

Art History

Transferable Skills

A liberal arts degree in general, reflects a comprehensive education emphasizing analytical skills, critical thinking and communication skills; abilities in high demand for all employers. Concentrating your studies in a major allows you to also gain specific transferable skills of interest to particular employers and industries.

Graduates with a major in Art History are attractive to employers due to their abilities in the following areas:

- Strong independent research skills
- Excellent skills in critical reading of written and visual texts
- Ability to think logically and analytically
- Ability to make critical observations and evaluations
- Possess a diversity of knowledge across many topics
- Capacity to form cogent arguments
- Creative thinking
- Advanced skills in writing
- Careful attention to language
- Capacity to synthesize a large body of information
- Ability to understand ideas and values
- Sensitivity to cultural difference
- Awareness of complexities of understanding
- Openness to new ideas and perspectives
- Wide range of cultural and historical knowledge
- Linking of traditional and innovative forms of knowledge

Range of Example Positions held by Art History Majors

Please note that some of these positions require an advanced degree. For more information and descriptions of these careers, visit [O*NET On-line](#).

- Account Supervisor – Advertising
- Actor
- Advertising Designer/Executive
- Antiquarian Book Trader
- Antiques Dealer
- Appraiser
- Archaeologist
- Architect/Architectural Historian
- Art Auction Professional
- Art Educator
- Art Historian
- Art Investment Advisor
- Art Law Enforcement (FBI; INTERPOL)
- Art Management
- Art Therapist
- Art Transporter (Shipping, handling, storage)
- Art/Architectural Conservator
- Art/Visual Culture Historian
- Art/Visual Culture Teacher
- Arts and Estate Appraiser
- Arts/Nonprofit-Manager (Arts Organizations and Government Agencies)
- Children's Book Author
- Commercial Photographer
- Community Development Officer
- Corporate Trainer
- Director
- Documentary Filmmaker
- Drama Teacher
- Editor/Publisher
- Estate planner
- Freelance Writer
- Fundraiser
- Gallery Owner/Manager
- Graphic Artist
- Historic Archaeologist
- Historic Preservationist
- Illustrator
- Instructional Technologist
- Interior Designer
- Lawyer (Art/Cultural Heritage, Intellectual property, international law)
- Librarian (Art/Visual Culture, Digital Collections, Archives)
- Manager/Supervisor
- Museum Curator
- Museum Director
- Museum Exhibit Programmer
- Museum Exhibition Designer

- Museum Registrar
- Performance Artist
- Producer
- Professor
- Psychologist
- Public Relations Consultant
- Software Designer
- Technical Theatre
- Urban Planner
- Urban Planner
- Visual Resources Curator

Professional Associations

Professional associations or organizations can be a great way to meet, learn from and network with professionals in your field of interest. Inexpensive student memberships are often available; many of them often have LinkedIn groups, Twitter and/or Facebook pages. Many also have web pages with career advice and services including job listings. These are only a sampling of professional associations. Be sure to search for others that may be applicable or helpful.

- [The American Alliance of Museums](#)
- [American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works](#) (AIC)
- [American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies](#) (ASECS)
- [Art Libraries Society of North America](#)
- [Association of Academic Museums and Galleries](#)
- [Association of Art Museum Curators](#)
- [Career Alternatives for Art Historians](#)
- [College Art Association](#)
- [International Center of Medieval Art](#) (ICMA)
- [Modernist Studies Association](#)
- [Museum Employment Resources Center](#) (MERC)
- [Renaissance Society of America](#) (RSA)
- [Society of Architectural Historians](#)
- [Visual Resources Association](#)
- [Western Museums Association](#)
- [Women's Caucus for Art](#) (WCA)

Local Internships/Jobs

- Portland Art Museum
- Portland Art Museum NW Film Center
- Oregon Arts Commission
- Willamette Heritage Center
- Mary Lou Zeek Gallery
- Salem Arts Association
- Bush House Museum
- Disjecta Contemporary Art Center, Portland
- Regional Arts and Culture Council, Portland
- Portland Institute for Contemporary Art
- Art Therapy in Portland
- Portland Monthly
- Ditch Projects, Springfield, OR
- Zena Zezza Contemporary Art Project, Portland
- Yale Union Center for Contemporary Art, Portland