Master of Fine Arts at Florida International University

MFA in Visual Arts

The Master in Fine Arts in Visual Arts has a post-studio approach to artistic practice but we do not jettison medium specificity all together. Students situate their practice in the context of the larger histories of various media while also getting a rigorous introduction to critical theory. We consider art making as inherently theoretical.

MFA in Visual Arts: Curatorial Practice Track

The MFA in Visual Arts: Curatorial Practice Track considers curating as an artistic practice. Just as a painter must paint, curators must curate to create new knowledge. To that end, students begin project managing exhibitions from the first semester, learning how to install, ship, pack, and light art. Also, students in this program are frequently in classes with studio artists, many of whose practices often include curating as well. Indeed, there is a blurring of the curator, critic, historian, and artist. Those enrolled in the curatorial practice track will get a rigorous introduction to not only critical theory but also the burgeoning field of curatorial studies.

The Master in Fine Arts in Visual Arts is a 60-credit program that is typically completed over 3 years as a full-time student. Students generally take three courses each term: an art history, an independent tutorial, and a graduate seminar, which meets once a week and includes students from all years and both studio and curatorial practice tracks. If requirements are met early, students can graduate as early as 2 years with faculty approval. Students can enroll part-time but are encouraged to take at least 6 credits per term to benefit the most from our program.

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Message from the Chair

On behalf of our faculty and professional staff, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our third issue of A+AH Basel. Through this publication, we are proud to show the involvement, talents, and creativity of our students, faculty, and alumni. Viewing our Art Basel issue will give you a taste of our programs at FIU and what our Department family has to offer the global community.

Jacek J. Kolasinski
Chair and Associate Professor
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Michael Namkung Explores Flight at NADA and Art and Culture Center of Hollywood

Work from Assistant Professor Michael Namkung’s solo exhibition Flying Towards the Ground at Locust Projects was on display in the gallery’s booth at the New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA) Miami Beach art fair from December 3rd to 5th, 2015.

Flying Towards the Ground has already been featured in a WLRN article and in a WLRN radio segment. At Locust Projects, the exhibition opened exhibition Jedediah Caesar’s Stone Underground.

Flying Towards the Ground explored humans’ desire for flight, and our concurrent fear of falling. The artist’s interdisciplinary art practice often draws on the language of sports training and athletic performance as a means to explore the sensory experience of drawing under physical strain. At Locust Projects – as with many of his artworks – the form of the installation was determined by Namkung’s physical effort, combined with an element of chance.

During the 2015 Art Basel week, Namkung also exhibited Michael Namkung: Levitation and Gravitas at the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood.

In this site-specific work, Namkung created a 3-dimensional sound piece that channeled an apparition of his body floating down the stairs, and utilized video to sustain his body in flight.

(Source: Art and Culture Center of Hollywood)

Michael Namkung was born in Oakland, California, and lives and works in Miami. He received his MFA with Distinction from San Francisco State University in 2009. His work has been exhibited at The Drawing Center, New York; The Projects, Fort Lauderdale; Niterói Contemporary Art Museum, Brazil; SFMOMA; Root Division, San Francisco; and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco.
STUDENTS
BFA Student Krystal Rodriguez Exhibits at KROMA Gallery

Current BFA student Krystal Rodriguez exhibited “Nostalgia for Clarity” at KROMA Gallery in Coconut Grove during the Art Basel festivities.

Rodriguez's “Nostalgia for Clarity” is a series of paintings rendered with gouache on handmade paper. The pieces capture intimate moments from Rodriguez's past, moments that she treasures in her memory. The 12-by-12-foot installation challenged her with guidelines that required her to install her pieces in a way that would transform a 6-by-6-foot wall space into an installation. By using color theory and fundamentals from 2D and 3D design, Rodriguez created a dynamic, aesthetically pleasing arrangement, using her paintings and other handmade papers that she painted in solid complimentary and split-complimentary colors.

KROMA is a collective art space located on Grand Avenue in the heart of Coconut Grove consisting of 18 artists studios and a communal gallery space. KROMA's mission is to serve as an affordable, contemporary space for artists, whose creative output will contribute to connecting the spirits of Coconut Grove's rich past, present and future. As a premiere arts incubator and the latest initiative of the Collaborative Development Corporation in partnership with the Barlington Group, KROMA hosts exhibits showcasing the myriad of perspectives that are a result of the African diaspora and beyond. KROMA looks to advance the knowledge and practice of the arts through education and programming, which will not only enrich the lives of the community, but further develop the careers of resident artists. (Source: KROMA Gallery)
Brittni Winker Curates Art and Yoga in *Interior Form* Exhibition

Masters in Fine Arts: Curatorial Practice Track candidate and FIU Art + Art History Project Room coordinator Brittni Winkler curated a group exhibition during Art Basel week that combined art and yoga. This project, called *Interior Form*, served as Winkler’s thesis exhibition at the FIU Art + Art History Project Room at the Bakehouse Art Complex.

The group exhibition part of the thesis, which opened on November 20th, 2015, included 6 artists: Katie Cercone, Susanna Harwood Rubin, Matthew Roy, Robert Sturman, Meifung Su, and Natalia Vasquez. Representing a Western take on the subject matter, the exhibit focused on the invisible sensations of art and yoga in relation to healing and wellness.

In addition to the group exhibition, *Interior Form* involved a series of free Visual Yoga Workshops that took place before and during Art Basel at the FIU Art + Art History Project Room. Some of these workshops incorporated meditation inside of an art installation led by Natalia Vasquez, and others included immersive projections coupled with a yoga practice.

During Art Basel week, on December 2nd, 2015, Winkler hosted *Body as Brush: Paint and Yoga Workshop* at the Project Room. During the workshop, Winkler taught a full yoga class. Afterwards, she supplied her students with paper and paint and instructed them to pour the paint onto their bodies. The students did their favorite yoga poses from the prior class, making sure they applied paint to the points of their body that touched the paper mat. What resulted were personal artworks that embodied personal expression and meditative intention.

*Image provided courtesy of Amanda Ray.*
Eduardo Del Valle Exhibits at Miami Freedom Tower

During the Art Basel week, the Freedom Tower at the Miami Dade College Museum of Art + Design (MOA+D) hosted an exhibition by Professor Eduardo Del Valle called *Childhood Memories from the Other Side of the Water, Photographs by Eduardo del Valle*. The exhibit opened on November 6th, 2015 and runs until August 28th, 2016. Del Valle spoke at two lecture events about his exhibition, which is on display in the Cuban Cultural Diaspora Gallery of the Freedom Tower. One of his lectures took place during Miami’s festive week, on December 5th, 2015.

*Childhood Memories from the Other Side of the Water* is an autobiographical series of work revealing beautiful, evocative, and sometimes painful photographs leading through the author’s childhood in Cuba, where he suffered horrific trauma and betrayal. Eduardo del Valle’s story is a very human one. All humans suffer and at times have felt shame, yet ultimately long for well-being, love, and happiness. But for most who have experienced sexual abuse as children, there are no words to express feelings, feelings a young person might have when they are abused and humiliated. Most children who experience trauma remember the event but bury the emotions. Del Valle has carried this history for 50 years. For him, these emotions are very much alive. That is because all buried emotions are buried alive, aching to have a voice. (Source: FIU Cuban Research Institute)

Del Valle worked on his visual autobiography over the past nine years. The series covers his memories of Cuba between 1951 and 1961, when he left the country at the age of ten and when he last stepped foot in the country. The project resulted in 88 photographs that depict memories, although they were shot outside of Cuba, “from the other side of the water.” *Childhood Memories from the Other Side of the Water* has been printed into a 126-page catalogue published by Nazraeli Press, with an introduction by Tony Mendoza, preface by FIU Art Professor Emeritus Juan A. Martinez, poems by Ellen Bass and Richard Blanco ’91, ’97 (MFA in Creative Writing), and afterword by Daniel Gottlieb.
Pip Brant Performs at Fantastical Vizcaya as Member of Kunstwaffen 1916

Associate Professor Pip Brant participated in Fantastical Vizcaya at the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens. Fantastical Vizcaya was the museum's signature event for the Art Basel 2015 week.

Fantastical Vizcaya featured eleven Miami-based artists who were commissioned to create site-specific, performance-based works from November 30th through December 4th, 2015. The artists chosen to exhibit during Fantastical Vizcaya included Dona Altemus, Pip Brant, Amalia Caputo, Cara Despain, Sebastian Duncan-Portuondo, Alan Gutierrez, Daniel Milewski, Maritza Molina, Misael Soto and Homo-Sapiens Collab: David Rohn and Danilo de la Torre. (Source: Vizcaya Museum and Gardens)

Kunstwaffen 1916 recently played at the 2016 International Noise Conference, which took place at Churchill’s Pub and included over 200 artists. In the year before, the Miami New Times had awarded the conference the Best Music Festival.
**Older Than Jesus at Bakehouse Art Complex Includes Faculty and Alumnus Work**

*Older Than Jesus* was on display at Bakehouse Art Complex during Miami Art Week for the space’s 30th year anniversary. FIU’s own William Maguire (Professor), Peggy Levison Nolan (Adjunct Lecturer), and former BFA student Hugo Montoya exhibited their work in the exhibition.

The concept behind *Older Than Jesus* was inspired by *Younger Than Jesus*, the first edition of “The Generational,” the New Museum’s signature triennial.

*Younger Than Jesus* featured fifty artists from twenty-five countries. The show was the first major international museum exhibition devoted exclusively to the generation born around 1980, tapping into the different perspectives, shared preoccupations, and experiences of a constituency that is shaping the contemporary art discourse and prescribing the future of global culture. *(Source: New Museum)*

*Younger Than Jesus* offered a rich, intricate, multidisciplinary exploration of the work being produced by a new generation of artists born after 1976. On the other hand, *Older than Jesus* at Bakehouse Art Complex focused on artists that “did not have it all figured out as teenagers, artists that took time and explored other careers or just needed some extra time to ripen.” Each artist was at least 34-years-old. The Miami exhibit “show[ed] that Generation X, Y and, Z’s views are still valid.” *(Sources: New Museum, Bakehouse Art Complex)*
At The FIU College of Architecture + The Arts
Miami Beach Urban Studios (MBUS), students are provided with an extraordinary base, located within one of Miami’s largest concentrations of galleries, music and theatre venues, architecture firms, and artist studios. MBUS provides access to a truly immersive experience with culture, innovation, artwork, and public discussion. MBUS invites students to fabricate work that rethinks issues, involves performative provocation, and collides the physical with the practical and the theoretical in a search for solutions.
Jeroen Nelemans ’04, Associate Director of Aspect/Ratio Gallery, Runs Booth at UNTITLED Art Fair

UNTITLED Art Fair ran during the Art Basel week from December 2nd to 6th, 2015 in Miami Beach. At the fair, an FIU Art + Art History alumnus ran the booth of a Chicago gallery.

Jeroen Nelemans ’04 (BFA) is the Associate Director of Aspect/Ratio Gallery. The gallery had its own booth at UNTITLED Art Fair, where Nelemans oversaw the handling of the artwork on display and met international visitors of the art fair.

Aspect/Ratio is a contemporary art gallery that focuses on video- and performance-based artworks from an international group of emerging and established artists. This year was the gallery’s first time participating in UNTITLED Art Fair.

Jefferson Godard is the Founder and Director of Aspect/Ratio, and Nelemans, as Associate Director, is his partner and preparator.

For the 2015 UNTITLED Art Fair, the gallery exhibited 2015 Guggenheim Fellow Sabina Ott’s new work. While he ran the booth, Nelemans networked with various guests that traveled from across the globe to review the Miami art scene.

“I was busy at the booth most of the time,” said Nelemans, “creating new relationships and maintaining old ones.”

Nelemans attributes much of his understanding of contemporary art to his education at FIU.

“FIU gave me a great understanding of what contemporary art is or can be,” he said. “It helped me to understand and question, at the same time, the role of an individual artist. A testament of this was working with William Burke, who allowed me to have independent classes with him, so I could develop my own projects. Another great education was to be friends with Peggy Levison Nolan, who is still a good friend. Her energy as an artist and educator was very valuable. All this and more, including my experience at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, made me the visual artist I am today.”

Nelemans is currently represented by THE MISSION, a gallery in Chicago.

Left: Aspect/Ratio booth at UNTITLED Art Fair; right: work by Sabina Ott in Aspect/Ratio booth.
Ashley G Garner ’13 Co-directs Jacked Fashion Art Camp

Lifestyle brand, blog, and shop Jacked Fashion hosted its Art Camp Miami during Art Basel week. The camp included four days of activities from December 3rd to 6th, 2015 that celebrated Miami’s special week of the year. Ashley G Garner ’13 (BA, BFA) was the Co-Director and photographer for the Jacked Fashion event.

Jacked Fashion and its Art Camp Miami were founded by Camp Director Alaska Mangialetto. The camp was created with the intention of creating an accessible environment in Miami to showcase young and passionate artists from across the globe. The camp is a community of friends and visionaries coming together for the sake of art and collaboration with other artists. Participating members include fashion designers, photographers, painters, art directors, DJs, entrepreneurs, musicians, socialites, and more.

Activities of the Jacked Fashion Art Camp included Weed Wine Wednesday at The Freehand Miami and Tribe Thursday in the Wynwood Art District, which involved pop-ups, installations, and live music. The camp also included Freehand Friday at The Freehand Miami with another round of community festivities. S’more Saturday took place between South Beach and the Wynwood Art District. On this day, participants visited art fairs, galleries, and the beach and local attractions. On the last day of the camp, Subculture Sunday, participants enjoyed film screenings and grilled cheese at Ms. Cheezious on Biscayne Boulevard.
GIANNA D

Work by Gianna DiBartolomeo ’07 (BFA) at SPECTRUM Miami
Gianna DiBartolomeo ’07 (BFA) participated in two major Art Basel week events in 2015.

DiBartolomeo also participated in the Wynwood Park-Your-Art Contest, which was hosted by the Miami Parking Authority and Beffer Media. 2015 was the launch year of this contest, which selected emerging and established artists to paint artwork on eight Wynwood parking meters. The theme of the 2015 contest was “IHeart305.” (Source: Beefree Media)

The eight artists selected were Chris “DuWerks” Dudot, Courtney Einhorn, Gianna DiBartolomeo, Leah Guzman, Lauren Adams, Melissa Martinez, Renda Writer, and Rei Ramirez. Their artworks will be displayed on the Wynwood meters until the 2016 edition of the Park-Your-Art contest.

DiBartolomeo makes art using “ordinary materials in unpredictable ways to convey meaningful and relatable experiences.” She both conveys shared human experiences and shares meaningful experiences. She is interested in using a diverse spectrum of materials and in the “power of repetition” and “how something large can be made up of many small things.” Her artist statement says, “By working with everyday materials I impress upon the fact that our daily actions [affect] the larger picture of our lives[,] while my use of intricate and tedious processes suggests that life is a journey that shouldn't be rushed.” (Source: Gianna DiBartolomeo)
Mary Larsen’s ’12 Work at SCOPE Leads to Show in Japan

Mary Larsen ’12 (BFA) exhibited her work at SCOPE Miami Beach from December 2nd to 6th, 2015.

Larsen’s work was included in the booth by Miami’s Independent Thinkers among eighteen other artists, including fellow alumna Valeria Yamamoto ’08 (BFA).

Through disparate materials such as paint, ink, paper, found images, maps and silkscreen, Larsen layers imagery on canvas and transforms pages of books to create ephemeral “dream-scapes” in which images of violence and beauty collide and become confused and in which time is not linear, but layered or spatial. Often, she finds balance and harmony through imbalance and dissonance. By both obscuring and revealing parts of the book, rubbing out and making marks, erasing one history and replacing it with another, a new history emerges only to disappear. (Source: Mary Larsen)

Larsen had exhibited at the SCOPE art show in 2013, which led to a solo exhibition at Gallery G-77 in Kyoto, Japan that ran during April 2016. The solo exhibition at the gallery was called Indeterminate Reality.

Larsen feels that her FIU education prepared her for these opportunities.

“I had been working as an artist for many years before entering the [FIU] program,” said Larsen, “but I became a more disciplined artist during my time there. I learned to see my work in the context of art history, making connections to the work of other contemporary artists. The most important thing I got out of the program was learning how to analyze and write about my work.”
Three Alumni Get Involved in Spinello Projects Art Fair, Littlest Sister

Littlest Sister, a “faux” invitational art fair, opened on November 30th and ran until December 6th, 2015. The event commented on the art fair as an entity that activated Miami’s contemporary arts scene. Inaugurating Spinello Projects’s new space and its 10th-year anniversary, Littlest Sister featured an emerging Miami-based curator, Sofia Bastidas ’13 (BA) (Littlest Sister Director) and ten unrepresented, women-identified Miami-based artists who work in painting, sculpture, design, installation, and new media.

Among those who exhibited in Littlest Sister was alumna AdrienneRose Gionta ’14 (MFA), who exhibited her digital work.

The fair consisted of 10 solo booths and Projects throughout. Running concurrently, Platform, a symposium bringing together Miami’s most influential women in the arts, invited panelists to engage in conversations and debate regarding current macro and local issues, from challenges in the field, the future of art fairs, real estate development and the arts, to gender and race inequality in the market. Prominent outside voices were invited to spark dialogue with local practitioners and influencers. Programmed throughout Miami Art Week, Platform created informal opportunities of exchange for real critical discourse.

Littlest Sister also included Feature, a section dedicated to Miami-based, women-led projects including Design Pub, Sweat Records, and Vanity Projects.

Anthony Spinello is the owner and founder of Spinello Projects. Guillermo León Gómez ’12 (BA) is the Assistant Director of the gallery.

Work by AdrienneRose Gionta ’14 (MFA) in Littlest Sister, Spinello Projects
Students and Alumni Honor R.F. Buckley at Bakehouse Art Complex

On Saturday, December 12th, 2015, at the Bakehouse Art Complex, current and past students from the FIU Art + Art History Department honored Professor R.F. Buckley, who passed in October 2015.

R.F. Buckley was born in Cleveland, Ohio and did his undergraduate work at the Cleveland Institute of Art where he received his B.F.A. degree. He majored in Sculpture with a minor in Painting. After his junior year he was given a summer scholarship to attend The Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Skowhegan, Maine. Upon graduating from the Cleveland Institute of Art, he accepted a Teaching Assistantship position at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. During his second semester at USC, R.F. Buckley was given full responsibility of the sculpture department, teaching all levels from freshman to graduate students as a sabbatical replacement for the sculpture professor.

After one year at USC, he accepted a Fellowship from the Rinehart School of Sculpture, Maryland Institute College of Art. Baltimore, Maryland where he received his M.F.A. degree. Upon graduation, he was offered a position teaching sculpture at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri. He taught at Washington University for seven years, helping to revitalize both undergraduate and graduate programs. After leaving Washington University, he accepted a position teaching Sculpture and Painting at Florida International University, where he was employed for nearly four decades as head of the sculpture program.

Professor R.F. Buckley has been nationally recognized for his large-scale aluminum sculptural works. Recently, he was invited to attend ABANA 2016, the national conference of the Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America to showcase his technical and forging abilities to conference participants. His numerous public works are a true testament to his rigorous studio practice and life commitment to art.
“Scarlet Nova”, 2007, Cast Aluminum. 5’-2” h. x 4’-3” w. x 2.5d.
Message from the Editor

I hope you enjoyed the third issue of A+AH Basel. The involvement on the part of our students, faculty, and alumni in Miami Art Week events exemplifies just how “Worlds Ahead” we are at the FIU Art + Art History Department.

It is a privilege, as an art department, to be in a city where one of the hottest art shows (perhaps the hottest art show) happens. Being in Miami allows not only for our FIU family to extend its reach to the local communities for partnerships, events, and projects. Being in Miami also allows for our students, faculty, and alumni to participate in what has made Miami a major attraction in the world.

The effort of FIU Art + Art History to be involved in Art Basel Miami Beach and related events exposes the Miami community - as well as the international community - to the great things FIU has to offer. I look forward to FIU’s further and increased involvement as Miami Art Week continues to grow.

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Media and Marketing Coordinator
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Discover your artistic identity, share your vision with students and faculty, and grow within a multi-national, multi-cultural artistic community. Our interdisciplinary approach to teaching art and art history is the cornerstone of our curriculum. As a student, you have the opportunity to learn the art of:

- Studio Art
- Ceramics
- Drawing
- Mixed Media
- Painting
- Sculpture
- Time-based Art
- Traditional + Digital Photography
- Animation, Video and Digital Arts
- Graphic Design

As an Art + Art History student, you have the opportunity to enhance your academic experience through our:

- Faculty + Visiting Artists
- Cultural Institutions: [The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum](#) [The Wolfsonian-FIU](#)
- Studio Facilities at [Modesto A. Maidique Campus](#) [Biscayne Bay Campus](#) [CARTA Miami Beach Urban Studios](#)
- Community Outreach Opportunities

A degree from the FIU Art + Art History Department not only develops your artistic technique and vision, but also prepares you for the understanding of the methodology, theory, and criticism of art in all of its forms.

**Undergraduate Programs**
- Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Art
- Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Art
- BA in Art History
- Minor in Art
- Minor in Art History

**Graduate Programs**
- Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Visual Arts
- MFA in Visual Arts: Curatorial Practice Track

**Non-Degree Programs**
- Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies

For advising on Art + Art History, you may contact:

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Tel: 305 348 3539
The FIU Art + Art History Department

The FIU Art + Art History Department provides a sanctuary for the development of new visions, ideas, and techniques. Studio art majors have the opportunity to work in a wide variety of disciplines, acquiring all the basic skills, while exploring a range of new possibilities. Students of Art History learn the research methodology, theory, and criticism necessary for careers in contemporary practice. The interactivity of our Studio Art and Art History programs helps students define their own roles as artists and art historians in today's world. We provide many opportunities for each student, including visiting artist seminars, workshops, and study abroad programs. South Florida is garnering much attention from the international art community for such events as Art Basel, Art Miami, and Art Palm Beach, and both faculty and students of the department are regular participants in their many projects. The FIU Art + Art History Department is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). For more information, visit art.fiu.edu.

The FIU College of Architecture + The Arts

The FIU College of Architecture + The Arts engages our local and global communities by deploying the power of architecture + the arts to create, innovate, and inspire solutions to social, economic, and environmental problems. Offering 9 graduate and 8 undergraduate degrees within 7 academic departments, our more than 2500 majors have the unique experience of working with our award-winning faculty in nationally ranked programs in the heart of Miami — one of the country’s most vibrant, diverse, and creative cities! For more information, visit us at cart.fiu.edu.
I encourage you to stay connected with your fellow FIU Golden Panthers and come join us at any of the exciting alumni events we host throughout the year, including happy hours, event receptions, Silver Pride Reunion, and Homecoming. We'd love to see you and learn about what you’ve been doing!

You are a graduate not only of a successful College, but of an exciting university. As such, I encourage you to join the Alumni Association if you have not already done so. Along with the numerous activities and events hosted by the Association, benefits of membership include discounts with campus, community and national partners, subscription to the FIU Magazine, free admission to tailgating parties, and reduced ticket packages to all FIU athletic events.

In order to make sure you’re aware of all the latest events at CARTA, we have recently created a Facebook page specifically for you, our alumni! “Like” our CARTA Alumni Facebook page (www.facebook.com/CARTAAlumni) to share stories, receive updates, and stay in touch with fellow CARTA Golden Panthers.

Keep in touch. Send us a note and let us know how you are doing. Come home soon!

Maria G. Claverie ’00 (MS)
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Congrats on Becoming Part of the CARTA Alumni Network!