**Letter from the Director of the BFA**

**Dear Applicant for the BFA,**

**What is a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)?** The primary objective of institutions offering the BFA is to provide professional education in visual art and design at the undergraduate level and to enable graduates to enter professional, studio-based careers in such fields as design, fine art, or craft after earning the degree.  Our BFA shares FSU’s mission as a research university cultivating excellence through creative scholarship and innovation in the arts. I would recommend this major for the student who is ready to pursue independent research supported by our faculty. Our students actively seek grant and scholarship opportunities, e.g., the Idea Grant and Fulbright, and pursue to exhibit their work locally with the goal of showing regionally, nationally, and internationally. To enhance studio-based coursework, students are required to attend and participate in lectures and seminars by visiting artists and critics, and have the opportunity to manage their own student-run gallery space. As a main means to evaluate the work, exhibiting is a requirement of this degree. The opportunity for the BFA students to have their work displayed in public significantly enhances their understanding of personal achievement and growth. Professional practice is part of each semester with the student developing their self-discipline so that they can sustain their own research and studio practice beyond the completion of their degree.

Acceptance into the BFA is gained through an application and selection process, and is only available to FSU students enrolled in the Department of Art. It is a 120-credit hour limited access program that offers students an intensive studio art environment, theoretical knowledge, and professional skills. The BFA degree in visual art normally requires that at least 65 percent, or two thirds, of the total course credit for the degree be taken in the creation and study of art and design, and that it is supported by general study in the liberal arts. Our students complete two focus areas (twice that of the BA) and additionally, it is recommended that students work in their studio, outside of class, independently, 20 hours a week. The BFA curriculum is designed to give students the skills to pursue a professional artistic practice of making independent work and seeking opportunities which support that endeavor, such as gallery representation, artist residencies, and professional fellowships and grants, and future education such as an MFA.

**What does the BFA Program at FSU offer you?**

We are a small program with space for 45 students. Each year, fall and spring, we accept students through review. While this is (at minimum) a three semester program, we offer three courses taught by faculty guide our students through the program:

1st Semester: BFA Fundamentals taught by the director (1 credit)

2nd Semester: BFA Crit (repeatable until Advancement) taught on rotation (3 credits)

3rd Semester: BFA Thesis and Exhibition taught on rotation (3 credits)

Our unique program offers specialized coursework, 24/7 access to studios at The Carnaghi Arts Building (CAB), opportunities for gallery exhibition in the BFA-run Phyllis Straus Gallery, faculty review of artworks, and access to the Lightbox a photographic lighting studio and BFA computer labs. Additionally, graduating BFA seniors submit upon acceptance to exhibit their thesis work at Florida State University’s Museum of Fine Arts. Courses that form the degree address the broad issues facing contemporary artists today and each semester addresses the professional practice for the arts, and will prepare students for many, widely divergent opportunities. Our students are award winners who cultivate competitive applications for top national awards and opportunities with the support and mentorship that makes winning significantly more possible. The BFA program is an ideal option for motivated individuals who aspire to use their time as an undergraduate student at FSU for a focused, studio-based, rigorous education in the arts. I look forward to reviewing your application and working with you in FSU’s exclusive art program.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Baade

Director of the BFA

Associate Professor of Art

Department of Art

College of Fine Arts

Florida State University

**APPLICATION FOR BFA STUDIO ART – Spring 2019**

|  |
| --- |
| Student Name: FSU email address: |
| Year in school (check one): Number of total credit hours\*:  **Freshman**  **Sophomore**  **Junior**  **Senior** |
| \* Students who have completed over 90 credit hours should be advised before applying. |

**Applications are due Friday February 22nd to room 223 FAB by 4pm.**

**The entrance review will take place Friday, March 8th. The faculty reviews from 1:00-3:30pm.** You will set up your portfolio that morning from 8:30-11:45am, and you must take it down between 4pm-5pm.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Signed paperwork **must be submitted before the deadline**. Start the process early! You may need to meet with several faculty members in order to get application approval, so you should **request these meetings as soon as you decide to apply**. The signature should be from a full-time faculty member.

**FACULTY APPLICATION APPROVAL CHECKLIST**

(*1 – unsatisfactory, 2 – satisfactory, 3 – excellent*)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *CRITERIA* | ***1*** | ***2*** | ***3*** | *COMMENTS* |
| *ARTIST’S STATEMENT* |  |  |  |  |
| *EXAMPLES OF CLASSWORK* |  |  |  |  |
| *INDEPENDENT WORK* |  |  |  |  |
| *CONCEPTUAL STRENGTH* |  |  |  |  |
| *RATIONALE FOR SEEKING BFA* |  |  |  |  |

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**Faculty Name (PRINT) Faculty Signature / Date**

**FACULTY:** Your signature means that you believe that the student’s portfolio qualifies them to apply for the BFA program and indicates that you believe the student can do outstanding independent work.

**STUDENTS:** You should only apply when you have strong enough work and are ready to work independently - beyond classroom instruction. **Eligibility:** **You must have a minimum overall 2.8 GPA, a 3.0 GPA in your studio art courses and you must have your Foundations courses completed (or completed this semester), no exceptions**. You should first seek signatures from full-time faculty with whom you have worked (http://art.fsu.edu/People/Faculty). Only full time faculty may also review your work please use our FSU website to review who that is http://art.fsu.edu/people/faculty-staff/faculty/, but please note that only full-time faculty will vote at the entrance review so it’s been in your best interest to seek them. Students who have completed over 90 credit hours should be advised by June Dollar ([jdollar@fsu.edu](mailto:edidonna@fsu.edu)) before applying.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Course Name & Number**  **(e.g. Drawing I, ART1300C)** | **College/University  where taken** | **Semester & Year**  **(e.g. Spring 2012)** | **Grade Received** | **Office Use Only** |
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**Directions:** In the spaces below, list ALL college art & art history courses you **have taken** or are **now taking**. You can find these on your unofficial transcript in Student Central (http://my.fsu.edu). You may print out additional pages if you need more space. By signing the bottom of this page, you are agreeing that all information provided is correct. **Students - remember to sign your name below!**

**Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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OFFICE USE ONLY

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ADVISOR APPROVAL/DATE

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**DETACH THIS PAGE AND KEEP FOR YOURSELF!**

**Guidelines for BFA Entrance Review Fall 2018**

BFA Director- Carrie Ann Baade cjonesbaade@fsu.edu

**Criteria:**

You should only apply when you have strong enough work and are ready to work independently - beyond classroom instruction. Before applying, you should first meet with a full-time faculty member with whom you have worked (http://art.fsu.edu/People/Faculty). Adjunct faculty may also review your work, but they cannot sign off on your paperwork. Only full-time faculty will vote at the entrance review.

**Eligibility:**

* Minimum overall 2.8 GPA, a 3.0 GPA in your studio art courses
* Students must have all Foundations courses completed (or completed this semester), no exceptions.
* Students who have completed over 90 credit hours should be advised by the BFA advisor (<http://cfa.fsu.edu/people/advising/> ) before applying.

**Presentation guidelines:**

* What to include in your portfolio presentation? Up to 10-15 arts works is a suggested, but quality is more important than quantity. If you have fewer works that are large scale, or elaborate, or heavily researched, that’s good too. Do not include work from high school. Talk with your faculty about what to include.
* Editing out weak work can make your portfolio stronger. Show coursework and personal work, plus unfinished works, additional sketchbooks or "ideation materials". It is better to have original work than photos of works that are displayed on a laptop. If you need to use a projector or laptop to show your work please make arrangements to check this out. The building will have security and supervision but these are used at your own risk.
* Label each work, include dates and class information (if applicable) and **mention why the work is important**.
* Documentation photography of installations or large sculptures is suggested. Students may use the 11x17 color laser printers in FAB 320 to print out digital photos or other 2D artworks.
* The overall affect is a small exhibit of your work installed in an 8 foot area.

**Auxiliary information:**

* **Provide a LARGE name-plate or label with your full name**.
* Leave a space near your nameplate for your grade-sheets to be posted (will be posted @ noon by Brittany.)
* **Post a written one-page statement** about why you are seeking the BFA. Include your long-term career and educational goals, talk about your passions, and what you enjoy about art/design. You may also include a separate artist statement about your work or project statements about specific pieces as needed.

**Judgment Criteria:**

Conceptual Strengths

Communication of Aesthetics

Craftsmanship and Technical Skills

Independent Exploration and Uniqueness

Collegiality and ability to organize and collaborate with other artists

**PREPARING FOR REVIEW:**

Tuesday Feb 5: **Information session** @ CAB, from 6pm to 7pm in ATL (Art Teaching Lab7

Tuesday, Feb12: **Tour of BFA Studios and Informal Portfolio Review/Critique** with BFA students @ Phyllis Straus Gallery in CAB, from 7pm to 9pm (or until done).

**Completing the application:** Ask Faculty to meet just before or just after their classes to share your portfolio and seek their support.

Thursday, Feb 22: **BFA Applications Due**, 4pm to Advising: June Dollar Room 223.

**ON REVIEW DAY:**

Friday, March 8th: **BFA Entrance Review** is @ CAB, (setup 8:30-11:45am) (pickup 3:30-5pm)

**Location: Cargneghi Art Building in the Cafeteria,** 2214 Belle Vue Way, Tallahassee, FL 32304.

**830 to 930 am - Check in with Brittany Watkins, the BFA Manager at 8:30am.** Applicants may not set up earlier than 8:30AM, and student's must leave the review areas before 11:45 am. Applicants arriving after 10am will not be eligible for install.

**SETTING UP YOUR WORK: you will be told where to set up by Brittany. Your work will not be reviewed if you don’t sign up!**

**AFTER YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SET UP**

All students must leave spaces promptly at 11:45 – plan your time accordingly. If you finish setting up early you may walk around to see other student’s work, but you must be out of all review spaces by 11:45.

No one except faculty are allowed in any of the review spaces from 11:45am – 4pm

**DESINTALL:** Presentations must be removed between 4pm-5pm. **Any spaces must be returned to their original state including patching and painting any drywall surfaces – see Brittany Watkins for more information.**

**Notification:** The of results of Entrance will be sent via email on the following Monday by our Advisor June Dollar.