



DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ART AND ART HISTORY

→ DEFINING THE FUTURE OF CREATIVITY

A balance of scholarly work and practical training in traditional and contemporary approaches are the hallmarks of the Department of Visual Art & Art History in York's School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design (AMPD). Courses in art history, theory and criticism are offered alongside intensive studio courses ranging from painting to photography, from sculpture to new digital applications. Graduates of the department include internationally-recognized conceptual and interdisciplinary artist Brendan Fernandes, BFA'02.

THE LANDSCAPE

Art is a lens through which we can think critically about the world. To reflect the complexities of global life today, many artists are transitioning from traditional artistic approaches like painting and sculpture to more multifaceted interpretations that blend traditional arts training with design, music, film and digital media. More than ever before, technology has a place in many artists' practices, serving as a mirror to our daily lives and acting as a medium through which to meditate on its larger meaning.

OUR VISION

The Department of Visual Art and Art History is exploring a complete reimagining of its curriculum to include a focus on new media. Beginning with the PhD in Art History and Visual Culture program, AMPD will introduce more experiential learning opportunities that challenge students to think in new ways and to explore the world of art from multiple perspectives and with the support of artists from a variety of backgrounds.

THE OPPORTUNITY

A growing number of York's visual artists are letting go of pure techniques in favour of multimedia art. With funding from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, for example, York sculptor Brandon Vickerd created Canada's first Digital Sculpture Laboratory dedicated to the convergence of digital and physical art. As the department undertakes a critical review of its undergraduate and graduate courses, a unique opportunity emerges to translate this expertise into the visual art curriculum and introduce innovative student experiences that cross the fine arts disciplines.

YOUR INVESTMENT

Gifts to one of the following priority areas will help foster disciplinary rigour and interdisciplinary daring across AMPD Visual Art & Art History:

- provide opportunities for PhD candidates in Art History and Visual Culture to unleash their creativity, ignite bold new ideas and build a global network with **Doctoral Conference Travel Awards**
- launch a **Visiting Artist Program** to attract internationally-significant artists to campus and a **Boomerang Visiting Artist Series** profiling AMPD's rich artist-alumni network
- showcase annual exhibitions featuring the York University art collection and work from outside the university as part of AMPD's new, one-of-a-kind, student-led Curatorial Studies Exhibition
- attract two leading curatorial studies scholars to participate in AMPD's new **Curatorial Studies Seminar**
- introduce an **Artist-in-Residence Program** to provide local artists with access to AMPD's studios and connect students to practicing professionals

YOUR IMPACT

Your investment will help AMPD Visual Art & Art History:

- expose students to more, multifaceted experiences, artists and ways of blending traditional and innovative practices
- build a rich network of ties to the local arts and artist-alumni communities
- meet the growing demand for hands-on learning and experimentation in a world where the single most valuable asset is creativity

A HOTBED OF NEW MEDIA

From Nina Levitt's novel representations of women in popular culture through photography, installation and video, to Yam Lau's bold expressions of traditional Chinese subjects using painting, video and computer-generated animation, York's Department of Visual Art and Art History is recognized as a hotbed of expertise in new media.

CONTACT US

For more information about York's Department of Visual Art and Art History and how you can help define our creative future today, contact:

ampd.yorku.ca

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