



**PRACTICE**



# The Art Practice program offers an interdisciplinary approach to an MFA degree.

Artists in the program are not defined or separated by medium or discipline.

The students in our program engage in research-based practices and are encouraged to converse and collaborate across subject matters using a combination of traditional and nontraditional media, technologies and techniques. We aim to facilitate a global conversation about the arts. Ultimately, the program endeavors to foster an atmosphere of risk-taking and experimentation, and to create a community of artists and culture producers who look beyond a consensus-driven approach to how we define what's important in contemporary art.

To accomplish this, we bring together a small, carefully selected group of MFA candidates who will devote three successive summers and the two intervening years to a program in which they will engage with artists, theorists, art historians and curators. Faculty members include: Angel Abreu, Xavier Acarín, Gaelyn and Gustavo Aguilar, Suzanne Anker, Beth B, Kathy Brew, Jeremy Cohan, Lia Gangitano, Laura F.

Gibellini, Beatrice Glow, Johan Grimonprez, Thyrza Nichols Goodeve, Allison Hewitt Ward, Baseera Khan, Steven Henry Madoff, Glendalys Medina, Iviva Olenick, Sheila Pepe, Ernesto Pujol, Stefan Saffer, Heather Schatz, Sarah G. Sharp, Jovana Stokic, Jacquelyn Strycker, Nicolas Touron and Robin Winters. Recent visiting artists, mentors and guest lecturers have included: Diana Al-Hadid, Hilton Als, Edgar Arceneaux, Julie Ault, Huma Bhabha, Kalia Brooks, Lauren Cornell, Mel Chin, Ben Davis, Dawn DeDeaux, Mark Dion, Ayana Evans, FAILE, Andrea Fraser, Coco Fusco, Anton Ginzburg, Jesse Greenberg, Katya Grokhovsky, MacGregor Harp, Chrissie Iles, Kimsooja, Autumn Knight, Margaret Lee, Shaun Leonardo, Sharon Loudon, Melissa McGill, Tony Oursler, Mike Perry, J. Morgan Puett, Qingsong Wang, Martha Rosler, Tom Sachs, Jeanne Silvert-horne, Roberta Smith, Emma Sulkowicz and Risë Wilson.

Like the nature of the work we hope to help students produce, this program is continuously redefined as a function of the experience of all its participants.

—David A. Ross, chair

# About the Program

Colleen Comer (MFA 2020), *Blue Naked Figure Shaving*, 2019, Flashe on vinyl fabric inflatable.

The Art Practice program approaches art making holistically. We view process as a kind of critical thinking.

An underlying thread running through the low-residency program is the ability to situate one's creative practice within a thoroughly considered social context and the ability to remain open to the revision of one's operating premises. Students combine personal narrative with critical theory to be active citizen artists.

Through a low-residency framework, students participate in seven weeks of NYC-based course work and studio practice for three successive summers. During the

intervening academic semesters, participants engage in media-rich online course work. Additionally, each participant is assigned a mentor for the entirety of the program.

Degree candidates must successfully complete 60 credits, including all required courses. The final summer session includes the presentation of a thesis project and accompanying written thesis document. All candidates must have their thesis proposals approved by the department chair and thesis committee at the conclusion of their second summer residency period. MFA Art Practice uses a pass/fail grading system.

**“Texting, memes, standardized tests, all these things break language into pieces. But it’s the brokenness that allows us to enter, to inhabit and remake knowledge from the inside out.”**

—Brandi Yu (MFA 2015)



# An Artist Finds a Place to Experiment and Explore at SVA

Jason Mena's (MFA 2019) practice combines conceptual strategies with visual immediacy in an effort to disrupt and challenge inherited notions of economic, social and political hierarchies. It is, however, the MFA Art Practice program that helped him further understand what he was experimenting with. The student body as well as the faculty engaged in precise and open dialogue which helped the artist communicate his work: "Being in the Art Practice program made me realize that I was on an experimental path, and along the way work happens," declared Jason. ▶





The low-residency program meets on campus over three summers, and the contact in between the summers is constant. Jason spoke fondly of the community that he built with his colleagues; the periodic meetings held on the Canvas platform; as well as the exchange of information, readings and discussions. The program pushed him to better his writing skills, as it was essential to write and communicate ideas about his work to cohorts.

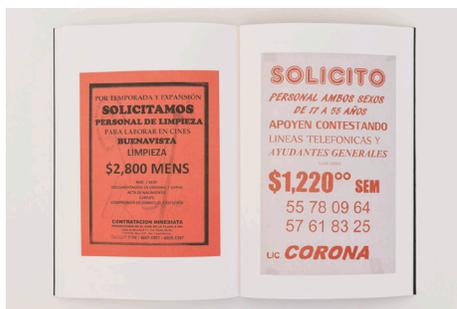
After graduation, Jason took some time to unpack what he'd learned during those two years. He taught at a school in Mexico and has since been nominated for the AICAD Post-Graduate Teaching Fellowship and has received a grant from the Pollock-Krasner

Foundation. His studies at SVA prepared him to apply for grants and fellowships as well as provided him with the exposure he needed to thrive and continue his research-based practice. He is a firm believer in growth, allowing the work to organically grow along the way and take varied shapes and forms. "Trial and error is part of my process," he proclaims, while explaining that he tries to put out two to three projects a year.

LEFT: *El Universal* (detail), 2013, installation.

BELOW: *Entfremdung*, 2014, ink on found world map.





TOP AND CENTER: *El Universal* (details), 2013, installation.  
 BOTTOM: *Nothing Is Mine Everything Is Stolen* (detail), 2019, installation.



Jason has participated in residencies in Belgium and Chile and has received several awards, including the Lexus Grant for the Arts. His work has been featured in a plethora of publications, such as *Relational Undercurrents: Contemporary Art of the Caribbean Archipelago*, published by the Museum of Latin American Art in Los Angeles, and *The Yale Architectural Journal*, published by the MIT Press. His work has been exhibited in noteworthy institutions such as Palais de Tokyo in Paris, the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design in Costa Rica, CCA Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing, National Museum of Fine Arts in Argentina and the Hessel Museum of Art in New York.

Jason is excited about what the future holds for him: he is curating two shows in Mexico—one of which makes use of a building's large façade, transforming it into a public projection screen, and the other a show in Peru where he plans on inviting artists to respond to the current geopolitical and environmental state of affairs. He is committed to placing artwork in its related environment and most importantly outside of the white cube.

*Untitled (Charts & Graphs)*, 2015, magazine and newspaper cutouts on graph paper, 27.2x37.4 cm.

# Curriculum/ Sample Program

As an interdisciplinary program, the course of study addresses a wide range of intellectual, aesthetic, technical and practical concerns.

SUMMER I	CREDITS
Beginning Video and Sound Editing Workshop	1
Graduate Seminar I	3
Lunchtime Lecture Series	0
Studio Practice I	6
Studio Workshop: Digital Sculpture	1
Studio Workshop: Nature and Technology Lab	1

FALL I (ONLINE)	CREDITS
Artists' Writings	2
Foundations of Criticism	2
Studio Practice Review I	2

SPRING I (ONLINE)	CREDITS
Art History I: Exploring the Interdisciplinary	2
Autobiography of Place I	2
Studio Practice Review II	2

SUMMER II	CREDITS
Graduate Seminar II	3
Participant Symposium	0
Performance Workshop	3
Professional Development	0
Studio Practice II	6

FALL II (ONLINE)	CREDITS
Art History II: Challenging the Conventional	2
Autobiography of Place II	2
Studio Practice Review III	2

SPRING II (ONLINE)	CREDITS
Art and Politics	1
Art and Pedagogy	1
Studio Practice Review IV	2
Thesis Preparation	2

SUMMER III	CREDITS
Graduate Seminar III	3
Studio Practice III	6
Thesis	3

“ I was surprised how much the platform provided a sense of community, despite our distance. You cannot hide online. In a physical classroom you can show up and not participate, yet still get credit for being in the room. If you don't participate online, no one knows that you were there at all.”

—Pippi Zornoza (MFA 2016)

Class of 2021 in performance with Eleanor Kipping, 2019 artist in residence.



# Course Offerings

A sample of our course descriptions follows.  
All course descriptions can be found online at:  
[artpractice.sva.edu/classes](http://artpractice.sva.edu/classes).



## ART AND POLITICS

Drawing on art history, philosophy and political theory, this course will explore strategies for creative interventions in the political arena. Topics of discussion will include race, gender, biopolitics, identity, power structures, public space, cultural policy, censorship and social justice.

## ART AND PEDAGOGY

This course will explore pedagogical strategies for art practice, including collaborative dialogues, action research and experiential learning. Topics of discussion will include the role of art in society, aesthetic inquiry into social systems, institutional critique, artist accountability and evaluation of social practice projects.

## ARTISTS' WRITINGS

This course will explore a range of artists' writing forms, including journalism, manifestos, poetry, theoretical writing, letters, artists' books and artist-run publications. Students will develop an understanding of the research process,

including finding sources, organization, and proper academic formatting and citation. A deeper appreciation of one's own writing in relation to the development of one's artistic practice will be underscored throughout the semester.

Heather Link-Bergman (MFA 2023), *Finger Food*, 2022,  
collage with found material and map tacks, 7.5x7.25 in.

## FOUNDATIONS OF CRITICISM

In the 21st century, critical theory has taken on a significant role not only in reflections on works of art but also in considerations in their production. Why is this the case? In this course artists develop a foundational knowledge of modern philosophy and critical theory while simultaneously considering how the modern world emerged in history, and how the form and role of art have changed alongside it. In the first half of the semester, cornerstone texts of modern thought—Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche and Freud—are considered alongside primary documents that reflect the historical struggles and contexts through which these ideas emerged. The second half explores how these concepts are taken up, transformed and sometimes rejected by the critical theories of the 20th century as the way is paved for the 21st.

## GRADUATE SEMINAR I, II & III

In this foundational seminar, students develop their own art practice in conjunction with a deeper understanding of contemporary issues in art, theory and politics. Topics of special discussion include social engagement, collaboration, transdisciplinary practice and personal narrative.

## BEGINNING VIDEO AND SOUND EDITING WORKSHOP

Through various methods including instructor-led workshops, field experiments, studio production and group critique, students will explore practices for creating audio and video projects, possibilities for installation, multichannel works and performance. Students will learn about high-definition video and proper compression for projection, web and DVD, and become familiar with basic editing software including Apple Final Cut Pro X. The workshop includes screenings of film, video and sound work from modern and contemporary artists. It considers the use of media as both a document and final product.

## PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP

Formally born in the early 20th century—as a critique of the economic engineering of the art world through the European painting salons for the bourgeoisie—and influenced by cabaret, theater, dance, psychodrama, feminist, queer, civil rights, political and environmental activism, performance practice has many traditions. Until recently, it was an alternative practice that offered few collectibles. Participants in this workshop will explore silence and walking as public performance art following Buddhist notions of mindful presence, engaging the city as laboratory. The group will function like an ephemeral company of soloists and collaborators in which students will perform and discuss a series of daily exercises.

## STUDIO PRACTICE I, II & III

The core of the summer session is studio practice. The objective is to produce original advanced work with instruction and support from faculty and a robust roster of individual artists. Individual studio visits will primarily take place from Monday through Friday, with weekly group critiques on Tuesdays. Studio Practice is the central element and primary requirement of the program. Studios are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## PARTICIPANT SYMPOSIUM

Under the guidance of a faculty member, students work to develop and install an exhibition with an accompanying publication. They also develop and participate in skill-share workshops, organize a panel discussion and go on guided field trips to artist studios, art centers and cultural institutions.

## STUDENT WORKSHOP: NATURE AND TECHNOLOGY LAB

Students in this workshop will have the opportunity to explore the biological realm as it relates to art practice. Demonstrations include microscopy, plant tissue engineering, molecular cuisine and the production of micro ecosystems. Students will be encouraged to discuss and explore how biomedical sciences alter social, ethical and cultural values in society. The workshop will take place in the Nature and Technology (NAT) Lab, which houses microscopes for photo and video, skeleton collections, specimen collections, slide collections, an herbarium and an aquarium as well as a library.

# Where We Are

Our students and alumni have shown at prestigious institutions, including:

**MoMA PS1**

**Queens Museum**

**Corcoran Gallery of Art,  
Washington DC**

**Palacio de Bellas Artes,  
Mexico City**

**Tate Modern, London**

**National Museum of Modern and  
Contemporary Art, Seoul**

**Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art**

**The Art Center Gammel  
Holtegard, Denmark**

**The Living Art Museum,  
Reykjavik**

**Moscow Museum of Modern Art**

**Museum of Nebraska Art**

**Boise Art Museum**

**Werkstadt Graz/Graz Kunst**

**The Studio Museum in Harlem**

**El Museo del Barrio**

**Carriage Trade**

**Field Projects**

**The New Museum's Festival  
of Ideas**

# Faculty

To learn more about the faculty members and to read their biographies visit: [sva.edu/mfaap/faculty](http://sva.edu/mfaap/faculty).

**David A. Ross**  
chair, MFA Art Practice;  
writer; curator

**Angel Abreu**  
visual artist

**Xavier Acarín**  
curator

**Gaelyn and Gustavo Aguilar**  
co-founders, TUG Collective

**Suzanne Anker**  
chair, BFA Fine Arts  
Department, School of Visual  
Arts; visual artist; theorist

**Beth B**  
visual artist, filmmaker

**Kathy Brew**  
documentarian, visual artist,  
curator

**Jeremy Cohan**  
sociologist

**Lia Gangitano**  
founder, director,  
Participant Inc.

**Laura F. Gibellini**  
visual artist, theorist

**Beatrice Glow**  
interdisciplinary artist

**Thyrza Nichols Goodeve**  
critic, writer

**Johan Grimmonprez**  
filmmaker, visual artist

**Baseera Khan**  
visual artist

**Steven Henry Madoff**  
chair, MA Curatorial Practice,  
School of Visual Arts; curator;  
critic

**Glendalys Medina**  
visual artist

**Iviva Olenick**  
textile designer, visual artist

**Sheila Pepe**  
visual artist

**Stefan Saffer**  
visual artist

**Heather Schatz**  
visual artist

**Sarah G. Sharp**  
visual artist

**Jovana Stokic**  
art historian, curator

**Jacquelyn Strycker**  
visual artist, curator

**Nicolas Touron**  
visual artist

**Allison Hewitt Ward**  
critic

**Robin Winters**  
visual artist

# Lecturers and Mentors

Here is just a sample  
of guest lecturers who  
have spoken to and  
with our students.

**Diana Al-Hadid**  
visual artist

**Hilton Als**  
writer, critic

**Cory Arcangel**  
visual artist

**Edgar Arceneaux**  
visual artist

**Charles Atlas**  
visual artist

**Julie Ault**  
visual artist; curator; co-  
founder, Group Material

**Alice Aycock**  
visual artist

**Huma Bhabha**  
visual artist

**Kalia Brooks**  
curator

**Holland Cotter**  
critic, *The New York Times*

**Ben Davis**  
critic

**Dawn DeDeaux**  
visual artist

**Mark Dion**  
visual artist; co-founder,  
Mildred's Lane

**Andrea Fraser**  
visual artist

**Coco Fusco**  
visual artist, curator

**Jesse Greenberg**  
artist; curator;  
co-founder, 247365

**Katya Grokhovsky**  
visual artist; curator;  
founder, The Immigrant  
Artist Biennial

**MacGregor Harp**  
artist; curator;  
co-founder, 247365

**Pablo Helguera**  
interdisciplinary artist, writer

**Chrissie Iles**  
curator, The Whitney  
Museum of American Art

**Suzanne Joelson**  
visual artist

**Paddy Johnson**  
writer; founding editor,  
Art F City

**Autumn Knight**  
visual artist

**Shaun Leonardo**  
visual artist, activist

**Melissa McGill**  
interdisciplinary artist

**Lee Mingwei**  
visual artist

**Wura-Natasha Ogunji**

**Catherine Opie**  
visual artist

**Tony Oursler**  
visual artist

**J. Morgan Puett**  
visual artist;  
co-founder, Mildred's Lane

**Seph Rodney**  
critic

**Martha Rosler**  
visual artist

**Tom Sachs**  
visual artist

**Jean Shin**  
visual artist

**Jeanne Silverthorne**  
visual artist

**Lorna Simpson**  
visual artist

**Roberta Smith**  
critic, *The New York Times*

**Risë Wilson**  
community organizer;  
director of philanthropy,  
Rauschenberg Foundation

**John Yau**  
poet, critic, curator

# Application Process

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

For a full list of application requirements and detailed instructions, visit:  
[sva.edu/grad/howtoapply](https://sva.edu/grad/howtoapply)

- Online Application and \$80 Application Fee: [sva.edu/apply](https://sva.edu/apply)

## DEADLINES

For information on application deadlines, visit: [sva.edu/grad/timeline](https://sva.edu/grad/timeline)

## IMPORTANT LINKS

- FAQ: [sva.edu/grad/faq](https://sva.edu/grad/faq)
- International students: [sva.edu/grad/intl](https://sva.edu/grad/intl)
- Tuition and fees: [sva.edu/tuition](https://sva.edu/tuition)
- Visit SVA: [sva.edu/grad/visit](https://sva.edu/grad/visit)

# Contact Us

We encourage applicants to visit our department. Contact us directly to schedule a department tour or sign up to attend an Information Session. For more information and to register, go to: [sva.edu/grad/visit](http://sva.edu/grad/visit).

If you have any questions about the application process, contact Graduate Admissions at 212.592.2107 or email: [gradadmissions@sva.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@sva.edu).

**David A. Ross**, chair

**Jacquelyn Strycker**, director of operations

**Allison Hewitt Ward**, assistant to the chair

**Tel:** 212.592.2781

**Fax:** 212.592.2245

**Email:** [artpractice@sva.edu](mailto:artpractice@sva.edu)

**Site:** [sva.edu/artpractice](http://sva.edu/artpractice)

**Department site:** [artpractice.sva.edu](http://artpractice.sva.edu)

 [facebook.com/svaartpractice](https://facebook.com/svaartpractice)

 [instagram.com/artpractice](https://instagram.com/artpractice)

 [twitter.com/svaartpractice](https://twitter.com/svaartpractice)

 Art is the offspring resulting from unlatching and opening

up one's invisible suitcase, taking out a selection of items that were placed in there, and making-thinking-playing with them for a while.”

—Todd Hainline (MFA 2017)

## ACCREDITATION

The School of Visual Arts has been authorized by the New York State Board of Regents ([www.highered.nysed.gov](http://www.highered.nysed.gov)) to confer the degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts on graduates of programs in Advertising; Animation; Comics; Computer Art, Computer Animation and Visual Effects; Design; Film; Fine Arts; Illustration; Interior Design; Photography and Video; Visual and Critical Studies; and to confer the degree of Master of Arts on graduates of programs in Art Education; Curatorial Practice; Design Research, Writing and Criticism; and to confer the degree of Master of Arts in Teaching on graduates of the program in Art Education; and to confer the degree of Master of Fine Arts on graduates of programs in Art Practice; Computer Arts; Design; Design for Social Innovation; Fine Arts; Illustration as Visual Essay; Interaction Design; Photography, Video and Related Media; Products of Design; Social Documentary Film; Visual Narrative; and to confer the degree of Master of Professional Studies on graduates of programs in Art Therapy; Branding; Digital Photography; Directing; Fashion Photography.

The School of Visual Arts is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education ([msche.org](http://msche.org)), 1007 North Orange Street, 4th Floor, MB #166, Wilmington, DE 19801, 267-284-5011. The Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation.

The Interior Design program leading to the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design is accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation ([accredit-id.org](http://accredit-id.org)), 206 Grandville Avenue, Suite 305, Grand Rapids, MI, 49503-4014.

The School of Visual Arts' Department of Art Education is a member in good standing of the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP), a national accrediting organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). The School of Visual Arts' Department of Art Education is currently pursuing accreditation of its educator preparation programs under the AAQEP standards with an anticipated quality assurance review in fall 2023. Pursuant to Section 52.21 of the

Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the educator preparation programs offered by the School of Visual Arts are therefore considered to be continuously accredited for purposes of meeting the New York State requirement that all such programs maintain continuous accreditation. The School of Visual Arts' Master of Arts in Teaching in Art Education program was previously accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

The Master of Professional Studies in Art Therapy degree program is approved by the American Art Therapy Association, Inc., and as such meets the Education Standards of the art therapy profession.

## CREDITS

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Executive creative director:

Anthony P. Rhodes

Creative director: Gail Anderson

Design director: Brian E. Smith

Design: Anthony Carhuayo

Editorial: Laura Valenza, Abby Kreh,

Joanna Citrinbaum

Case study writer: Ann C. Collins

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**COVER:** Heather Link-Bergman (MFA 2023), *Melt*, 2022, collage with found material and map tacks, 7x 5.5 in.

# School of Visual Arts

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209 East 23rd Street, NYC  
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