



The Florence Academy of Art



MA *in* STUDIO ART

Master of Arts in Studio Art

Our MA Program is already transforming lives, enhancing the classroom experience and building the confidence of educators and their students. Using time-tested methodology, they create new conversations with art, and so gain a fuller understanding of their own potential. – Tom Richards, Academic Director

Master of Arts in Studio Art



The Master of Arts in Studio Art at The Florence Academy of Art is designed for art educators seeking professional development and to advance their personal artistic skills. With its emphasis on skill-based techniques, this nationally accredited program equips you to:

- Integrate a classical methodology into your teaching
- Inspire students with hands-on, practical skills
- Grow your own artistic expertise while advancing professionally



The Master of Arts in Studio Art is a reduced-residency MA and consists of 30 full-time credits completed over three summer sessions and Independent Study.

Through in-person or remote study options, you can achieve your professional goals without disrupting your current commitments. Class work is conducted during five-week sessions over three summers, from Monday to Friday (five days a week) and two Saturdays, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Independent Study is undertaken during the academic year and delivered to faculty during established meeting times.



You may choose to attend the first and second session in-person at St. Peter's University, Jersey City, NJ, or opt to study remotely. The third and final session is conducted in-person at The Florence Academy of Art campus in Florence, Italy.



About the Program

Is this MA degree right for you?

This program may be a good fit if you are:

- a visual arts educator teaching elementary, middle or high school students
- a university student preparing to become an art educator

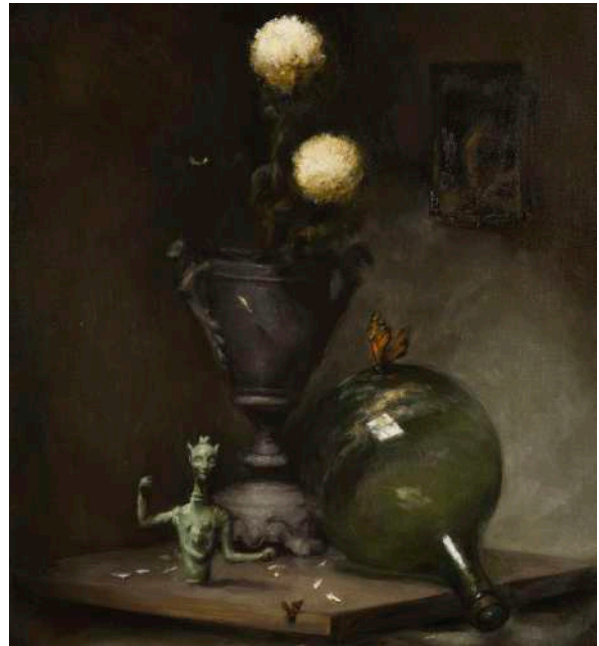
By learning a skill-based art methodology, you will possess a blueprint for incorporating representational drawing and painting methods into your classroom and your art. You will learn to break down the complexity of learning to draw and paint from life into gradual steps, develop visual literacy and hand-eye coordination, and the knowledge to teach these techniques in your home classroom.

The MA program will also support your own creative development.

MA Curriculum

In the MA in Studio Art, you train through a structured, time-tested academic approach that emphasizes observation, discipline, and steady progression. Working directly from life, you build a strong, transferable foundation in drawing and painting. You learn to move from general to specific, organizing complex visual information into clear, intentional decisions.

Through exercises like Bargue drawings, cast studies, still-life, and figure painting, you develop visual literacy, coordination, and an understanding of form. Critique is central to your experience. With ongoing guidance and group discussions, you refine your skills and learn how to apply and teach these methods with confidence.



MA Location

In-person study

St. Peter's University
Jersey City, NJ

The first two sessions of the MA program are housed at St. Peter's University in Jersey City, NJ. Twelve minutes by PATH train from New York, you will be close to a large and vivacious art scene easily reached by public transportation, while supported by the structure and amenities of the university and surrounding neighborhood. Set on 30 acres, the campus facilities available to all students include the Fine Arts Gallery located at the MacMahon Student Center and the O'Toole Library for private research and study.



The Florence Academy of Art
Florence, Italy

The third and final session, along with the graduation ceremony and thesis exhibition, takes place in-person at The Florence Academy of Art's magnificent campus in Florence, Italy. Located just east of the city center, this 40,000-square-foot facility is a short walk from the Arno River and the iconic monuments of Florence. On campus, you will work under natural north-facing skylights and have access to the on-site library, art gallery, and the FAA Café. Your experience in Florence will refine your artistic vision and deepen your ability to inspire your students.



Remote study

If you study remotely you will receive instruction on how to set up suitable studio spaces at home for each project. Remote instruction is synchronous, with all students attending class live through video conference software. Critiques and demonstrations are provided throughout the day. We will ask you to upload your works-in-progress every morning and afternoon to a dedicated website. Works are critiqued both privately by the instructors, during individual meetings with students, and in group sessions with the online cohort. You will also have access to dedicated staff for technical issues.

Admissions

Application Procedures

Your FAA application process begins when you submit your online application. The MA Admissions Team selects the best candidates based on their demonstrated interest, as expressed through their personal statements, in learning a classical methodology to acquire or build upon their current skill set. Additionally, the candidates must show that their personal artwork reflects a minimum level of technical skill and a strong interest in figurative realism.

Required Application Materials

- **Transcripts**

Submit an official final undergraduate transcript. If currently enrolled, official in-progress transcripts may also be submitted.

Transcripts can be sent electronically to transcript.ma@florenceacademyofart.edu or mailed to:

The Florence Academy of Art

Via Aretina 293, 50136 Florence, Italy

Official transcripts must come directly from the institution (PDF files will not be accepted).

- **Letter of Reference**

Submit one Letter of Reference from previous instructors, practicing artists, or college administrators.

- **Resume or CV**

Submit an outline of your educational, professional, and work-related experiences.

- **Personal Statement**

Submit a 300-500 word Personal Statement.

- **Portfolio**

Submit images (in the form of low-resolution JPGs) of 10-20 artworks produced in the last 3 years with at least 5 images representing figurative art, along with an inventory list of works in the order they appear. The list should include the title, medium, dimensions, and date of completion for each piece.

Minimum academic requirements: either a Bachelor's degree with a 3.0 GPA or a diploma from an established three-year academy, such as The Florence Academy of Art. No transfer credits will be accepted. Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate sufficient proficiency in English to undertake graduate-level study. Above materials must be uploaded to your online application.

I learned to slow down a bit. By working more slowly and deliberately from the beginning, I actually work more quickly, overall, because I don't have to go back and adjust or correct so many hurried errors. – James C. Andrews

Admissions

Admissions Notification

When all application materials have been received your application will be complete and ready for review. You will be notified within three weeks after a decision has been rendered.

Enrollment is capped at 30 students per cohort. The minimum enrolment requirement for the Master of Arts in Studio Art is 5 (remote and/or in-person options). You will be notified if this number is not reached 4 months before the application deadline closes.

Studio Assistantships & Other Resources

A limited number of studio assistantships are awarded to students who enter the 2nd year of the program. Many school districts offer full or partial tuition for Master's programs. We recommend checking with your district for tuition assistance.

For the academic calendar, fees and payment procedures, please visit our website:

www.florenceacademyofart.edu

Do you have questions about the program?

Please contact: ma.studioart@florenceacademyofart.edu



I have pages and pages of notes as a resource for my teaching basic atelier methods to various age groups and levels. I really feel like I can teach this, and as I do... I will gain better understanding for myself. - Cynthia E. Noyd