

HONORS PROGRAM IN ART HISTORY

The Honors Program in Art History allows exceptional undergraduate majors to conduct an independent research project on a topic of interest and to write a substantial, original, scholarly paper under the supervision of a faculty advisor. The Honors Program accords with the regulations and procedures set out by Emory College but is administered by the Art History Department. Writing an Honors thesis is particularly valuable for students intending to study art history at the graduate level.

Eligibility

The Honors Program is open to all Art History majors and Art History/History joint majors with a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or above at the end of their first three years. Exceptions may be made upon the recommendation of a faculty member in the department, and with the approval of the College Honors Committee. To remain eligible, students must maintain that GPA throughout the senior year.

Application

Students meeting the grade-point qualification will receive an invitation to apply for the program early in the second semester of their junior year. Those interested in pursuing Honors are asked to choose the area in which they want to write a thesis, identify a topic or question they wish to explore, and contact the appropriate faculty member to see if he or she is able to work with them. Most faculty members require prospective Honors students to have taken at least one course with them and preferably two, although exceptions can be made in special cases. Candidates for the Honors Program are asked to submit a concise (one-page) project proposal to the Art History faculty for review; if approved, they will be formally invited to participate. Although students cannot officially register for the program until the fall, they are strongly encouraged to begin reading and research on their topic over the summer.

The Program

Honors students enroll in ARTHIST 495R, the supervised reading course in which they research and write their thesis, in both the fall and spring semesters of their senior year. The course may fulfill the Continuing Writing Requirement in the second semester. The Honors thesis is a scholarly paper of at least thirty pages (excluding bibliography and illustrations), and not exceeding fifty pages, produced in accordance with College specifications and deadlines.

Art History Honors students are expected to attend monthly workshops on research and writing during the fall semester, and to take one advanced art

history seminar—usually at the graduate level and typically in a subject related to the thesis topic—which does count toward the major.

At a symposium held at the end of the fall semester, students make brief presentations of their preliminary research to faculty and students. In the spring, they present their thesis for an oral defense before a committee made up of the faculty advisor, a second departmental reader, and a faculty member from outside the department.

The Degree

At the close of the oral defense, the committee recommends the degree of honors to the College Honors Committee, which certifies the list.

An award of Honors (*cum laude*) represents satisfactory completion of the program. High Honors (*magna cum laude*) represents completion of the program with outstanding performance and a thesis of sufficient quality for oral presentation to scholars in the field. Highest Honors (*summa cum laude*) represents completion of the program with exceptional performance and a thesis suitable for publication.

For answers to questions and more information,
please contact the Honors Coordinator for Art History or
Dr. Linda Merrill, DUS, lmerri2@emory.edu.