

[Nov. 5, 2010]

## **DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY**

### **PROPOSAL FOR A CURATORIAL TRACK PHD PROGRAM**

#### Summary

The faculty of the Department of Art History has voted unanimously to approve the creation of a new “track” in its doctoral program that is intended to prepare graduate students in Art History for curatorial careers in specialized art historical fields as required in art museums. This Curatorial Track Program (hereafter referred to as the CTPHD Program\*) will lead to the Ph.D degree. It will encompass requirements commensurate with those of a conventional Art History doctorate, and will be capped by a dissertation in all respects equivalent to a regular Art History dissertation. The present document consists of two interrelated parts. Part I describes the rationale, purpose, and overall conception of the program in narrative form. Part II demonstrates how the program will be integrated within the curricular structure of the Art History department’s graduate program.

\*for technical purposes the program may appear on transcripts as “Concentration in Curatorial Studies in Art History.”

#### **PART I: RATIONALE**

##### Nature of the program

The curatorial doctoral program proposed by the Department of Art History aims to train graduate students in art history who seek to become curators in museums or other institutions dealing with the fine arts.

The program is open to students who have been accepted into the department’s doctoral program. Its nature is twofold: (1) a scholarly component will provide students with a thorough and intensive specialized training in graduate-level art historical studies; (2) a practical, interdisciplinary component will mandate coursework in such related fields as Art Conservation, Preservation and Material Culture Studies; Curatorial, Exhibition and Museum Studies; and Business and Non-Profit Management. This second component also comprises a minimum of two internships in art museums, including, among others, our program’s partners: the Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Delaware Art Museum, and the Walters Art Museum.

Distinctive features of the program include:

(1) The program specifically aims at training graduate students in art history in the scholarly study of the historical, technical-material and aesthetic issues raised by objects of

art, as well as their interpretation and display within the context of art museums. In its art-historical specificity, the program thus differs from Museum Studies programs, which, as a rule, target diverse museological settings, such as museums of anthropology, history, science and technology, or industrial and agricultural arts, among others.

(2) The program will culminate in the PhD degree which is required in art museums large and small for advancement to topmost curatorial and administrative positions. In its capacity to grant a doctoral degree, Art History's Curatorial Track program thus further distinguishes itself from the structure of Museum Studies programs, which typically conclude at the MA level.

### Purpose

The purpose of the program is to provide graduate students in Art History with the knowledge and expertise necessary to enter careers as curators in art museums.

The proposed creation of this new track in Art History is prompted by the following pressing considerations:

1. The desire to respond, from within the academy, to today's confluence of art and art historical realities, in which museums have emerged as the art world's driving economic, aesthetic, professional and globalizing forces.
2. The realization that a doctoral degree in Art History is currently a requirement in order to attain the topmost curatorial, education and administrative ranks of the museum profession, and the attendant conviction that specialized training in museum work will constitute a definitive professional asset in that especially competitive environment.
3. The impulse to provide an appropriate specialized education for the growing number of applicants to our graduate program who are interested in pursuing careers in museums.
4. The wish to provide a structural framework, within our graduate program, for museum-oriented graduate students who, until now, have resorted to composing their own curatorial training "ad hoc" by taking courses in other units as "add-ons" to their regular art history curriculum. The new program will create many more opportunities for students, including internships in art museums.

### Structure of the CTPHD Program

By its sheer nature as a program bridging the theoretical world of art history and the concrete world of museum curatorial and administrative practices, the CTPHD Program has been designed as a multidisciplinary, interdepartmental hybrid.

As Part II of this document details, the proposed program—in addition to the required credit hours in graduate courses in Art History—will consist of four interrelated parts

drawing on the resources of diverse academic programs, departments and museum facilities within the University: (1) Art Conservation, Preservation and Material Culture Studies, Techniques and Materials, drawing on courses offered by the relevant units; (2) Curatorial Studies, relying on courses offered by the Museum Studies Program, including courses about the theory and practice of exhibitions and exhibition design; (3) Non-Profit Management, Human Resources, Administration, drawing on courses offered at the Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics, and the Center for Historic Preservation and Design; and (4) two mandatory curatorial internships in museums (two one-semester internships in two different museums or two semesters in a single museum), culminating in a Colloquium for a scholarly audience on a topic defined by the student in consultation with the supervising curator and approved by the student's academic advisor.

### Timeline

Pending favorable action on the part of the University Faculty Senate, we hope to admit the first CTPhD graduate students in Spring 2012 for Fall 2012 courses.

### External and Internal Context of Art History's CTPhD Program

UD's Art History CTPhD Program will have few rivals in the country. Among those on the East coast—four in all—two lead to only the Master's degree in curatorial studies (Boston University; and Bard College). Only two programs culminate in a Curatorial PhD (the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University; and Virginia Commonwealth University).

Within the UD context, the program in Museum Studies offers museum and exhibition-oriented courses that have been traditionally selected by Art History graduate students, some of whom have pursued a "certificate" in Museum Studies. The Museum Studies Program will continue to be an invaluable source of course offerings for our CTPhD candidates (see Part II). However, as described above, its courses are not specifically focused on art, aesthetics, and art museum curatorial practices.

Courses offered in Conservation and Preservation Studies, which have rarely been available to art history graduate students in the past, will now be structurally integrated into the required CTPhD Curriculum (as indicated below, Part II).

### A Network of Internal and External Partnerships (see attached supporting statements)

Because of its interdisciplinarity, the CTPhD Program firmly relies on its multiple partnerships both within and outside the UD campus.

The program has garnered collaborative pledges from campus-wide UD units, including Museum Studies; Conservation and Preservation Studies; The Winterthur Program in

American Material Culture; The Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics; and the Center for Historic Preservation and Design.

Among external institutions, we have secured partnerships with museums willing to host and train our new program's students as interns. Museums will provide training in exchange for assistance from our students (who in turn will receive course credits toward their academic degree). Partner museums include: The Delaware Art Museum, The Winterthur Museum, The Philadelphia Art Museum, The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, among others. Our plan is to continue expanding our museum partnerships reaching all the way to Washington and New York.

### Admissions Process

There will be no separate admissions process for CTPhD prospective students. We plan to admit applicants interested in the CTPhD program as part of our regular graduate admissions procedure for the Art History PhD program. Continuing students are encouraged to declare the CTPhD concentration (in writing to the Director of Graduate Studies) by the end of their second semester in the Art History PhD program.

### Resources

The new program will require no additional resources or funding from the CAS or the University. Support for CTPhD students will come from the current allocation of College of Arts and Sciences' GTAs and fellowships. In the future, we intend to consider applying for external support, such as Kress Foundation development grants. The program will benefit from the remarkable resources available to us at UD and in the mid-Atlantic region more generally. On campus, it will benefit from dynamic programs such as Conservation, Museum Studies, CHAD, and the Winterthur program, among others. The Morris Library owns extensive collections in art historical bibliography. In the wider region, it will make structural and systematic use of major museum resources, such as Winterthur and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, including their libraries.

## **PART II: CURRICULAR STRUCTURE FOR THE CTPhD**

**REQUIREMENTS** (approved by ARTH faculty, May 12, 2010) for Concentration in Curatorial Studies in Art History (referred to below as the Curatorial Track PhD Program or CTPhD):

**Students with a BA** entering the Art History Direct PhD program and electing to take the Curatorial Track will follow all the rules and regulations ( <http://www.udel.edu/ArtHistory/gradrevision.html> ), of the Art History Direct PhD except as follows:

- The credit minimums and distribution for CTPhD students will be:  
  
8 courses (24 credits) in Art History graduate courses, following the same breadth requirements, etc., as the current Art History Direct PhD  
  
and  
  
6 courses (18 credits) in CTPhD Program Courses (see below for specific distribution requirements and course offerings)
- The total minimum courses/credits for CT students will therefore be 14 courses (42 credits) [two courses more than the requirement for the Art History department's PhD students, which is 12 courses (36 credits), ten of which must be in Art History graduate courses]

**Students with an MA** entering the CTPhD follow all the rules and regulations of the Art History PhD program, except as follows:

- The credit minimums and distribution for CTPhD students will be:  
  
6 courses (18 credits) in Art History graduate courses, following the same breadth requirements, etc., as the current Art History PhD program  
  
and  
  
6 courses (18 credits) in CTPhD Program Courses (see below for specific distribution requirements and course offerings)
- The total minimum courses/credits for CT students entering the program with an MA will therefore be 12 courses (36 credits) [four courses more than the requirement for students entering the ARTH PhD program with an MA, which is 8

courses (24 credits), two of which may be electives. It is worth noting that for students coming into the Department with an MA degree in hand, the minimum number of Art History graduate seminars required for the CTPHD and PhD programs is identical: 6 ].

## **AREA REQUIREMENTS**

A minimum of 6 graduate courses (18 credits), **one** in each of the following six areas:

### 1) Art Conservation, Technical Art History, Preservation Studies and Material Culture Studies, Techniques and Materials.

Courses that fulfill this requirement will focus on such topics as: Properties and Structure of Art Materials; Conservation Research Methods; Examination and Treatment of Art Objects (see Appendix for list of possible courses)

### 2) Curatorial Studies, Museum Studies, Exhibition Courses

Courses that fulfill this requirement will focus on such topics as: Museum Curatorship; Museum Education; Collections Management; Curatorship and Management of Archives and Paper Collections; Museums and Modern Technology; Historical Properties. Newly designed courses could address issues of collecting, researching and display in museums specializing in ethnicity-related artworks, including, on the UD campus the Jones Collection of African American Art. (see Appendix for list of possible courses)

### 3) Non-Profit Management, Organizations, Human Resources, Administration, Accounting, or a course in a similar area with advisor's approval

Courses that fulfill this requirement will focus on such topics as: Understanding People in Organizations; or Ethical Issues in the Business Environment (see Appendix for list of possible courses)

### 4) Elective

One course in any area with the approval of the advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies.

### 5) Internship A (ARTH 664, max. 6 credits)

One semester of curatorial internship in area museums. (a 2-month or longer summer internship will be deemed to count as a semester).

6) Internship B (ARTH 664, max. 6 credits)

A second semester of curatorial internship, either in the same museum as the first or in a different one (a 2-month or longer summer internship will be deemed to count as a semester). [nb: ARTH 664 is a new course, submitted for approval]

#### DOCTORAL EXAMINATION FOR CTPhD

- Major Field Exam will include a connoisseurship component, which, when feasible, will include original objects.
- The Minor Field exam is not required.

#### INTERNSHIP COLLOQUIUM

- Upon completion of the second semester of the CT Internship, the student will organize a colloquium for a scholarly audience on a topic approved by the student's advisor in consultation with the museum curator who has sponsored and overseen the internship.

## APPENDIX

### PROPOSED INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COURSES IN FULLFILLMENT OF THE CTPhD AREA REQUIREMENTS

#### 1) Art Conservation, Technical Art History, Preservation Studies and Material Culture Studies, Techniques and Materials.

Courses that fulfill this requirement include:

ARTC 654-655 Examination and Treatment of Art Objects I and II (6 credits)  
ARTC 658 The Methods and Materials of Western Art Making  
ARTC 489 Reconstructing the Old Masters  
ARTC 488 Reconstructing the Early Renaissance Masters  
ARTC 489 Later Western Painting Techniques  
ARTC 480 The Materials and Techniques of Drawing  
ARTC 658 Technical Art History Studio

#### 2) Curatorial Studies, Museum Studies

Courses that fulfill this requirement include:

MSST 601 Museum Curatorship: Collections Management  
MSST 602 Curatorship and Management of Archives and Paper Collections  
MSST 603 Museums and Modern Technology  
MSST 605 Historical Properties

#### 3) Non-Profit Management, Organizations, Human Resources, Administration, Accounting, or a course in a similar area with advisor approval

Courses that fulfill this requirement include:

BUAD 870 Understanding People in Organizations  
BUAD 840 Ethical Issues in the Business Environment