Artists have typically been viewed as outsiders. Maybe it’s because they create new worlds that challenge the one most of us take for granted. Or maybe it’s because they invent those worlds with a virtuosity that seems so magical to us. Whatever the reason, they’ve usually had to struggle in markets that favored industrial and financial sectors over the arts. Art was generally not the first career you chose if you wanted to make an impact on the world, much less a good living.

But not always. And not everywhere.

Welcome to New York City, a leader in today’s burgeoning global creative economy where visual art—in all of its powerful and ever-evolving forms—is crucial to the city’s cultural and economic vitality. New York has always been a cultural haven, and with art’s recent integration with new media, technology and commerce, New York City, a global hub for all of those sectors, has clearly emerged as the best place to study, practice, and work as a serious visual artist.

And since 1947, SVA has educated, graduated and employed some of the most provocative and successful artists in America. Whether it’s been fine art or graphic design, illustration or film, advertising or photography, interior design, animation, or computer art, SVA has truly been at the “center of the center,” giving artists the creative tools, insights, and powerful networks they need to not only develop rich aesthetic sensibilities, but also go on to the careers they deserve.

But don’t just take our word for it. As you look through this book, we think you’ll see the proof.
NYC has been the biggest city in America for the past 218 years.

- 8.2 million residents
- 170 languages spoken
- 36% of New Yorkers come from other countries
110,000 cyclists dash through NYC everyday.
The NYC subway system has 468 stations and 722 miles of track.
New Yorkers use half the electricity needed by comparable American cities.
19% of NYC is devoted to parks.
There are nearly 1,700 of them, covering 28,000 acres.
Three out of five Manhattanites are college graduates, and one out of four has an advanced degree.

594,000 students attend the nearly 100 colleges and universities in NYC.
New York City has over 2,000 arts and culture organizations.
150 museums.
Over 500 galleries.
NYC is home to:

- 4 of the 10 largest national newspapers
- The top 10 magazines in the world, by circulation
- 78 cable networks, including HBO, Showtime, and MTV
- All of the major TV networks
- 7 of the world’s top 8 global ad agencies
- 3 of the Big Five music recording companies.
The city is home to 53 annual film festivals and over 100,000 film/TV employees.

And 1/3 of all American independent films are produced here.
Andy Warhol was once asked why he never taught at SVA. His answer:

“Because Silas* never asked me.”

Andy Warhol

*Silas H. Rhodes, SVA's founder
60 plus years in New York City.
On Day 1 in 1947, there were only 3 faculty members and 35 students.
Today there are nearly 900 faculty members. Our faculty members have won the most prestigious awards given in their respective professional fields: Academy Awards, AIGA Awards, Caldecott Honor Book awards, Cannes Film Festival awards, CLIO Awards, Drama-Logue Awards, Emmy Awards, Ford Foundation Fellowships, Fulbright Scholarships, German Academic Exchange (DAAD) Fellowships, Grammy Awards, Guggenheim Memorial Fellowships, National Endowment for the Arts Grants, National Endowment for the Humanities Grants, National Science Foundation Grants, New York Foundation for the Arts, People’s Choice Awards, Phi Beta Kappa awards, Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grants, Rockefeller Foundation Fellowships, Rome Prize Fellowships, Sundance Film Festival awards, Tribeca Film Festival awards, Whitney Biennial, Hall of Fame laureates in the Advertising and Graphic Design Department.

And there are over 3,300 undergraduate students enrolled at SVA today.
Our students come from 45 countries and 47 states.
They have an average high school GPA of 3.05.
80% of SVA students read a daily newspaper. 91% believe the government isn’t doing enough to protect the environment.
66% think that it’s extremely important for them to improve their understanding of other countries and cultures.
78% of freshman said that SVA was their first choice.

83% of our graduates find employment within 6 months of graduation.

87% of graduates say that internships provided great work experience.
72% of SVA alumni work or teach in their chosen field of study.
SVA students have interned at over 700 NYC companies:

ABC; American Greetings; Apple, Inc; Art & Commerce; Art Directors Club; Artforum; BBDO; Bill Plympton; Cartoon Pizza; CBS; Celsius Films; Charlie Rose Show; Comedry; Condé Nast; Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum; Cosmogirl; David LaChapelle; DC Comics; Details magazine; Deutsch; DeVito/Verdi; Epic Records; Esquire magazine; Forbes magazine; Fortune magazine; Fox Broadcasting Company; Graphis; Grey Advertising; HarperCollins; Harper’s Bazaar; HBO; Hearst Interactive; Instyle magazine; Jim Henson Company; Late Night with Conan O’Brien; Lifetime Television; MAD magazine; Magnum Photos; Marvel Comics; Maxim Magazine; McCann Erickson; Miramax; MTV Networks; NBC; New Line; The New Yorker; The New York Times; Nickelodeon Animation Studios; Ogilvy & Mather; Penguin Putnam; Pentagram; Premiere; Print; Publicis; RCA Records; RhinoFX; Rolling Stone; Saatchi & Saatchi; Saturday Night Live; Sesame Workshop; Scholastic Inc.; Sony BMG; Spin magazine; The Daily Show with Jon Stewart; The Weinstein Company; Teen People magazine; Teen Vogue; Time; Universal Music; USA Networks; VH1; Whitney Museum of American Art; WNET Thirteen.