We are a community of artists who advance the conceptual, historical, technical, and haptic aspects of clay, fiber, glass, metal and wood. We promote an artistic practice rooted in the values of craft and investigate craft’s inherent relationship to the world with fearless innovation.

visit the program online:
arts.vcu.edu/craftgrad

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CRAFT/MATERIAL STUDIES

The Department of Craft/Material Studies offers Master of Fine Arts degrees with concentrations in Ceramics, Fiber, Furniture Design, Glassworking, and Jewelry/Metalworking.

What happens here is special. The Department of Craft/Material Studies offers the MFA in Fine Art with concentrations in Clay, Fiber, Glass, Metal and Wood. The talented artists who teach in the department curate a select group of graduate students. We look for artists to mine the rich history of our fields, take risks into new territories, and hone in on their authentic obsessions.

ALUMNI

The result of all these efforts: conceptual, skillful, and meaningful works; rich dialog; and a great network of alumni who are accomplished studio artists, educators in colleges and universities, and critics. Many have received prestigious awards and exhibited in venues internationally. Even our most recent alumni are teaching in the top programs nationally, writing for well-known journals, presenting at conferences, exhibiting at prestigious venues internationally, and making us proud.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum is a unique combination of intensive study in each media area balanced with exposure to a wide variety of voices, perspectives, and vantage points across the department. An average week includes a Graduate Studio class, Graduate Seminar, Critique Class, and perhaps an Art History class. Students meet regularly with their Graduate Committee, a diverse group of 3-4 faculty members, to present work. Lively individual critiques and presentations by a host of visiting artists and critics pepper the graduate experience.

ALUMNI

CERAMICS STUDIOS

Each graduate student receives a semi-private studio space and has access to a large communal graduate workspace for larger projects. From vessel makers to mixed media installation artists of considerable diversity can be accommodated. The area has 8 electric kilns and 2 gas car kilns that are 35 ft³ and 135 ft³, a plaster room with state of the art ventilation, separate hand building and wheel rooms, a large raw material inventory, 3 clay mixers (2 Soldner, 1 Bluebird), slab roller, manual and pneumatic extruders, two slab-o-matics, a spray booth, a two tier ball mill, and a Venco pug mill.

FIBER STUDIOS

Each graduate student is assigned a semi-private studio with natural light. Work completed in these studios is as varied as the students themselves. Installation, video, performance, and the discreet object, all of these forms of expression are encouraged. Facilities, totaling over 5000 ft², include a fully equipped dye room for hot and cold processes, a silk screen room with wash out sinks and an exposure unit, large print tables, general classroom space and a weaving studio. The equipment includes a broad range of 8 harness looms, a 16 harness compu-dobby loom, several high-war tapestry looms, a 44” digital printer, thermo-fax machine, embroidery machine, Bernina sewing machines, and barrel carder.

GLASSWORKING STUDIOS

Each graduate student has a private graduate studio space adjacent to larger shared installation and fabrication areas. The facilities accommodate the fabrication of two and three-dimensional works utilizing warm, cold and hot glass processes. The kiln-casting area has 6 kilns to accommodate fusing, slumping, pate de verre, and kiln-casting. The cold-working area has two large vertical Belt sanders, a diamond disc lapping wheel, two diamond cutting saws, a vertical felt polishing machine, one glass hand-saw, one glass drill press, and a vertical Spazier glass lathe with 80 Stone & Diamond Wheels. The Hot-Glass Studio has a 1000 pound clear tank furnace, 2 large glory-holes, a gas “garage,” 4 large front-loading annealing ovens, and 1 large top-loading annealing oven, an electric pick-up oven, 2 benches, 2 marvers, a pipe warmer, bench torches, and a portable oxy-propane bench torch as well as 4 complete glass-working tool sets. The torch-working area has 30 Carlisle CC Torches & 2 Nortel Bench burners, a large Borosilicate Annealing oven, and 12 torch-working tool sets.

JEWELRY/METALWORKING STUDIOS

Graduate students share a well-lit studio that can accommodate up to four students with ample individual spaces. In the studio, students build on their strong foundation of working with metals to experiment with a wide variety of materials and techniques.
approaches to making. The over 3000 ft² facility is comprised of multiple studios that accommodate a diverse range of fabrication (both nonferrous and ferrous) and casting processes. The main bench room is adjacent to a machine room and a smithing studio. The machine room contains an area for welding (both MIG and acetylene), machinery for cutting, grinding, and drilling and sandblasting. The smithing studio has an extensive selection of stakes and hammers as well as a draw bench, milling machine, and machinist’s and watchmaker’s lathes. There are separate rooms for annealing and acid handling, polishing, enameling and small-tool storage. The casting studio contains equipment for steam de-waxing, vacuum investing, burn-out kilns, and both vacuum and centrifugal casting.

**Furniture Design Studios**

The common graduate studio has direct access to the machine room. Larger projects and installation work is accommodated in an expansive common bench area. The facilities, totaling 6,000 sq. ft., include a fully equipped machine room with Sawstop Saws, 24” widebelt sander and a new CNC router. There are two vacuum press stations and a spray booth. While the core of the curriculum is based on traditional woodworking, it also emphasizes experimentation and the development of ideas that parallel current issues in art and design. Furniture design is the primary focus for the program; however alternative approaches to the medium are encouraged.

**RANKINGS**

*US News & World Report, 2012*

- Fiber Arts #4 overall
  - ( #1 among public university programs)
- Glass #5 overall
  - ( #1 among public university programs)
- Metals #10 overall
  - ( #5 among public university programs)
- Ceramics #9 overall
  - ( #6 among public university programs)

Complete information for individuals interested in applying to the program can be found on the VCUArts website: arts.vcu.edu/apply