Graduate Institute of Art History

Contact Information

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Introduction

The Graduate Institute of Art History was founded in 2008. It is unique in Taiwan in offering Eastern and Western Art History Programs, and is one of the few places in Asia where it is possible to study Western art history in depth and broadly—from Renaissance architectur to Hollywood cinema. Our students undertake a Master of Arts degree by coursework and thesis, in either our Eastern Art History Program—taught for the most part in Mandarin—or our Western Art History Program—taught entirely in English. However, the Programs are linked, to provide cross-fertilization in understandings of Western and Eastern art and architecture.

Instructional Objectives

The Eastern Art History program focuses on the art and visual culture of East Asia, primarily of China, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea. We highlight the long history of exchanges between these cultures, which influenced the development of traditional forms, such as calligraphy, painting, architecture, and decorative arts, as well as considering the impact of recent international developments in contemporary media, the art market, and museums.

The Western Art History Program explores histories and theories of art and architecture from the Middle Ages to the present. The Program considers the formal aspects of the materials and techniques of artworks, but also stresses the importance of political, social, and economic circumstances, as well as examining the changing critical reception of art over time.

Our courses are taught by full-time professors from Taiwan, Germany, and Switzerland, and we have adjunct professors and visiting fellows from Taiwan and abroad, including scholars from National Palace Museum and Academia Sinica.

Degree Requirements

You must pass at least ten courses (30 credits), both required and specialization courses. The required courses provide the foundational skills for interpreting visual art and documentary sources. Our specialization courses cover a wide array of artforms and contexts, and are updated regularly. These allow you to study in depth those aspects of Art History that most interest you or are most relevant for your career plans. It is a feature of our degree that in the Eastern Art History Program you study courses in the Western Art History Program, and vice-versa.

Finally, you will write a Master's Thesis under the supervision of a professor. The thesis is an opportunity for you to develop your independent research skills, to produce new knowledge on a topic of significance in your chosen field, to resolve longstanding historical problems, or address new and emerging issues.

Features of the Curriculum

Our classroom-based teaching and learning is enhanced by visits to museums and galleries, as well as examples of Chinese, colonial, and contemporary architecture around Taiwan. Every year we also organize international study trips to countries such as Japan, China, Italy, Germany, Austria, Belgium, and Spain.

We collaborate with art history programs of universities in Taiwan and other countries. National and international students' symposiums are organized every year. Students present papers on topics related to their coursework or theses, gaining feedback from international professors and experience in academic presentations. With our Japanese partners, we also regularly arrange joint courses and workshops in Taiwan and Japan.

Career Prospects

Our graduates find employment in museums, commercial galleries, auction houses, publishing, the media, education, public service, and cultural policy. The Master's Degree also qualifies graduates to apply for a doctoral program in art history. We can assist you to arrange internships in museums and cultural institutions of Taiwan and overseas.