

ART & ART HISTORY



A bachelor’s degree is valuable for entry-level positions, but an advanced degree is usually necessary to attain competitive, upper-level positions. An art degree can and should be tailored to areas of specialization. Save artwork for a strong portfolio – too much is better than too little. Be prepared to relocate to the larger markets of metropolitan areas where more opportunities exist.

Join art-related professional and student organizations. Volunteer with fundraising efforts for the arts. Gain valuable experience through volunteering, internships, part-time and summer jobs, and apprenticeships. Seek exposure to art by visiting museums around the country and world. Conduct informational interviews with professionals in areas of interest to learn more about opportunities and strategies for these areas. Learn to network.

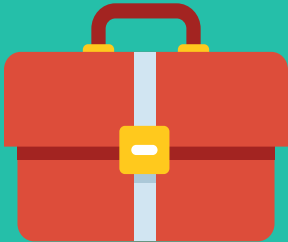
Pair an art degree with other career interests to increase opportunities and provide supplemental income. According to the Department of Labor, many Artists are self-employed. Develop skills in business management, computers, marketing, and other related areas to increase marketability. A career in the arts takes dedication, patience, flexibility, talent, and some luck.

AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

- Art direction
- Administration
- Curatorial
- Conservation
- Restoration
- Publications
- Development
- Collections management
- Exhibit design/preparation
- Archive management
- Education
- Tours
- Sales

Art museums
Archives
Historical societies
Natural history museums
Living history museums
Galleries
Community centers
Auction houses
Self-employed
Studios
Living history museums and historical sites
School and community programs
Colleges and universities
Advertising agencies
Public relation agencies
Design firms
Company marketing departments

COMMON EMPLOYERS



PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



- [American Alliance of Museums](#)
- [American Art Therapy Association](#)
- [American Craft Council](#)
- [American Institute of Graphic Arts](#)
- [American Society of Media Photographers](#)
- [Animation World Network](#)
- [Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design](#)
- [Association of Medical Illustrators](#)
- [College Art Association](#)
- [Industrial Designers Society of America](#)
- [National Cartoonists Society](#)
- [National Press Photographers Association](#)
- [Society of American Archivists](#)
- [Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators](#)
- [Society of Illustrators](#)



STRATEGIES ON ENTERING THE FIELD

- Gain relevant experience through internships or volunteer positions in museums or galleries.
- Visit museums around the country and world to gain exposure to art. Learn a foreign language and plan to study abroad.
- Supplement curriculum with courses in history, religion, anthropology, and classical civilizations. Most art historians will specialize in a period or region.
- Acquire strong skills in research, fund-raising, speaking, writing, and an attention to detail.
- Plan to earn a graduate degree in art history, museum studies, or other related discipline depending upon specific interests. Each specialty has varying qualifications and required training.
- Develop good interpersonal skills, including the ability to work well on teams
- Participate in juried shows and exhibitions.
- Maintain an up-to-date physical and digital portfolio of your work.
- Gain additional skills and experience through an apprenticeship, internship, or volunteer position with a professional artist or organization.
- Secure guild membership.
- Learn to network and make contacts.
- Build a reputation by circulating art work and developing a particular style.