

VISUAL ARTS

The Visual Arts major at RWU prepares you to become a working artist or professional in the field of your choice. Explore multiple contemporary mediums, techniques, and concepts, with your education individualized to suit your interests. Join a dynamic community where your artistic style is honored.



YOUR STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Learn and Do More at RWU

With a focus on experiential learning at RWU, Visual Arts majors:

- Take advantage of one-on-one portfolio reviews. All Visual Arts students have individualized meetings with their professors, giving them practice presenting their work to a professional audience, as well as personalized feedback.
- Intern in a creative setting. Visual Arts majors complete internships in placements such as photography studios, galleries, art magazines, museums, theaters, educational centers, and design firms.
- Attend exciting field trips. Travel to museums, studios, and galleries in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New York to see art in vibrant, contemporary spaces.
- Study abroad in global venues such as Florence, Italy.
- Work with and learn from professional visiting artists every semester.
- Show your art in a real museum. All seniors have the opportunity to curate and exhibit their work in an end-of-semester show at the Bristol Art Museum.

- + Do you want to explore a wide range of visual arts?
- + Would you like to learn how to build a career from your creative passions?
- + Are you interested in collaborating with other artists and gaining professional experience in a close-knit, student-centered program?

CAREER OUTLOOK

What are RWU **Visual Arts** alumni doing now?

- Working as gallery assistants and administrators
- Teaching Arts Education in public schools, private schools, and workshops
- Art directing or writing at magazines
- Working as design consultants
- Pursuing graduate degrees
- Working freelance as photographers or operating their own businesses as designers
- Showing and selling their art in galleries

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

“The art department was just incredible. My professors are still so supportive. I really learned how to talk about my work and sell myself as an artist.”

Em Adler '17
Visual Arts
Sculptor, Painter and Photographer

Facilities

Access studios dedicated to the various media areas: a ceramics studio, digital media facilities, printmaking studios, a fabrication lab that includes a woodworking shop, a brand new clay studio, a sculpture garden, and our painting and drawing studios.

CURRICULUM

The RWU Visual Arts department offers both a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Fine Arts. While the curriculum, faculty, and opportunity to show your work overlap, the structure and outcome of the degrees differ. The first year and a half are the same for both programs, so you have time to decide which track is right for you.

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

The Bachelor of Arts is an academic degree designed for students who want the arts to be a large part of their course of study, but who also may be interested in other disciplines. You may choose to pursue a B.A. if you have a broad range of interests and want to be a well-rounded candidate for a wide variety of careers after graduation.

Bachelor of Arts candidates complete 42 credits in Visual Arts and additional credits can be used towards a second major or minor(s).

Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.)

The Bachelor of Fine Arts is a pre-professional degree, specifically designed for students who want a strong focus in the Visual Arts, are looking to develop stellar portfolios, and are thinking about graduate school in the future. Two-thirds (72) of your course credits are devoted to the Visual Arts. The B.F.A. track requires more studio, history, and theory courses, and a written thesis.

All B.F.A. students must complete an internship for credit in the field.

Portfolio

All students wishing to enter the Visual Arts program submit a portfolio of 2-, 3-, and 4-dimensional work. Consistent with the mission of our school, RWU is interested in and celebrates the variety of expression that applicants demonstrate.

Faculty

Your professors are working artists who understand your interests and enthusiastically share their expertise. They will become mentors to you during your undergraduate studies and beyond, helping you forge your path in the art world. They will support you, not only in the art itself, but in gaining professional skills such as networking, resume writing, and obtaining grants and residencies.

All Visual Arts students will have a portfolio of their work reviewed by a faculty committee twice during their undergraduate experience. Senior Visual Arts majors also submit a written statement and participate in a professional-level exhibition.

OVER 80% OF RWU STUDENTS GRADUATE WITH MORE THAN JUST A SINGLE MAJOR

Design your experience with your passion and have a unique career advantage with a minor or double major. Many students combine **Visual Arts** with:

- Graphic Design Communications
- Film Studies
- Educational Studies
- Music
- Art and Architectural History



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