

## **Art & Art History Department Assessment Plan 2014**

### **I. Department Student Learning Statement**

The Art and Art History Department at Macalester combines within a single department the creative aspects of art making (Studio Art Program) and the study of art as a historical and theoretical discipline (Art History Program). The Department offers majors with emphases in Art History and Studio Art. The Studio Art faculty are committed to a solid studio-based experience for students, which produces innovative thinkers, creative problem solvers, and visually talented students. Our students learn through hands-on practice, observation and the study of critical ideas and Art History. The Art History Program investigates artistic production through interdisciplinary, global and multicultural perspectives. It prepares students to become conversant with the traditional and new media and how to become sensitive observers and acute interpreters of an ever more complex field of visual culture. Moreover, the Art History Program helps students become engaged with the curatorial and institutional dimensions of art history practice as well as to gain knowledge in visual technologies related to academic research and professional activities in the discipline. The Department serves the campus and the community at large through our gallery exhibition program, which makes a broad range of aesthetic experiences available. A Macalester Art degree prepares students for graduate study in Art or Art History and forms the foundation for professional practice in the Arts. The non-major is offered the basis for a lifetime appreciation of the Arts. Macalester Art students find and create roles for themselves in which they serve their communities through the practice of Art, its presentation, documentation, interpretation, appreciation and conservation.

### **II. Department Learning Goals and Outcomes**

#### **Studio Art Program**

##### **1. Goals of the Studio Art program:**

The department has developed these goals for its studio art students:

1. To produce creative works which demonstrate some proficiency (breadth and/or depth) within an art medium.
2. Conduct independent studio research projects, either personal or community-based.
3. To demonstrate critical interpretive/analytical skills about works created, communicated through oral or written discussions.
4. Majors should be prepared for graduate study or professional practice in the arts.

##### **2. Outcomes of the Studio Art program:**

#### Goal 1, Outcome A

Students make creative artworks. Students learn processes and hands on skills as well as intellectual basis for making art.

#### Goal 2, Outcome A

Students use research methods appropriate to art projects (may include preparatory sketches, model making, acquiring skills, gathering materials, journaling, art historical research, online searches, interviewing, answering calls for proposals, working with community partners).

#### Goal 3, Outcome A

Students will be able to interpret and critique their own and others' artwork through oral and written analysis. Majors create a professional portfolio of 20 visual images that effectively communicates their skills and abilities, using professional standards of documentation and presentation technology

#### Goal 4, Outcome A

Majors create an artist's statement that effectively communicates their understanding of their projects. Majors also curate a public group exhibition of their work in the college gallery, which includes hanging a professional exhibit, designing the exhibit postcard and making discursive labels.

### **III. Department Assessment Strategies**

#### Goal 1, Outcome A, Assessment

Assessed in all studio course critiques, at faculty jurying of annual student exhibit, student presentations and senior capstone exhibit.

#### Goal 2, Outcome A, Assessment

Assessed in all studio course critiques, art internship evaluations, at faculty jurying of annual student exhibit, and senior capstone exhibit.

#### Goal 3, Outcome A, Assessment

Assessed in all studio course critiques, student presentations and artist's statements for senior capstone exhibit.

#### Goal 4, Outcome A, Assessment

Assessed primarily in senior studio seminar, artist statement and requirements for capstone exhibition

### **IV. Four-Year Timeline to Implement Assessment Strategies**

Timeline for assessment of studio art learning outcomes:

**Jan.-Dec. 2014**

Goal 1: Assessment of critiques in all studio art courses. Faculty critiques are the main assessment tool for studio art, individual faculty will evaluate.

**Jan.-Dec. 2015**

Goal 2: Assessment of research methods appropriate to art projects will be achieved through the evaluation of all studio art courses. Faculty critiques evaluation of preparatory sketches, model making, skills, journaling, art history research will be evaluated individual faculty.

**Jan.-Dec. 2016**

Goal 3: Critiques in all studio art courses. Faculty critiques are the main assessment tool for the evaluation of interpretive and analytical skills and written and oral communication about works created.

**Jan.-Dec. 2017**

Goal 4: Assessed primarily in senior studio seminar and the final exhibition. Senior seminar faculty will evaluate.

**Art History Program**

II. Department Learning Goals and Outcomes

**Art History Program**

**1. Goals of the Art History Program**

The department has developed these goals for art and art history students:

1. To understand art as a historical discipline
2. To understand art history as a theoretical discipline
3. To learn terminology, methods, and critical modes of analysis of the visual field and how to apply them in both written and oral expression and analysis of art
4. To study visual culture, including both traditional practices and new media, from interdisciplinary, global and multicultural perspectives

**2. Outcomes of the Art History Program:**

Goal 1, Outcome A

Students learn art historical periods across the centuries and learn about their major characteristics, similarities and differences among them.

**Goal 2, Outcome A**

Students gain familiarity with critical theory and understand philosophical approaches shaping art historical methodology

**Goal 3, Outcome A**

Students learn specialized art history vocabulary, technical terms and processes, and learn how to employ critical modes of analysis in visual art in oral presentations and written expression

**Goal 4, Outcome A**

Students learn how to interpret art with attention to issues of race, gender, class, sexuality, and with attention to global and multicultural perspective. They will also learn how to engage with other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

**III. Department Assessment Strategies**

**Goal 1: Outcome A Assessment**

Assessed during art history exams and selected papers and quizzes

**Goal 2: Outcome Assessment:**

Assessed in advanced research papers, response papers, methodology art history course & the capstone

**Goal 3: Outcome Assessment**

Assessed in quizzes, art history exams, papers, and oral presentations

**Goal 4: Outcome Assessment**

Assessed in art history papers, exams, oral presentations, and capstone paper

**IV. Four-Year Timeline to Implement Assessment Strategies**

**Jan.-Dec. 2014**

Goal 1: Assessment of student exams, both midterms and finals for 100-level courses covering broad historical timeframe. Individual art history faculty will evaluate.

**Jan.-Dec. 2015**

Goal 2: Assessment of student upper-division papers and capstones

**Jan.-Dec. 2016**

Goal 3: Assessment of student exams and short papers, quizzes and oral presentations in class

**Jan.-Dec. 2017**

Goal 4: Assessed through advanced research papers and capstone.