critical dialogue, present works-in-progress, and cultivate connections that advance both research and the academic community. The Guild fosters interdisciplinary collaboration and collegiality among students across the Humanities at Boston University.

Faculty Biographies 2026-2027

Daniel M. Abramson

Professor; Eighteenth through Twentieth-Century American and European Architecture

BA in English and American Literature, Princeton University; MA and PhD in Art History, Harvard University
Daniel M. Abramson's scholarship focuses on issues of architecture, economics, society, and government from the eighteenth through twentieth centuries with a specialization in American and European topics. He is the author of three books: *Obsolescence: An Architectural History* (University of Chicago Press, 2016); *Building the Bank of England: Money, Architecture, Society, 1694–1942* (Yale University Press, 2005); and *Skyscraper Rivals: The AIG Building and the Architecture of Wall Street* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2001); as well as being co-editor with the Aggregate Architectural History Collaborative of *Governing By Design: Architecture, Economy, and Politics in the Twentieth Century* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2012) and *Writing Architectural History: Evidence and Narrative in the Twenty-First Century* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2021). Current work is on American government complexes, citizenship, and capitalism. Before coming to Boston University in 2016, Abramson taught at Tufts University and Connecticut College.

Heba Alnajada

Assistant Professor; Global Modern and Contemporary Architecture

BA, University of Jordan; MA University of Sheffield; PhD University of California, Berkeley
Professor Alnajada is Assistant Professor of Global Modern and Contemporary Architecture in the History of Art & Architecture Department at Boston University. Her research focuses on migration history, particularly the intersection of refugees, the built environment, law, and the modern history of the Middle East. Before joining BU, she was the UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of History at UC Davis. She received her PhD in Architectural History from the University of California, Berkeley. Her academic research builds on several years of professional experience in architectural NGOs, urban planning, and heritage documentation projects in Yemen, Libya, Jordan, and Palestine.
Dr. Alnajada will be on leave for the 2026-2027 Academic year.

Ross Barrett

Professor; American Art

BA, University of Notre Dame; MA, Syracuse University; PhD, Boston University
Professor Barrett is a scholar of American art and visual culture from the colonial period to the early twentieth century. His research and teaching explore the ways that fine artists navigated the political, economic, and environmental transformations associated with modernization, including the emergence of liberal democracy, the expansion of industrial and finance capitalism, the privatization and development of the North American continent, and the rise of fossil fuels. He is the author of *Rendering Violence: Riots, Strikes, and Upheaval in Nineteenth-Century American Art* (California, 2014) and *Speculative Landscapes: American Art and Real Estate in the Nineteenth Century* (California, 2022), and co-editor, with Daniel Worden, of *Oil Culture* (Minnesota, 2014). He is the recipient of several grants and awards, including the Arthur Kingsley Porter Prize and NCSA Emerging Scholars Award, and has published essays in *The Art Bulletin*, *American Art*, *Winterthur Portfolio*, *Journal of American Studies*, and *Prospects*. Professor Barrett teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in colonial, nineteenth-century, and early twentieth-century American art and visual culture. Topics include colonial American art, art of the American Revolution, art and the Civil War, American Art and the Atlantic Ocean, the visual culture of American cities, Picturing the Frontier, American landscape art, American modernisms, and American art in the 1940s.

Cynthia Becker

Professor; African Art

BA, University of New Orleans; MA, PhD University of Wisconsin-Madison
Cynthia Becker is a scholar of African art, with a focus on Amazigh (Berber) visual culture in northwestern Africa, specifically Morocco, Algeria, and Niger. She is the author of *Amazigh Arts in Morocco: Women Shaping Berber Identity* (2006), which won a Choice book award in 2007, and *Blackness in Morocco: Gnawa Identity through*

Music and Visual Culture (2020), which received an Honorable Mention Award from the American Institute of Maghrib Studies. She has written numerous articles about such topics as the trans-Saharan slave trade, Amazigh identity politics, Black Indian carnival in New Orleans, as well as counter-monuments to the Confederacy in New Orleans. Her writings on North Africa have been included in numerous museum exhibitions, including those organized by the Musée berbère du Jardin Marjorelle (for *Berber Women of Morocco*), the Institut du Monde Arabe (for *Trésors de l'islam en Afrique*), the Block Museum at Northwestern (for *Caravans of Gold*), the Newark Museum (for *Arts of Global Africa*), and the University of Florida Harn Museum (for *Africa Interweave: Textile Diasporas*).

Dr. Becker will be on leave for the Fall 2026 semester.

Jodi Cranston

Professor; Renaissance Art

BA, Yale University; MA, Columbia University; MPhil, Columbia University; PhD, Columbia University. Professor Cranston is the author of four books, including *The Poetics of Portraiture in the Renaissance* (Cambridge University Press, 2000), *The Muddled Mirror Materiality and Fracture in Titian's Later Paintings* (Penn State University Press, 2010), and *Green Worlds of Renaissance Venice* (Penn State University Press, 2019); and editor and contributor to *Venetian Painting Matters, 1450-1750* (Brepols, 2015); and has contributed several articles to interdisciplinary Renaissance publications. She was the recipient of a Charles Ryskamp Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies (2004-5), of a Renaissance Society of America Research Grant (2015), and of the Jeffrey Henderson Senior Fellowship from the BU Center for the Humanities (2013-4; 2020-1). She launched two digital mapping projects, one, *Mapping Titian*, which visualizes the provenance of Titian's pictures from the 16th century to the present day and another, *Mapping Paintings*, which allows users to map any artwork. She received two Digital Art History Grants from the Kress Foundation to develop both applications. Her most recent book, *Animal Sightings: Art, Animals, and European Court Culture, 1400–1550*, was published by Penn State University Press in 2025.

Anne N. Feng

Assistant Professor; Chinese Art

BA, New York University; PhD, University of Chicago

Professor Feng is a historian of Chinese art with specialties in Buddhist art and the Dunhuang Caves. Her research interests include visual and material cultures of the Silk Road, theories of vision and meditation, mural painting, and representations of the Western Pure Land. Her writings are featured in *Archives of Asian Art*, *Artibus Asiae*, *Journal of Silk Road Studies*, and edited volumes on Chinese art and architecture. Her work has been supported by the Luce/ACLS Early Career Fellowships in China Studies, the Fulbright-IIE Fellowship, the Franke Institute for the Humanities, etc. Anne has also worked at the Palace Museum, Beijing, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and the Art Institute of Chicago. She is currently writing her new book *Aqueous Visions: Water and Buddhist Art in Medieval China*, which explores the impact of an aquatic imaginary on immersive architectural schemes of the Buddhist cave complex Dunhuang, in northwest China.

Jan Haenraets

Professor of the Practice

BL Arch, COOVI-PHITS (now part of Erasmus University College Brussels); MA, University of York; PhD, De Montfort University

Jan Haenraets is a landscape architect, specialist in historic preservation, designer, researcher, and educator with extensive multidisciplinary international experience. He is the author of *Kashmir's Mughal Landscape of Gardens: Creation and Decline of a Golden Age, 1586–1753* (Brill, 2026), and the co-editor of *Landscapes Architecture and Infrastructure of the Twentieth Century – Selections from the Docomomo Chapters* (Docomomo International, 2024). His professional scope encompasses design, environmental art, heritage management, cultural landscape advice, and planning. His scholarly pursuits focus on global methodologies for historic landscape preservation, ecological sustainability, Mughal landscape heritage in Kashmir and South Asia, the landscape heritage of the Kankanaey people in the Philippines, and the preservation of twentieth-century designed landscapes.

Melanie Hall

Associate Professor; Museum Studies

BA, University of Leeds; PhD, Leeds Beckett University

Professor Hall teaches courses on museums and historic preservation, on English and American country houses, and American and British decorative arts. She has worked in the museum and heritage sectors and regularly serves on Boston museum advisory committees. She has organized several international museum and preservation symposia. She publishes on architectural heritage and is currently editing *Towards World Heritage: International Origins of the Preservation Movement*.

Deborah Kahn

Associate Professor; Medieval Art

BA, Sarah Lawrence College; MA, PhD, Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London

Professor Kahn is a specialist in European art and architecture of the Middle Ages with special interests in the historical context of monumental stone sculpture, its iconography and the transmission of images. Her new book *The Politics of Sanctity* (Brepols, 2021) focuses on recently identified sculptures from around the year 1000 that depict the manufacture a new saint in conjunction with images of anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim sentiment. She did graduate work at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London and subsequently served as a consultant on sculpture and conservation at Canterbury and Lincoln Cathedrals and as an organizer of the exhibition, English Romanesque Art 1066-1200. She is the author of numerous articles, as well as two previous books *Canterbury Cathedral and its Romanesque Sculpture* (1991) and *The Romanesque Frieze and its Spectator* (editor, 1992). Professor Kahn serves on the advisory board of the Corpus of Romanesque Sculpture in the British Isles and on other international committees. She is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in London. Her current research relates to the models and transmission of the imagery of the Bayeux Tapestry. She offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses on medieval art and architecture – including a seminar on the Bayeux Tapestry and its Context. Dr. Kahn will be on leave for the Spring 2027 semester.

S. Rebecca Martin

Associate Professor; Greek Art

BA, Smith College; MA, PhD., University of California, Berkeley

Professor Martin teaches courses on all aspects of Greek art and architecture. In Fall 2026, her seminar is on Greek architecture. In Spring 2027, she will teach a colloquium on Classical Greek art that requires no background in ancient art (although having some familiarity with Classics will of course be helpful). The colloquium, AH733, fulfills the MA methods requirement, makes good use of the collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, and includes writing assignments that emphasize early professionalization (book review, catalogue entry, etc.). She is the author of *The Art of Contact: Comparative Approaches to Greek and Phoenician Art* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017) and co-editor of *The Tiny and the Fragmented: Miniature, Broken, and Otherwise “Incomplete” Objects in the Ancient World* (Oxford University Press, 2018). Her current book project is about Phoenician monumental sculpture. She hopes to be on leave in the 2027-28 school year.

William D. Moore

Associate Professor; American Material Culture

BA, Harvard University; MA, PhD, Boston University

Professor Moore, who holds a joint appointment with the American Studies Program, teaches courses on American material culture, architecture and landscapes, folk art, and American Studies. An affiliated faculty member of BU's Preservation Studies Program and the Center for Fraternal Collections & Research at Indiana University, he is the author of *Shaker Fever: America's Twentieth-Century Fascination with a Communitarian Sect* (2020), *Masonic Temples: Freemasonry, Ritual Architecture, and Masculine Archetypes* (2006), and numerous articles interrogating the interrelationship between built form and systems of belief. He is co-editor of *Buildings & Landscapes: Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum* and serves on the editorial board of *Winterthur Portfolio*. His book about the buildings of Cape Cod and contiguous islands, part of the Society of Architectural Historians' Buildings of the United States series, is forthcoming from the University of Virginia Press. He is currently working on a book project addressing the built form of America's diverse camp meeting traditions.

Ana María Reyes

Associate Professor; Latin American Art

BA, Boston College; MA, PhD, University of Chicago

Professor Reyes teaches Latin American Art from the Spanish invasion to the present and focuses her scholarship on modern and contemporary. She is part of the Core Faculty at the Center for Latin American Studies and American and Affiliate Faculty at the New England Studies at Boston University. She is also Affiliated Researcher at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University and founding member of the Symbolic Reparations Research Project. Her book, *The Politics of Taste: Beatriz González and Cold War Aesthetics* (Duke University Press, 2019) was awarded the Association of Latin American Art History's Arvey Award for best book in 2020. The book studies symbolic violence in the context of Cold War aesthetic and modernization discourses. She co edited with Maureen Shanahan *Simón Bolívar: Travels and Transformations of a Cultural Icon* (University Press of Florida, 2016) on cultural Bolivarianisms as a case for the arts and humanities in democratic thinking. She is currently working on a new book, *To Weave and Repair: Aesthetics in Colombia's Peace Process*. She serves on the Editorial Board at *Art Journal* and has served as expert witness for the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. As a member of the SRRP, she has developed "Guidelines on the Use of Art in Symbolic Reparations," offered technical support for The Center for Reproductive Rights and The Center for the Promotion and Protection of Sexual and Reproductive Rights for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights, among others.

Jonathan P. Ribner

Associate Professor; Late Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century European Art

BA, Middlebury College; MA, PhD, New York University

A specialist in European painting and sculpture of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Professor Ribner has published on the art of France and Britain in relation to the history of politics, law, literature, religion, public health, science, and the environment. He is the author of *Loss in French Romantic Art, Literature, and Politics* (Routledge, 2022, available via Routledge (Open Access) and *Broken Tablets: The Cult of the Law in French Art from David to Delacroix* (University of California Press, 1993, available via UC Press E-Books Collection, 1982-2004). His articles have appeared in *Studies in Romanticism*, *The British Art Journal*, *Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide*, *Art Journal*, *Zeitschrift für Kunstgeschichte*, and *The Art Bulletin*. He reviews books and exhibitions for *Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide*, *The Burlington Magazine*, *caa.reviews*, and *Nineteenth-Century French Studies*. His current project is a general-audience book on aspects of art from the Renaissance to the present.

Dr. Ribner will be on leave during the Fall 2026 semester, after which he will retire.

Nicole Smythe-Johnson

Assistant Professor, Caribbean and African Diaspora Art

BA Macalaster College; MA University of Leeds; PhD University of Texas at Austin

Nicole Smythe-Johnson is a writer, educator and curator from Kingston, Jamaica. She is currently Assistant Professor of art history and African American & Black diaspora studies at Boston University. Most recently, she curated "If we are here..." at the Visual Art Center at UT Austin (Sept 2023 to March 2024). She was also on the curatorial team of the 2022 Kingston Biennial and John Dunkley: Neither Day nor Night (2017-2018), which travelled to the Perez Art Museum Miami, the Folk Art Museum in New York City, and the National Gallery of Jamaica. She has published work in a variety of periodicals and books, including *Terremoto*, *Small Axe* and the forthcoming anthology *Beyond Boundaries: Seeing Art History from the Caribbean* (Yale University Press, 2025).

Alice Y. Tseng

Professor; Japanese Art and Architecture

BA, Columbia University; MA, PhD, Harvard University

Professor Alice Y. Tseng is Associate Dean of the Faculty for the Humanities and Professor of Japanese Art and Architecture in the Department of History of Art and Architecture at Boston University. From 2016 to 2021, Tseng chaired the department. An active contributor to the fields of architectural history, art history, and Japan studies, she has been a member of the editorial boards of *Japan Architectural Review*, *Journal of Japanese Studies*, *ArchitectureBoston*, and *caareviews*; she was also elected to the Northeast Asia Council (NEAC) of the Association for Asian Studies. She was the Editor in Chief of the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* (JSAH), in 2024 and 2025. Her research specialization encompasses the art and architecture of Japan, with particular focus on the 19th and 20th centuries. Specific topics of research interest are the history of institutional buildings, collections,

exhibitions, and transnational and transcultural connections between Japan and Euro-America. She is the author of *The Imperial Museums of Japan: Architecture and the Art of the Nation* (University of Washington Press, 2008), and she is the co-editor of *Kyoto Visual Culture in the Early Edo and Meiji Periods: The Arts of Reinvention* (Routledge, 2016). Her book *Modern Kyoto: Building for Ceremony and Commemoration, 1868-1940* was published from the University of Hawai'i Press in 2018. She has published articles on various facets of Japanese art, including architecture, painting, and photography. She is a co-curator of the online exhibition [Asia at the World's Fairs](#). A current book project under contract investigates the building of Japanese-American cultural relations at the turn of the new century, focusing on the political, artistic, and racial frictions driving the representations of Japan at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904.

Carolyn White

Professor, Contemporary Archaeology, Built Environment, Material Culture

B.A., Oberlin College, Ph.D., Boston University

Carolyn L. White is director of the Preservation Studies Program and Professor of History of Art and Architecture at Boston University. Her scholarship focuses on cultural heritage, the materiality of daily life, the built environment, active site archaeology, and the intersection of and collaboration between art and archaeology. Her research spans four centuries, focusing on personal adornment and the construction of identity in 18th century England and America, 19th-century ranching in Hawaii, daily life in 1860s Aurora, Nevada, and on the built environment of Black Rock City. Her new research project focuses on squatted buildings and the right to the city in Rome, Italy. She is the author of three monographs and five edited volumes. Her most recent books are *The Archaeology of Burning Man* (University of New Mexico Press, 2022) and *Distant Voices: On Steven Seidenberg's Architecture of Silence* (Contrasto Press, 2024), the latter with her frequent collaborator, photographer Steven Seidenberg. Before joining the faculty at Boston University she taught at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Gregory Williams

Associate Professor; Contemporary and Modern Art

BA, Claremont McKenna College; MA, Tufts University; PhD, Graduate Center, City University of New York

Professor Williams teaches courses in contemporary and modern art and critical theory. His research is focused on twentieth- and twenty-first-century German art. He has published exhibition catalog and journal essays on the work of K.P. Brehmer, Katharina Grosse, Martin Kippenberger, Alexander Kluge, Imi Knoebel, Rosemarie Trockel, Cosima von Bonin, and Franz Erhard Walther, as well as essays and reviews on international contemporary art for periodicals such as *Art Journal*, *Artforum*, *frieze*, *October*, *Parkett*, and *Texte zur Kunst*. His book, *Permission to Laugh: Humor and Politics in Contemporary German Art*, appeared in 2012 with the University of Chicago Press, and he co-edited *Labour in a Single Shot: Critical Perspectives on Antje Ehmman and Harun Farocki's Global Video Project* (Amsterdam University Press, 2022) with Roy Grundmann and Peter J. Schwartz. Most recently, he co-edited, with Mette Gieskes, the essay collection *Humor in Global Contemporary Art* (Bloomsbury, 2024). Professor Williams is currently working on a book about art, design, and education in West Germany from the late 1940s to the 1970s.

Michael Zell

Professor; Baroque and Eighteenth-Century Art

BA, McGill University; PhD, Harvard University

Professor Zell is a scholar of seventeenth-century Dutch art, with a particular focus on Rembrandt and Vermeer. He teaches graduate courses on a range of topics on Dutch and Flemish art, including the recent material and global turns in the field, as well as "Global Baroque: Art and Power in the Seventeenth Century." He is the author of the books *Reframing Rembrandt: Jews and the Christian Image in Seventeenth-Century Amsterdam* (University of California Press, 2002) and *Rembrandt, Vermeer, and the Gift in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Art* (Amsterdam University Press, 2021); articles in journals such as *Art History*, *Journal of Historians of Netherlandish Art*, and *Nederlands Kunsthistorisch Jaarboek*; and is editor and contributor to the volumes *Rethinking Rembrandt* (Waanders, 2002), *'Ut pictura amor': The Reflexive Imagery of Love in Early Modern Artistic Theory and Practice, 1500-1700* (Brill, 2017), and *The Affective and Hermeneutic Functions of the Mindful Picture, 1500-1700* (Brill, 2026). Professor Zell co-curated the exhibition "Reality and Imagination: Rembrandt and the Jews in the Dutch Republic" at the MFA, Boston (2026), and is working on a book on the poetics of the mirror in seventeenth-century Dutch painting.

Calendar of Important Dates

Fall 2026

Sep 3	First day of Fall classes
Sep 4	Orientation for incoming graduate students
Sep 11	Departmental language exams
Sep 17	Intent to Graduate Form due in the GRS office for Jan 2027 degree
Oct 15	First draft of MA Scholarly Paper due to first reader for May 2027 degree
Dec 3	Last day to hold dissertation defense for Jan 2027 degree*
Dec 10	Last day of Fall classes
Dec 10	Last day for MA Scholarly Paper to be submitted for Jan 2027 degree
Dec 10	Final dissertation due to ProQuest ETD for a January 2027 graduation
Dec 14	Final exams begin
Dec 18	Final exams end

****Please note that students should** notify the program administrator that they're defending their dissertation at least three weeks before the defense will be held. **A complete list of graduation deadlines for PhD students is available at:** <http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/phd-mfa-students/graduation-information/>

Spring 2027

Jan 15	Jan 2027 Degree Award Date
Jan 19	First day of Spring classes
TBA	Departmental language exams
Jan 21	Intent to Graduate Form due in the GRS office for May 2027 degree
Feb 15	Second/final draft of MA Scholarly Paper due to both readers for May 2027 degree
Mar 30	Final MA Scholarly Paper due with both readers' approvals for May 2027 degree
TBA	Annual Boston University Graduate Student Symposium on the History of Art & Architecture
Apr 1	Signed MA Scholarly Paper Topic approval form due to DGS for May 2027 degree
Apr 8	Last day to hold dissertation defense for May 2027 degree*
Apr 15	Final dissertation due to ProQuest ETD for a May 2027 graduation
TBA	Formal presentations of AY 2026-2027 MA Scholarly Paper at department symposium
Apr 29	Last day of Spring classes
May 1	First-year MA students determine MA Scholarly Paper topics with advisors & submit signed form
May 3	Final exams begin
May 7	Final exams end
TBA	GRS PhD Hooding Ceremony
TBA	Commencement and departmental reception

**** Please note that students should** notify the program administrator that they're defending their dissertation at least three weeks before the defense will be held. **A complete list of graduation deadlines for PhD students is available at:** <http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/phd-mfa-students/graduation-information/>.

Information in this booklet is accurate as of September 1, 2026.

The department reserves the right to change fees, program requirements, plans of study, the academic calendar, or to make any other changes deemed necessary or desirable, giving advance notice of changes when possible.