

MEDIA KIT

Alberta College of Art + Design
MFA in Craft Media



LAURA VICKERSON, UNWELSHED TREE ROOTS, 2009

BE THE VOICE OF CONTEMPORARY CRAFT

PURSUE YOUR MFA AT THE INTERSECTION OF CONTEMPORARY
CRAFT DISCOURSE AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE.

**MFA IN
CRAFT
MEDIA**

ACAD Welcomes applications Fall 2015
LEARN MORE www.acad.ca

ALBERTA COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN
ACAD

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INFORMED BY HISTORY, BUT NOT BOUND BY TRADITION

Alberta College of Art + Design boldly launches new MFA program

Calgary, AB – We have a lot to be proud of at ACAD. We are an international institution and the pre-eminent voice for art and design education in Alberta. On the eve of our 90th anniversary, and in the Canadian Crafts Federation Year of Craft 2015, we are proud to boldly move ACAD’s legacy forward and announce our first graduate program, a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Craft Media.

ACAD’s studio-based MFA program in Craft Media gives artists the opportunity to engage and experiment with material and ideas, to push the boundaries of what is possible. Our world-class ceramics, fibre arts, glass, and jewellery and metal studios form the backdrop for this voyage of discovery.

This program launch now makes ACAD the only college in the Province to offer university-level undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

We are seeking the best students from Alberta, Canada and around the world. Admission to the MFA program is competitive and will be based on excellence in portfolio and a body of work, academic standing, and a commitment to undertake a rigorous program of study.

President + CEO Dr. Daniel Doz is proud to share the news that so many at the college have been working towards. “Many dedicated individuals and teams in the college have come together to take ACAD’s MFA in Craft Media from a vision to reality. This exciting endeavor has relied on collaboration and collegiality at all levels and will continue to do so as the reputation of the program builds.”

William Russell Pensyl, Director of Research + Graduate Studies speaks to the kind of experience applicants from across disciplines will have in the MFA program. “Students will experience an intellectually rigorous program balanced with skill development and unfettered exploration in a collaborative, cross-disciplinary environment.” Pensyl continues, “The program is one of a kind, with international caliber facilities. Small class sizes encourage interaction and opportunities for mentoring by exceptional faculty who are acclaimed artists, and respected scholars.”

To apply, visit the ACAD [MFA in Craft Media](#) website and contact graduatestudies@acad.ca

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ACAD is a leading centre for education and research, and a catalyst for creative inquiry and cultural development. We engage the world and create possibilities.

For more information and to arrange interviews contact:
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BACKGROUNDEERS

MFA Quick Facts

QUICK FACTS

- Duration: 20 months five semesters
- 60 credits needed to complete the MFA
- Tuition has been set at \$12,500/annually. ACAD's Board of Governors determined the tuition, fees and set them in accordance with public post-secondary institution fee regulations.

ENROLLMENT GOALS:

- 2015 – 10 students
- 2016 – 12 students with a steady state of 24 students enrolled in the program.

AREAS OF STUDY:

CERAMICS

ACAD's Ceramics program features a vibrant, collaborative atmosphere and collective learning environment, enriched by strong relationships with both international practicing artists and local professional facilities. Ceramics faculty is comprised of makers who are active within craft discourse and interested in the roles of function, emerging technologies, historical precedent, and contemporary practice.

FIBRE

The breadth and diversity of ACAD's Fibre program, together with its well-equipped, spacious studios and expert faculty, make it one of the strongest programs of its kind in North America. Guided by faculty members well-versed in both contemporary fibre art and historical textiles, students explore traditional and experimental practices within studio facilities made remarkable by the variety of activities they support.

JEWELLERY + METALS

The Jewellery + Metals program at ACAD provides a rich, intellectually challenging, and professional setting for artists, balancing creative problem solving, technical proficiency, and entrepreneurship skills with context, currency in the field, history, and meaning. Experienced faculty and high-quality facilities provide students with the full spectrum of practice, from industrial jewellery to conceptual art.

GLASS

The Glass program at ACAD is an inclusive program that fosters creative, independent makers and critical thinkers. With structured interaction and a workshop approach to instruction augmented by high-profile, international guest artists who work and interact with students in studio, the program nurtures and connects emerging artists with the broader glass community.

MFA in Craft Media Q & A

1. When do applications open?

Now! To apply, visit the ACAD [MFA in Craft Media](#) website and contact graduatestudies@acad.ca

2. When will our first students start the program?

Our first class of students will begin their studies in the Fall 2015 semester.

3. What is unique about this MFA?

Designing an MFA in Craft Media was a strategic decision. ACAD's MFA in Craft Media has a unique curriculum model that honours the tradition of fine craft, while recognizing that much of contemporary craft practice moves between disciplines. During the MFA's application process, ACAD benefitted from endorsement of many post-secondary institutions and associations across the country that recognized this as a unique program. These valuable endorsements speak to the quality of the proposal, ACAD's reputation and the potential to draw students from other undergraduate programs.

As well, the institution's internationally renowned faculty and facilities will greatly raise the profile of the program.

ACAD's MFA will be a cross-disciplinary degree that facilitates high-level creative research in the context of emerging craft discourses. Participants will have an immersive opportunity to experiment with materials, engage and share new ideas, and will challenge what's possible regarding the generation and application of original knowledge. Small class sizes encourage interaction and opportunities for mentoring by exceptional faculty who are master practitioners and respected scholars.

4. What is the ideal student for the MFA program?

We are seeking the best students both domestically and internationally. Admission to the MFA program is competitive will be based on academic standing, demonstration of an active studio practice, exhibition record and a commitment to undertake a rigorous program of study. Recruitment is actively underway. The ACAD community's extensive professional networks are an invaluable resource in this regard.

5. What is the benefit to having a graduate program at ACAD?

Having an MFA at ACAD will further raise the profile and reputation of the institution and increase the value of the bachelor's program. Having graduate students working alongside undergraduate students enriches the learning environment. Graduate students with research capability support ACAD's broader commitment to a research culture and the development of the Research + Graduate Studies office.

For more information on the MFA check out <http://www.acad.ca/mfa.html>, drop into the Research + Graduate Studies Office in Rm 522 or check in with Russell Pensyl, ACAD's new Director of Research + Graduate Studies. Russell's office is located in the Administration area on the main level.

Broad Support for the MFA

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Today more than ever, art students are entering an international field and a high caliber MFA program such as the one proposed for ACAD with a view towards international opportunities will be a magnet for students across the North American continent and abroad.

Professor Katherine L. Ross
SAIC (School of the Art Institute of Chicago)
October 03, 2012

When I consider the resources and strengths (faculty, facility, greater program structure, material research) at ACAD, the MFA in Craft Media is an obvious fit and may come to be known as the home of 21st century craft media education/ advancement.

Linda Sikora
Professor Ceramic Art
NYSCC Alfred University
October 2, 2012

The Alberta College of Art + Design is uniquely positioned, with its location, its history, its outstanding facilities and internationally recognized staff to engage with the rigor of such a program.

Paul Mathieu
Artist
Associate Professor Emily Carr University
September 25, 2012

A program of this kind is a unique and welcome addition to post-graduate visual arts programs in Canada and across the globe.

Chris Amundsen
Executive Director American Craft Council

As a writer, critic and author of two books about Alberta art, I have developed a deep appreciation for the role that ACAD has played since the 1930s in the development of a visual arts community in the province. Since the days of college instructor and artist, Marion Nicoll, craft has always been part of this lively and meaningful development and not enough can be said about the role of ACAD since then. The institution, its instructors and graduates is the main reason why Alberta today excels nationally and internationally in this creative area.

Mary-Beth Laviolette
Independent Writer and Curator
October 3, 2012

ABOUT Alberta College of Art + Design

The Alberta College of Art and Design is a leading centre for education and research, and a catalyst for creative inquiry and cultural development. We engage the world and create possibilities.

Founded in 1926, ACAD has been a major contributor to Canada's visual culture in the 20th century, with many of its graduates gaining significant national and international reputations as artists, designers and creative leaders. With an annual grant of just under \$13 million, an annual budget of \$20.6 million and employing over 200 staff, ACAD provides accredited degree-standard education and learning opportunities to 1,250 students enrolled in full- and part-time studies in a wide range of art, craft and design studio disciplines. This year marked a major milestone for ACAD. In addition to offering credentialed undergraduate degrees in a variety of program areas, the College was approved to offer its first graduate program, a Masters of Fine Art in Craft Media, making it the only college in the Province to offer and confer university-level undergraduate and now, graduate degree programs.

ACAD is one of only four art and design schools in the country and it is the only college in the Province with a provincial mandate to deliver art and design education. The College is also one of the only Canadian specialized art and design higher education institutions to be entirely accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). This international designation opens new paths for ACAD undergraduate students to pursue graduate degrees and brings new students to Alberta. Broadening international outlook and internationalizing a CV are competitive advantages in demand by organizations while aligning with the Alberta government's desire for Albertans to be global citizens.

Finally, the College is ranked as one of the top post-secondary institutions in job placement and career satisfaction particularly in the design degree programs where 95% of our graduates find employment within the first year of graduating. It has also been home to some of the most exciting and authoritative voices in Canadian art with many profoundly shaping the contemporary art movement not only in Alberta and Canada but around the world. In fact, ACAD has more Governor General Award winners than any other post-secondary institution in Canada and our design students win more prestigious awards than any other art and design school in North America.