

Graduate Program Description and Requirements for the Master of Fine Art in Electronic Media Arts Design (eMAD)

OBJECTIVES

The eMAD graduate program fuses the practical and theoretical aspects of electronic Media Arts Design. It emphasizes the production of electronic and visual language systems that consciously integrate human factors, critical thought, electronic media, and aesthetic concerns. Within this context, the program provides an opportunity for research and further development of creativity, knowledge and skills in electronic media art. It also instigates evaluation within the context of art and design in its concepts and applications. eMAD provides motivated and dedicated individuals the opportunity to work closely with professionally active faculty members committed to mentoring students in order to further develop the students' talents and foster the ability of students to become leaders in the field of electronic media arts.

Working with the eMAD graduate faculty, studio art and art history faculty, other selected faculty and visiting critics, provides the graduate student ample opportunities to present, critique and debate topics surrounding their thesis work. As a result of the interdisciplinary nature of the curriculum students will also have the opportunity to work with faculty with expertise in Mass Communications, Film Studies and Production, and Electronic Media. In this spirit, students are encouraged to participate in seminars offered in other programs if they are in support of the thesis project. Students are encouraged to participate in seminars offered in other programs if the content of the seminar supports the students' thesis.

The curriculum is interdisciplinary and tailored to the individual's needs. Students participate in a combination of required graduate courses and independent or undergraduate courses recommended to supplement skill base and theoretical interests that apply to the student's MFA project. By the end of the first year, a graduate candidate submits a proposal for review. The proposal is then developed with increased focus throughout the remainder of their residency. A public exhibition of the thesis project accompanied by written documentation of the MFA project content and a final critique of the work by a selected faculty committee complete the degree requirements.

REQUIREMENTS

eMAD graduate course work:

- o Graduate Seminars (eMAD or DMS).....**24 hours**
- o **Graduate Critiques****24 hours**
- o Advanced Studios (ARTD & ARTS; DMST with approval)....**20 hours**
- o Art History Classes (must include ARTH 4301).....**12 hours**
- o **Thesis Project**.....**12 hours**

For a total of 92 credit hours

Due to the vast differences in student experience, coursework and expertise, there is built into the curriculum some flexibility for the distribution of requirements.

eMAD Seminars meet once a week to focus on critical theories surrounding the discourse of visual language systems, digital video, interactivity, the world wide web, electronic typography, the body and technology, to name a few. Seminars are discussion based and directed towards concept development and content. They require theoretical readings, and investigation through research and practice. A project is also expected as a result of the seminars. They are offered twice a year with rotating topics each quarter.

Formal Critique Sessions are group-based discussions focused on theories and concepts evolving around individual graduate work. The critique sessions are led by a different faculty member each time they are offered. These sessions are designed to assist in the preparation and construction of individual studio exploration, development and, ultimately, a thesis project.

Graduate Thesis Project is the capstone experience for the graduate student. The number of credit hours, ten, reflects the weight placed upon this experience; and will accommodate the time students are expected to dedicate to the research and production of the thesis project itself and to the written thesis that supports it. The student also prepares for the oral defense of their work at this time. The grade for the Thesis Project course is given by the student's thesis advisor.

LIKELY COHORT SCHEDULE

Year 1

Fall: Seminar, Art History, Studio, Studio continuing into interterm = 16

Wtr: Seminar, AH Methods, Critique = 12

Spr: Seminar, Critique, Studio = 12

Sum: Seminar, Critique, Studio = 12

(summer may be packaged as internship or residency here or abroad)

Year 2

Fall: Seminar, Critique, Studio = 12

Wtr: Seminar, Art History, Critique = 12

Spr: Thesis for 12 hrs + Critique = 16

OTHER REQUIREMENTS/OPPORTUNITIES

Internship/Residency/Study Abroad

Each student will have the opportunity to work in an educational/professional setting abroad for one term. We anticipate cooperative agreements with the University of Amsterdam's New Media Program, as well as possible sites in South America for regular exchanges of faculty and students. The most likely times are summer and fall semester. During the residency experience, the three listed classes above are packaged together into a different kind of experience unique to the students' talents and needs.

MFA Project

By the end of the first year (spring quarter), the graduate candidate submits a proposal for review by the graduate committee **of the student's choice**. This proposal is then further developed with increased focus throughout the remainder of their residency. This document should be at least 6 pages in length and describe the overall concept of the project. Included in the proposal is a time line, expected outcomes, and a bibliography that demonstrates an investigation into the history, technique, cultural and critical perspectives evolving from the proposed subject matter. Students must allow a two week turn around time for comments on their proposal.

Advancement to Candidacy

A review by the graduate committee to determine progress toward advancement to candidacy. Each student must keep track of her/his credits. When the student has completed 5 quarters or 64 credits he/she will be reviewed by the graduate committee to determine progress toward completion of the degree. Upon successful completion of this review and recommendation of the committee, the student will advance to candidacy. The student will then need to apply for graduation through the Graduate Studies office.

MFA Exhibiton

A public exhibition of the thesis project occurs Spring of every academic year. The exhibition is typically mounted for a two-week duration in Gallery 023 or the Victoria H. Myhren Gallery of the School of Art and Art History. A student may locate a different venue outside of the School of Art and Art history at the discretion of the thesis committee. Certain exhibitions may require an alternate venue to further support the thesis exploration, especially works that are linear in scope such as film, video, performance, etc.

Written Thesis

The thesis project is accompanied by a written documentation of the MFA project. It must illustrate the student's ability to contextualize their body of work in relationship to the following perspectives: personal, historical, technical, ethical, cultural and critical. The written portion may take on the traditional form of a paper or a less traditional, yet appropriate and pre-approved mode such as a website or CD-Rom. This written thesis should be at least 15 pages. This is approved by the graduate committee.

Oral Examination

In the spring of the student's second year, the student, after gaining approval from one of the eMAD faculty members who will act as the primary advisor, registers for the 12 credits hours of Thesis. A final critique and oral examination by the graduate committee occurs in the Spring of every academic year. Two to three days are set aside accommodate the defense of graduate students's thesis once completed. Each defense is one hour long. Students are given the specific time and location to present their thesis work.

Master of Fine Arts degree program
Electronic Media Arts Design (eMAD)
School of Art & Art History

APPLICATION

An applicant's packet must include the following information: completed application form (www.du.edu/grad/onlineapp.html), portfolio, candidate statement, three letters of recommendation, official/sealed transcripts, and a SASE for the return of materials. The portfolio should include a presentation of 15 to 20 works, reflecting the consistency in a candidate's vision as well as the mature development of a personal approach to the work. Slides, CD-ROMs, URLs, DVDs and video are acceptable formats.

International applicants must have achieved a minimum score of 550 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and submit a Test of Written English (TWE) score prior to admission.

Students may be admitted on regular, provisional, or special status as described in the general requirements outlined in the University of Denver Graduate Bulletin (<http://www.du.edu/grad/bulletin>).

We welcome, and will consider, applications from students with diverse educational and experiential backgrounds. The recommended educational curriculum for applicants is a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (BFA) in design or studio arts practices with a strong foundation in both traditional and electronic practices. Students with undergraduate degrees other than a BFA, may be required to take leveling courses at the undergraduate level as a pre-condition to their admission. Students with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in art or design should have at least 24 credit hours of studio courses such as photography, electronic art, ceramics, painting, drawing, print making, sculpture, textiles, etc. documented by their transcripts.

With an application deadline of March 15, the Master of Fine Art's program admits students to begin their programs in the Fall quarter of the next academic year.

For additional information and application forms, write or call the School of Art and Art History office (303.871.3264) or go to www.du.edu/art

Financial Aid

Students interested in knowing more about financial aid should refer to graduate program financial aid at www.du.edu/gradfund/grants.html. The deadline to apply for financial aid is March 1. The School of Art and Art History is able to offer two Graduate Teaching Assistantship positions and Work study positions to those who qualify.

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eMAD and School of Art & Art History faculty

**Lawrence Argent, professor, sculpture, MFA, Rinehart School of Sculpture,
Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore**

**Gwen Chanzit, senior lecturer, modern and contemporary art, curator of
Modern and Contemporary Art and curator of Herbert Bayer Collection
and Archive, the Denver Art Museum, PhD, University of Iowa**

**Catherine Chauvin, assistant professor, printmaking, MFA, Syracuse
University**

**Rafael Fajardo, associate professor, eMAD, MFA in graphic design, Rhode
Island School of Design**

**Sarah Gjertson, assistant professor, foundations, MFA in ceramics, School
of the Art Institute of Chicago**

**Annabeth Headrick, assistant professor, Meso-American art, PhD,
University of Texas-Austin**

**Deborah Howard, associate professor, painting, MFA in painting,
University of Wisconsin, Madison**

**Roddy MacInnes, assistant professor, photography, MFA in photography,
University of Colorado, Boulder**

**Laleh Mehran, assistant professor, eMAD, MFA in Electronic Time-based
Media, Carnegie Mellon University**

**Scott Montgomery, assistant professor, medieval and renaissance art, PhD,
Rutgers University**

Mia Mulvey, assistant professor, ceramics, MFA, Cranbrook Academy of Art

**Elizabeth Owen, assistant professor, Asian art; graduate advisor, Ph.D.,
Yale University**

**Annette Stott, associate professor, American and northern baroque art
and director of the School of Art and Art History, PhD, Boston
University**

**M.E. Warlick, associate professor, modern and contemporary European art,
PhD, University of Maryland**

**Timothy Weaver, assistant professor, eMAD, MFA in sculpture, University
of Colorado, Boulder**

Digital Media Studies Faculty

Bill Depper, assistant professor, MFA, Creative Writing, University of Iowa

**James LaVita, professor, PhD, Anthropology, University of Texas, PhD,
Applied Mathematics, NYU Courant Institute of Mathematical
Sciences**

Carl Raschke, professor, PhD, Harvard University

**Trace Reddell, assistant professor, PhD, English Literature, University of
Colorado, Boulder**

ADDITIONAL NOTES

UNSATISFACTORY GRADUATE STUDENT PERFORMANCE

According to University policy, a grade point average (GPA) of B (3.0) or better is required for the M.A., M.F.A. and M.S. degree. It is the policy of the eMAD program that when a graduate student receives a third grade below a B, his/her progress will be reviewed by the Graduate Committee. The Committee will normally terminate the student from the program if his/her GPA is below a 3.0. However, if evidence is presented suggesting that special circumstances account for the poor performance, the Graduate Committee shall have the option of allowing the student to continue in the program with the understanding that the GPA must be raised to a 3.0 at the time of the next grade reports or the student will be terminated from the program. Students who receive a second grade below a B will be notified of the program's policy in this area.

TRANSFER OF CREDIT

The eMAD Graduate Program will consider petitions to transfer into the program under exceptional circumstances. When transfer students first begin their Master's program, they must be sure to petition the Graduate Committee for any transfer credit they hope to have accepted (for courses completed prior to their enrollment in this program). The transfer credit needs to be approved by the graduate student's advisor. Students must check soon afterward in the Registrar's office to be sure accepted credit has been put on record. All transfer of credit must be completed at least one quarter prior to quarter of graduation. Courses taken for Pass/Fail or S/U may not be transferred; all transfer credit must carry a minimum grade of "B". Students should check the University of Denver Graduate Bulletin for specific university requirements on transfer of credit.

GENERAL SUBSTITUTION COURSES:

Occasionally, a student may have previously taken courses that are comparable to required courses. The student may petition the Graduate Studies Committee to waive a required course in such a situation. Substitutions for course requirements must be approved by the eMAD Graduate Director and the Director of the School of Art and Art History. To request a substitution, the student should write a letter to the program Director stating the request, with details of the student's previous experience or related coursework.

APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION

Students must file a formal application for graduation in the Office of Graduate Studies (University Hall, Room 216) one quarter prior to graduation; FAILURE TO DO SO WILL AUTOMATICALLY DELAY

GRADUATION TO THE FOLLOWING YEAR. Also, students should plan their graduation date carefully, because if they apply for graduation for a specific quarter but do not graduate at that time (for whatever reason), they must reapply for graduation each quarter and pay a \$20 reapplication fee. Applications are available in the School of Art and Art History office or online at www.du.edu/grad. The application itself must be signed by the Director of the School of Art and Art History. Instructions concerning commencement ceremonies in June and August and the obtaining of caps, gowns and hoods will be mailed about a month before the end of those quarters.

THE STUDENT MUST ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MEETING THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES AS SET FORTH IN THE GRADUATE STUDIES BULLETIN AS WELL AS THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AS OUTLINED BY THE eMAD PROGRAM.

Guidelines for the M.F.A. Project

Master's students must complete a body of work. The development and research of the thesis project will be overseen by a faculty member (approved by the eMAD Graduate Committee) and will be based on an M.F.A. Project Proposal (also approved by the eMAD Graduate Committee):

- The thesis requires a committee of three faculty with designated expertise in the area(s) of study; two faculty members must come from the eMAD faculty and the third from an outside program. The project requires one faculty advisor who works with the general guidance of the eMAD Graduate Committee.
- The thesis requires a formal proposal that conforms to the guidelines described in the Grad Handbook; the project allows for a varied/flexible proposal format (as described below).
- The thesis project requires that the proposal be presented to and approved by a committee (the thesis committee for the thesis).
- It requires that a timeline be included in the proposal; the thesis project requires a "Mid-Project Update."
- The written thesis and the thesis project require a final presentation at a date set by the eMAD graduate committee. The project is graded by the supervising faculty member.
- Thesis work must be registered for as thesis credits; project work

can be conducted under Independent Study credits.

- The written thesis is submitted for approval to and archived by the Office of Graduate Studies; projects are archived by the eMAD program. The written thesis is bound by the Office of Graduate Studies. The student is required to have at least three copies made: one for themselves, one for the library and one for the School of Art and Art History.

The Master of Fine Art's Thesis Project involves the following:

- Students must generate a project proposal to be submitted to the eMAD Graduate Committee no earlier than the quarter during which they will have completed 24 program credits, and no later than 32 completed credits into the program (See Project Proposal Requirements below)
- Upon completion of the project, the student will do a formal presentation of his/her work before the Thesis Graduate Committee. This presentation is be open to the public. The other eMAD graduate and undergraduate students are encouraged to attend. (see Project Presentation Guidelines below).

PROJECT PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Once a student has identified and received eMAD Graduate Committee approval for a faculty advisor, the student and faculty advisor will work together to generate a project proposal that must include the following components:

Project concept. The student must present a concise description of the project concept, including content themes, delivery modes, and prediction of learning outcomes.

Personal statement of project goals. This should include how the student's coursework and previous experience have led up to the proposed project concept.

Project outline. This should include a concise overview of project stages/components, including site maps, story-boards, or another appropriate outline or visualization methods as are appropriate to the particular project. The outline should include an overview of specific research resources that will be used and an assessment of the technical skills required to complete each phase of the project, paying particular attention to any uncompleted coursework that will be instrumental in the production of the project.

Project timeline. This should include a very specific estimate of the time needed to complete each phase of the project, specifically including the proposed time frame for the mid-project update. Once the student has completed a proposal that is satisfactory to the Project Advisor, he/she will proceed work on their thesis project and thesis text.

Proposal presentation. The student, accompanied by his/her project advisor, will present the Project Proposal to the eMAD Graduate Committee. Students should not be advised to begin work on the project until the eMAD Graduate Committee has approved the Project Proposal. If the eMAD Graduate Committee recommends revisions to the Project Proposal, the student will be required to resubmit a revised proposal to the Graduate Committee.

Project Exhibition and Venue Development. The student will exhibit the results of their project during the Spring Quarter of their second year. A proposal specifically for the exhibit will be prepared by the student, in consultation with the faculty advisor, according to a timeline appropriate for their particular venue. Students are advised that Gallery 023 is scheduled several months in advance, and the Victoria Myhren Gallery is scheduled a minimum of eighteen months in advance. External venues will adhere to their own timelines. The student is responsible for investigating and initiating contact with potential venues for their exhibition.

Project Grade. The Faculty Advisor will evaluate and grade the completed Project and submit the grade to the Registrar's Office by the deadline established by the Registrar.

Project Archive. Students who have completed their projects are required to submit a complete copy (on appropriate media) of the finished project (including the written thesis) to the Director of The School of Art and Art History before they are scheduled to graduate.
