



February 28, 2024

To the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee;

On January 30, 2024, the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee's Arts and Humanities Subcommittee 1 reviewed and approved a proposal from the Department of History of Art to create a Graduate Certificate in Contemporary Art and Curatorial Practice.

In 2018, the Department of History of Art launched an MA degree in Contemporary Art and Curatorial Practices, which ran only briefly before the pandemic shuttered museums. This gave Department faculty an opportunity to rethink whether an MA or certificate was the proper path for this program. They have opted for the latter option. The Department have decided that this curriculum makes more sense as a certificate program embedded in their department than it does as an MA.

The Certificate program will allow the Department to recruit top candidates to their PhD program and helps to formalize their already productive collaborations with local art institutions. It will make students more competitive in both academic and curatorial job markets because of their training across the disciplines. As curatorial practice and museum careers in the fine arts have long drawn professionals from interdisciplinary backgrounds, the Department sees interest in and demand for this kind of training from students in other fields, such as AAEP, Art, Comparative Studies, and Film Studies, among others.

Completion of the certificate will require a minimum of 14 credit hours: two required courses (HA 7015 and HA 7190) and two electives, chosen from HA 6001, HA 7020, HA 8641, or other in History of Art graduate courses (5000-8000 level) by petition. The Department anticipates that the certificate can be completed in four semesters. The courses do not need to be completed in a particular order, and the core courses for the certificate will each be offered every other year, ensuring that all required courses for the certificate can be completed within two years.

We advance the proposal to create a Graduate Certificate in Contemporary Art and Curatorial Practice to the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee with a motion to approve.

Sincerely,

David J. Staley, PhD  
Associate Professor of History  
Chair, Arts and Humanities Subcommittee 1