Art History

Have you ever seen a painting and wondered where the artist gathered the inspiration? Perhaps you'd be a good candidate for the Art History major. Art History is really the history of the world. Studying the uses and applications of art is, in a way, studying the world in which they were created. Dark images from turbulent times in the world's history. Experimental, creative visions by artists that want to strike away from society's norms and create their own counterculture.

Many careers are suitable for the Art History major. You could go into many facets of journalism, writing about the great works of art. Another opportunity might be to have a more hands-on approach and do any number of jobs inside an art museum. Working directly with the works of art, patron assistance, or upkeep and design of exhibits, there are many possibilities if you can get a job in an institution of art.

Skills and Competencies

As in most other fields, strong interpersonal communication and organizational skills are a must for a professional. Art History careers will emphasize many areas of interest, such as human relations, communication, visual and data analysis, research, and education to name a few. The professions are very diverse and filled with cultural traditions.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with liberal studies and graduation requirements.

Art History Core

AD100 The Art and Design Experience (2 cr.)
AD110 Ideas in Art and Design History (4 cr.)
AD160 Physical Structures and Concepts (4 cr.)
AD175 Visual Structures and Concepts (4 cr.)
AD230 History of World Art: Ancient/Med. (4 cr.)
AD240 History of World Art: Renaiss/Mod (4 cr.)
AD270 Social Structures and Concepts (4 cr.)
AD390 Methods and Theories (4 cr.)
AD490 Advanced Research (4 cr.)

Art History Electives

five courses from the following

AD200 Native American Art/Arch. (4 cr.)
AD260 Why America Looks This Way (4 cr.)
AD265 Art and Arch. of Japan (4 cr.)
AD280 History of Photography (4 cr.)
AD300 Asian Influence in Modern Art (4 cr.)
AD330 History of Renaissance Art (4 cr.)
AD335 History of Baroque Art (4 cr.)
AD345 Modernity in Art: 19th Century (4 cr.)
AD355 20th Century Art and Arch. (4 cr.)
AD365 History of Modern Design (4 cr.)
EN225 History of World Cinema (4 cr.)
EN326 National Cinema (4 cr.)

Art and Design Electives (4 cr.)

Minor (20 cr.)

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

You should remember that Art History jobs are not simply found in museums. While a large number of degree holders do work in such an institution, a larger majority work in other settings such as magazine, education, and other art related fields.

Job Outlook

Competition for new jobs will still be demanding, but the profession is growing at a faster than average 18% rate for the next decade. Median salary is expected to be about $41,000.
Potential Careers

NMU’s Art History Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

- Gallery Curator
- Art Critic
- Art History Professor
- Art Investment
- Art Librarian
- Art Teacher
- Artist Representative
- Exhibit Installer
- Freelance Writer
- Independent Producer
- Museum Administrator
- Museum Curator
- Publishing
- Reproductions
- Retailing
- Visual Resources Librarian

Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

School of Art and Design
159 Art and Design
906-227-2852
www.nmu.edu/art

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1205 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Art Students League

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.careerresource.net
www.bls.gov/oco

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.collegeart.org The College Art Association
www.naea-reston.org National Art Education Association
www.aah.org.uk Association of Art Historians

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