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Art and Art History Collection Development Policy

University Libraries, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jeanetta Drueke, Art and Art History Liaison Librarian, February 2009

Approved: CDC, March 18, 2009.

I. GENERAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION

The art and art history collection supports the teaching, research and service activities of the entire university community. Its primary audience is the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Art and Art History in the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts. Its primary focus is support for the undergraduate and graduate curricula for art and art history. Specific and transient research needs of art and art history faculty and graduate students are supplemented through Interlibrary Loan. Materials are not purchased for the general public though they may benefit from the collection. While the collection focuses on works classified in Art N and Photography TR, curriculum and research support is also provided by works classified as history, anthropology, archeology, psychology, aesthetics, classics, architecture, engineering, religious studies, and other areas.

The department offers two programs of study: studio art and art history. The two have quite different functions and research needs. The studio art program trains those who are creating art; the art history program trains those who are studying art. The department has 20 faculty tenured or tenure track faculty. Five of the 20 teach art history. Adjunct faculty and visiting artists and scholars also play an important role. In Fall of 2008, the department reported 263 undergraduate majors; 37 studying for a BA in studio art; 203 studying for a BFA in studio art, and 23 studying for a BA in Art History and Criticism. The MFA in studio art had 29 students.

Department coursework falls into three areas: Art Theory and Practice, Art History and Criticism, and Studio Art. Art History students explore the history of the visual arts and the theoretical and critical literature associated with the cultures producing a given art style. Studio art students study ceramics, graphic design, painting/drawing, photography, printmaking, sculpture or textiles. They rely less heavily on library or other information sources than art history students. Studio students also take two semesters of coursework in the Visual Literacy Program, an interdisciplinary, collaborative foundation program for first year students in Art, Architecture, Interior Design, Textiles, and Journalism. It is designated Program of Excellence. Library collections that specifically support the VLP have a separate collection development policy.

In the department's words, "Courses are offered in areas ranging from ancient art to modern art in various cultures, and from the introductory through graduate levels. In these courses, students not only study the art, artists and stylistic aspects of these periods, but also explore the historical and social issues that influence art production and its presentation. Exposure to artists in other periods can help students to clarify their sense of what it means to be an artist today; exposure to art of the past nourishes the daily work done in the studio. Artists must be able to talk and write about their own work, and to think about other artists' work in relation to their own. Many students find a great overlap between conceptualization and critical thinking about the art of their own time, and the critical choices involved in their own art-making."

In addition to VPL courses , which are ACE certified, the department offers the following ACE certified Art History & Criticism courses for general education:

AHIS 101. Intro to Art History & Criticism I
AHIS 102. Intro to Art History & Criticism II
AHIS 400 Art History Capstone Experience

The degrees offered by Art and Art History Department are:

BFA in Studio Art

The bachelor of fine arts degree (BFA) is a professional degree with about seventy percent of the course work for the degree (eighty eight credit hours) taken in the Department of Art and Art History. With this degree, students may choose to emphasize in one of the major studio areas.

BA in Studio Art

Those seeking a BA in Studio Art devote a total of twenty five credit hours (about one-third of their total hours) to the practice of visual arts. Eighteen credit hours in Art History are also required for the BA in Studio Art, and students pursuing a BA are required to have at least one minor.

BA in Art History

The bachelor of arts (BA) in Art History enables students to attain proficiency in the practice of art and knowledge of the history of art in addition to a general college education.

MFA in Studio Art

The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree at UNL is offered with an emphasis in one the following areas: ceramics, painting and drawing, graphic design, photography, printmaking, sculpture, or a combination of two of these areas. Sixty credits are required for graduation, including a minimum of twenty-six hours in the student's major area, nine hours of art history, sixteen hours of studio electives and nine hours of general electives. Students normally spend three years earning the degree and full time enrollment is required. Applicants must have a baccalaureate degree and substantial previous study in studio art. The faculty also recommends at least 15 undergraduate credits in art history and an undergraduate GPA of at least 2.5.

MA in Art History

The M.A. in Art History is newly designed as a two-year program of study and culminates in a written thesis or a comprehensive examination. Consisting of coursework supplying a broad knowledge of art history, the purpose of the M.A. is to offer students both an opportunity for advanced study of the history of art and experience with independent research. The M.A. program requires a minimum of 30 hours of advanced study, balanced between coursework designed to promote coverage of the field, cross-disciplinary explorations, and focused research. It also requires competency in a modern foreign language.

Library Collections

To support these programs in art history, the library collection offers a wide range of materials on theory, criticism, art history, social history, collection management, philosophy, religious studies, literature, anthropology, and area studies. To support these programs in studio art, the collection provides information on art theory, materials, technology, practices, and careers, as well as exemplars and samples of a variety of artworks.

Collections in some of these areas are guided by other collection development policies, including those written for History; Medieval and Renaissance Studies; Nineteenth Century Studies; Architecture; Anthropology; Classics; Interior Design; and Textiles, Clothing and Design.

The University Libraries collection is supplemented by the public collections of the Christlieb Room, the Sheldon Art Museum, and the Joslyn Art Museum and by the private slide collection of the Art and Art History Department.

II. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Research level collections have long been maintained in Western European and American art, as well as in Egyptian, Greek, and Roman art of ancient and classical times. Current coverage is worldwide, building on historical collections on the United States, Great Britain and Western Europe, as well as establishing study-level collections on art and artists from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and South America.

III. CHRONOLOGICAL COVERAGE

Research level collections have long been maintained for ancient Egyptian, Greek, Roman, medieval, Byzantine, renaissance, baroque, and 19th-20th century European and American art, pre-Columbian and Colonial Latin American art, and Native American art (especially of the Plains). Current coverage is broader, building on historical collections and establishing study-level collections of art and artists from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and South America. Artists' books by new or little-known artists are purchased regularly, but selectively, as samplings of contemporary art.

IV. IMPRINT DATE

Primary emphasis is on current imprints. Retrospective buying emphasizes completion of major sets and acquisition of highly prized but costly exhibition catalogs and catalogues raisonnées. These are purchased as funding allows.

V. FORMAT

Because clarity and color quality of images is essential, monographs and serials with significant illustrations are maintained in print format. The library provides access to digital images for classroom use, Blackboard, research, and other projects.

VI. LANGUAGE

English is the preferred language at all levels of collection intensity. Works in German, Italian, French, and Spanish are acquired at the study and research levels. Materials in Japanese, Russian, Scandinavian, and other languages are collected at the research level only. When acquiring art materials, language, at times, is secondary in importance to the quality of reproduction of art works. No work is automatically excluded on the basis of language alone. English translations are preferred, but translations into any of the major European languages are also acceptable at the research level.

Materials Selected with Funds Designated for Art and Art History

VII. CLASSIFICATIONS AND INTENSITY LEVEL

AM 1-160 Museums STUDY

BH Aesthetics STUDY

BR 130-133.5 Christian antiquities STUDY

BV 150-168 Christian symbols and symbolism STUDY

CC Archaeology (general) STUDY

CJ Numismatics BASIC

CN Inscriptions. Epigraphy BASIC

D History: General and Europe

DF 75-136 Ancient Greece. Antiquities. Civilization. Culture RESEARCH

DG 51-70 Ancient Italy. Rome to 476. Local History and Description RESEARCH

DG 75-137 Ancient Italy. Rome to 476. Antiquities. Civilization. Culture RESEARCH

DT 56-73 Egypt. Antiquities. Egyptology RESEARCH

E History: America

E 75-99 Plains Indians material culture RESEARCH

F History: America

F 590.3-596.3 Trans-Mississippi, Great Plains material culture RESEARCH

F 661-675 Nebraska material culture RESEARCH

F 1219-1221 Mexico. Antiquities. Indians RESEARCH

- F 3429-3430 Peru. Antiquities. Indians RESEARCH
- GN 429-436 Anthropology: arts and crafts visual STUDY
- N Visual Arts STUDY
 - N 61-72 Theory. Philosophy. Aesthetics RESEARCH
 - N 5300-7418 History RESEARCH
- NB Sculpture STUDY
 - NB 60-1115 History RESEARCH
- NC Drawing STUDY
 - NC 50-266 History RESEARCH
 - NC 1300-1850 Pictorial humor, caricature, etc. Posters BASIC
 - NC 1860-1940 Greeting cards, invitations, etc. Copying, enlarging, reduction MINIMAL
- ND Painting STUDY
 - ND 49-1113 History RESEARCH
- NE Print Media STUDY
 - NE 400-773 General Printmaking History RESEARCH
 - NE 965 Tradesmen's cards MINIMAL
 - NE 1030-1200 Wood Engraving History RESEARCH
 - NE 1634-1749 Metal Engraving History RESEARCH
 - NE 1980-2110 Etching and Aquatint History RESEARCH
- NK Decorative Arts STUDY
- NX Arts in general STUDY
- TP 785-945 ceramics, glass, textiles, pigments, varnishes BASIC
- TR BASIC
 - TR 640 Artistic photography RESEARCH
- TT Handicrafts BASIC