

## Program Description

### **MFA in Visual Art: Concentration in Integrated Studio Practice To Be Offered by IUPUI at IU Herron School of Art and Design**

June 10, 2016

#### **1. Characteristics of the Program**

- a. Campus Offering Program: Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
- b. Scope of Delivery (Specific Sites or Statewide): Herron School of Art and Design
- c. Mode of Delivery: Classroom/Studio
- d. Other Delivery Aspects (Co-ops, Internships, Clinicals, Practica, etc.): Includes art exhibitions within some classes and required thesis exhibition.
- e. Academic Unit(s) Offering Program: Herron School of Art and Design, Fine Arts Department
- f. Anticipated starting semester: Anticipated start date, Fall 2016

#### **2. Rationale for the Program**

- a. Institutional Rationale (Alignment with Institutional Mission and Strengths)

Program description: This area of emphasis or concentration in Integrative Studio Practice adds a seventh concentration to the Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art degree. The existing emphasis areas are defined by medium (printmaking, sculpture, furniture design, painting & drawing, photography & intermedia, and ceramics). The new emphasis in Integrative Studio Practice aligns with current practice in contemporary art by encouraging students to develop facility with multiple media, to work with media in combination (as with installation art), and to allow form to be determined by content. Students in the Integrative Studio Practice emphasis will be admitted based on their demonstrated potential as artists, rather than as practitioners of a singular technique or tradition. During their program they will be able to learn from a wide range of faculty members and to utilize any of the school's facilities and equipment according to their individual preferences. Required courses will bring students working in different media together for exchange of ideas and interdisciplinary critique.

The program requires 60 credits, as do the existing tracks.

## Curriculum:

### 1<sup>st</sup> semester

- N510 Studio Emphasis I: Materials and Methods in Integrative Studio (6 cr)
- Graduate Studio Elective in any emphasis area (3 cr)
- R529 Interdisciplinary Collaboration in the Visual Arts (3 cr)
- H590 Art of the Past 2 Decades OR H560 Visual Culture: A Visual Studies Approach (3 cr)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> semester

- N520 Studio Emphasis II: Theory into Practice in Integrative Studio (6 cr)
- Graduate Studio Elective in any emphasis area (3 cr)
- J520 Project Management/Public Art (3 cr)
- J530 University Visual Art Teaching Practicum OR H5XX Art History Elective (3 cr)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> semester

- N560 Studio Emphasis III: Advanced Practices in Integrative Studio (6 cr)
- J549 Interdisciplinary Critique in the Visual Arts
- Graduate Studio Elective in any emphasis area OR Academic Elective (3 cr)
- H610 Art Theory & Criticism OR J501 A Critical Approach to Art (3 cr)

### 4<sup>th</sup> semester

- R599 Studio Emphasis IV: Thesis (6-9 cr)
- Graduate Studio Elective (3-9 cr)
- Art History or Academic Elective (0-3 cr)

Totals: 15 credits per semester, 60 credits to degree

## **Reasons for proposing this Sub-Plan**

This program returns to the initial motive for offering the MFA degree in Visual Art, rather than in a specific medium, such as ceramics. The Integrative Studio Practice concentration is necessary to remain competitive nationally among MFA programs and to produce graduates who are versatile and current in their artistic practice.

Initially, this emphasis will be offered alongside the existing six areas of emphasis within the MFA in Visual Art. We expect, though, that within a few recruitment cycles, the ISP emphasis will become the most popular one. After tracking enrollment patterns with the ISP concentration, Herron may cease to recruit for some of the less populated medium-specific concentrations.

As it grows, the ISP emphasis will also allow Herron to use its fiscal and faculty resources more efficiently. When applicants to the program are evaluated holistically, as artists, rather than as practitioners of specific media, we will also be able to award financial aid and assistantships holistically, to the highest achieving students, rather than divvying the awards between six emphasis areas that often have different numbers of applicants and matriculating students. The ISP emphasis will also permit more efficient scheduling of faculty. Since required

courses will be interdisciplinary, there will be less need to offer stand-alone courses with low enrollments.

### **What this program will prepare students to do**

Completion of this sub-plan will prepare students to chart their own courses within the world of contemporary art armed with the most current technical and technological skills and innovative processes. Alumni of the MFA in Visual Art program follow individual paths that include careers such as tenure-track academic appointments, retail window design, fabrication, and maintaining private studio practice. The ISP sub-plan will support students in shaping their careers in the arts and expand the range of opportunities for which they are prepared.

### **Consistency with Mission**

Herron's mission is to prepare students for professional careers in the arts. For this reason, it is essential that the degree be attuned to current trends in the arts. The concentration in Integrative Studio Practice responds to current practice in the arts. A core activity of IUPUI's mission is declared to be, "Collaboration within and across disciplines and with the community, building on the levels of expertise available in IUPUI's faculty, researchers and the full campus community" (*IUPUI Campus Bulletin 2014-2016*). The nature of Integrative Studio Practice is to allow students to work across disciplines, including collaboratively, and to access a broader range of faculty expertise. The MFA in Visual Art has always encouraged engagement with the campus and city community, and will continue to do so.

### **Fit with Strategic Plan**

With this new sub-plan that encourages students to participate in the methods most current in today's contemporary art world, we support the IUPUI and Herron strategic goal of furthering *the success of our students*.

### **Building upon Strengths**

Herron already has six tracks in its MFA in Visual Art program, all of which are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. This new ISP track essentially allows students to blend the separate tracks in individualized ways. Furthermore, this concentration will enable students to make broad use of Herron's world-class art and design studio facilities and equipment. They will be able to learn the potential of and to use a wide array of tools and equipment and to choose which are the best for realizing their artistic visions. This will give students more options than any of the sub-plans that are defined by medium.

### **Student Population to be Served**

The student population to be served is essentially the same as the population already being served. The students in the existing MFA program already push the boundaries of medium, and

many who worked across multiple media as undergraduates find it difficult to choose a single emphasis area when they arrive at Herron. We do recognize that this new concentration will be an advantage for recruiting students, since it will allow us to appeal to the most innovative and nimble students who represent the cutting edge of contemporary art.

b. State Rationale

**Fit with State Priorities in *Reaching Higher, Achieving More***

*Reaching Higher, Achieving More* calls for higher education to be student-centered, “placing students at the center of each and every effort.” This emphasis in Integrated Studio Practice makes the MFA in Visual Art more student-centered. It gives students more individual choices in the types of art they make and in the training they get from the faculty and school. Artists are valued, among other things, their creativity and innovation. Students will be more creative when they are given more freedom to explore and when they are served by curriculum designed to support innovation.

## Appendix I: Curriculum Checklist: Integrative Studio Practice

### 1ST SEMESTER:

☒ **Course Number: Course Title**

6	HER N510: Studio Emphasis I: Materials and Methods in Integrative Studio Practice
3	Graduate Studio Elective
3	HER R 529: Interdisciplinary Collaboration in the Visual Arts
3	HER H 590: Art of the Past Two Decades <b>/or/</b> HER H 560: Visual Culture: A Visual Studies Approach

15 ☐ have you submitted your **M.F.A. ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FORM?**

### 2ND SEMESTER:

☒ **Course Number: Course Title**

6	HER N 520: Studio Emphasis II: Theory into Practice in ISP	or	6	HER K 520: Studio Emphasis II: Photography & Intermedia
3	Graduate Studio Elective		3	HER K 530: Photography & Intermedia Seminar As graduate
3	HER J 520: Project Management/Public Art			
3	HER H 5XX: Art History /or/ HER J 530: University Visual Art Teaching Practicum			

15 ☐ have you submitted your **M.F.A. 30 CREDIT HOURS REVIEW FORM?**

### 3RD SEMESTER:

☒ **Course Number: Course Title**

6	HER N560: Studio Emphasis III: Advanced Practices in Integrative Studio Practice
3	HER J 549: Interdisciplinary Critique in the Visual Arts
3	Graduate Studio Elective <b>/or/</b> Academic Elective
3	HER H 610: Art Theory & Criticism <b>/or/</b> HER J 501: A Critical Approach to Art

15 ☐ have you submitted your **M.F.A. 45 CREDIT HOURS REVIEW FORM?**

### 4TH SEMESTER:

☒ **Course Number: Course Title**

6-9	HER R 599: Studio Emphasis IV: Thesis
3-9	Graduate Studio Elective
0-3	Art History <b>/or/</b> Academic Elective

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15    ☐ have you submitted your **M.F.A. 6o CREDIT HOURS REVIEW FORM?**

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