

Master of Visual Arts (MVA) – Painting & Studio Research

Program Overview:

The Master of Visual Arts (MVA) – Painting & Studio Research program is designed to nurture visionary painters who are prepared to challenge conventional artistic norms and contribute to global dialogues in contemporary art. This two-year postgraduate program offers a comprehensive curriculum that equips students with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in the evolving art landscape.

Program Vision:

The program’s vision is to cultivate a cohort of painters who possess a deep understanding of painting’s material, historical, and conceptual foundations. By embracing interdisciplinary approaches such as artificial intelligence, augmented reality, and socially engaged practices, students will gain a holistic perspective on the art form.

Program Objectives:

The program’s objectives are as follows:

- 1. To foster personal studio exploration rooted in critical research.
- 2. To bridge the gap between traditional and emerging painting techniques.
- 3. To engage with transdisciplinary influences and global discourses.
- 4. To prepare students for doctoral-level research, curatorial practice, or public art leadership.
- 5. To equip students with an understanding of painting’s evolving role in socio-political, environmental, and digital contexts.

Course Modules & Tracks:

Year 1 – Research + Practice Expansion

Semester 1

Module	Description
Advanced Painting Methods	Exploration of scale, materiality, and experimental techniques;

	includes large-format canvas, unconventional surfaces, and pigment chemistry.
Research Methodologies in Painting	Practice-based and academic approaches to artist research, writing, and documentation.
Critical Theory for Visual Artists	Foundational texts in postmodernism, postcolonialism, feminism, and phenomenology through the lens of visual practice.
AI & Conceptual Practices in Painting	Introduction to machine learning tools for generative art, algorithmic composition, and critical reflection on automation in painting.
Visual Semiotics & Narrative Structures	Study of symbolic language, mythology, and storytelling in painting; builds visual literacy for complex image-making.
Field Research Lab	Museum studies, site-specific sketching, and field documentation in public space. Includes travel to archives and contemporary galleries.

Semester 2

Module	Description
Thesis Development Studio	Focused studio production toward a culminating body of work, with regular faculty and peer feedback.

Contemporary Dialogues: Art, Ecology, Identity	Exploration of identity politics, environmental art, indigenous perspectives, and posthuman theory in visual form.
Artist-as-Leader	Training for roles in community arts, higher education, and socially engaged practices.
Proposal Writing & Funding	Techniques for writing grants, artist residencies, commissions, and international fellowships.
Guest Artist Workshops	Studio intensives led by international painters and curators. Hands-on masterclasses and portfolio reviews.

Year 2: Independent Studio Thesis and Exhibition

Semester 3

Module	Description
Thesis Development Studio	Focused studio production toward a culminating body of work, with regular faculty and peer feedback.
Contemporary Dialogues: Art, Ecology, Identity	Exploration of identity politics, environmental art, indigenous perspectives, and posthuman theory in visual form.
Artist-as-Leader	Training for roles in community arts, higher education, and socially engaged practices.
Proposal Writing & Funding	Techniques for writing grants, artist residencies, commissions,

	and international fellowships.
Guest Artist Workshops	Studio intensives led by international painters and curators. Hands-on masterclasses and portfolio reviews.

Semester 4

Module	Description
Final Studio Work & Public Exhibition	Execution and installation of a solo/group exhibition with public presentation.
Thesis Writing & Oral Defense	Written theoretical component of the visual thesis. Includes a live defense before an expert panel.
Portfolio & Career Strategy	Professional practices: artist statements, press kits, applications, digital presence.
External Jury Critique	Formal evaluation by external faculty and professional artists.
Cultural Internship or Residency	Final internship or international artist residency placement.

Final Graduate Outcomes

Upon completing the program, graduates will gain the following key skills and knowledge:

- * **Museum-Ready Body of Work:** Graduates will possess a comprehensive and curated body of work that is suitable for exhibition and museum display.
- * **Publishable Visual Thesis:** Graduates will have the opportunity to present a publishable visual thesis, encompassing both print and digital formats.
- * **Professional Development Tools:** Graduates will receive essential professional development tools, including teaching dossiers, portfolios, and project proposals.
- * **Career Readiness:** Graduates will be equipped with the skills and knowledge to pursue careers in various fields, including contemporary studio practice, art education curatorship and cultural management, public art and

activism, art-tech startups and creative industries, and more.

* **PhD or Practice-Based Research Program Eligibility:** Graduates will be eligible for PhD or practice-based research programs.

Program Enrichment Opportunities

The program offers a range of enriching opportunities to enhance graduates' skills and knowledge:

* **Annual Studio Residency:** International artist-in-residence programs will be held with the opportunity to collaborate with renowned artists.

* **Guest Artist Lecture Series:** Acclaimed painters, curators, and critics will deliver seminars and lectures, offering valuable insights and expertise.

* **Museum Critique Labs:** Collaborative critiques will be held within local and national museums, fostering critical thinking and artistic analysis.

* **AI x Art Hackathons:** 48-hour events will pair coders and painters, enabling them to develop generative tools and explore the intersection of art and technology.

* **Citywide Art Interventions:** Urban mural projects, pop-up shows, and public installations will be undertaken, showcasing graduates' creative abilities and contributing to the vibrant cultural landscape.