



MFA DESIGN CRITICISM DEPARTMENT FACT SHEET

The MFA in Design Criticism trains students to research, analyze and evaluate design and its social and environmental implications. The two-year, 64-credit curriculum emphasizes the skills and knowledge relevant to those who wish to write about design on a full-time, professional basis; or pursue alternative critical practices, such as curating, publishing or teaching. Drawing on the broadest possible definition of design, the curriculum includes graphic, Web and product design as well as fashion, urban planning and network systems.

The focus of the first year of study is threefold: on design as subject matter, on criticism as a literary genre and on the range of tools with which to practice design criticism. The second year offers the opportunity for specialization both in subject matter and format. Students participate in medium-specific workshops devoted to topics such as producing a radio program or documentary, curating an exhibition, or editing a magazine or blog. They then research and develop a thesis project that must include a substantial written component, and which may be realized in any format.

2011 – 2012 student population

21 matriculated students

Department chair

Alice Twemlow, design writer and former program director, AIGA

Some notable faculty members

Kurt Andersen, co-creator and host, *Studio 360*; Paola Antonelli, curator, Department of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Ralph Caplan, design consultant and author; Russell Flinchum, archivist, The Century Association Archives Foundation, New York; Karrie Jacobs, columnist, contributing editor, *Metropolis*, contributing editor, *Travel + Leisure*; Alexandra Lange, contributing editor, *New York* magazine, contributing editor, *Design Observer*; Julie Lasky, editor, Change Observer; Phil Patton, contributing editor, *Departures*, *Esquire*, and *I.D.*, automotive design writer, *The New York Times*

Annual public conference

The program culminates in an annual public conference, conceived and organized by graduating students, in which they present papers based on their theses alongside professional design critics.

For further information, please visit our Web site at www.dcrit.sva.edu