

# Master Prospectus Art History, 2008-2009

## Programme overview, 2008/2009

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### Objectives

After completion, graduates of the master's programme in Art History possess a thorough knowledge of and insight into one of the six Western and non-Western art historical specializations covered by the programme, which are clustered in three main tracks:

1. History of Western Art and Architecture:  
Art and Visual Culture of the Late Middle Ages and Early Modern Period  
History and Theory of Architecture
2. Material Culture and Collections/ Asian Art History  
History and Theory of Collections  
History of Decorative Arts and the Domestic Interior  
History of Art and Material Culture of East Asia & South and Southeast Asia.
3. Contemporary Art and Theory/World Art Studies  
History and Theory of Modern and Contemporary Art/World Art Studies

In the course of the programme, students develop knowledge of and gain insight into the study of works of art, buildings, and material culture, central concepts, methods and techniques within the chosen specialisation, as well as in the development and social relevance of the field in general. The curriculum is largely based on the expertise of the faculty: contemporary art in a global perspective, Renaissance and Baroque architecture, early modern Netherlandish painting, and applied arts. Graduates are capable of independently identifying and assessing primary sources and secondary literature, formulating cogent research questions, and developing methods to answer them. They can present research results in a clear and well-argued manner both orally and in writing, meeting the requirements of the field. They are capable of planning and carrying out a research project under professional supervision.

After completing this programme, students will have the knowledge and competence required for positions outside the university that require an academic level of thinking, for an upper secondary teaching qualification or for a PhD candidature.

### Programme

#### *Full-time and part-time*

The full-time programme spans one year, the part-time programme eighteen months. The

only difference between the two programmes is in the length of time required for their completion; in content they are identical.

## ***Structure***

### *Introduction*

The master's programme in Art History is a comprehensive one-year programme in Western and Non-Western Art History, centred around seven specialisations. In addition to training in one of the areas of specialization, the programme will introduce students to current theories and methodologies of scholarly practice, including a comparative perspective on Western and Asian Art History. The study of Art History uses a combination of text-based and object-focused methods. Throughout the programme students will have the advantage of Leiden University's proximity to a network of major museums, collections, libraries and research schools, accessing a range of unique texts and works of art.

These include:

- The National Museum for Ethnology
- Municipal Museum de Lakenhal/Scheltema location for contemporary art
- Museum for the History of Science
- National Museum of Antiquities
- Leiden University Library with its many special collections of prints, drawings and photography

The master's programme consists of two semesters. The courses are offered in units covering a number of weeks.

### **First Semester**

The first semester concentrates mainly on acquiring thorough knowledge in and understanding of the field of Art History, by choosing the seminar of the specialization, and an optional one. The seminars (electives) are an in-depth study of the area of specialisation. They focus less on finding sources than on the selection and critical use of different types of sources. The study of art is viewed in a cultural and historical context. The seminars also train students in formulating research questions and planning a research project. In addition, students are expected to follow the seminar Practices and Debates, in which current issues, discourses and methods of Art History are studied. A special field of interest is the comparative perspective.

### **Second Semester**

In the second semester, students follow an individually made-to-measure programme, consisting of a Practical Component and Literature Exam, and which culminates in the writing of the master's thesis. The purpose of the Practical Component (e/g internship) is to enable students to build closer links to professional practices within their field. The

Practical Component is defined in consultation with the thesis supervisor. Instead of an internship, students can also choose an optional course offered by the Art History Department or another institution or university. In the academic year 2008-2009, the Art History Department will offer an optional course which brings the students in direct contact with the various collections within Leiden University, especially those in the University Library. A literature survey of approximately 700 pages is compiled in consultation with the thesis supervisor, the purpose of which is to place the thesis within a broader context.

### **Master's thesis and requirements for graduation**

In order to graduate, students must have successfully completed the 60 ects programme and have completed their final thesis as a component of that programme. The thesis for the Art History master's programme carries 20 ects, and as a rule contains a maximum of 17,000 words including notes, bibliography and appendices. The thesis is supervised by a member of the faculty of the Department of Art History and who possesses expertise in the relevant field.

See also: [http://www.hum.leiden.edu/students/ma\\_mphil.jsp](http://www.hum.leiden.edu/students/ma_mphil.jsp)

<b>sem</b>	<b>course title</b>	<b>ISIScode</b>	<b>t.a. level</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
<b>I</b>	Practices and debates in Art History  One LECTURE COURSE:  <b>Early Modern Art and Architecture in the Low Countries and Italy</b> Spanish patronage in the Low Countries, Naples and Rome.	7935PD	s	<b>500 10</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>Material culture, applied arts and collections &amp; Asian art</b> Sharing the tales of the Buddha: on using, perceiving and transferring Buddhist narratives through art across Asia. <i>Or</i> The domestic Culture of the Cape	7935LAA8 7935LAS8 7935LDA8 7935LCW8	s	<b>500 10</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>Contemporary Art and Theory &amp; World Art Studies</b> Concepts of Place and Time in Contemporary Art.*  One RESEARCH COURSE:	7935RAA8 7935RAS8	s	<b>500 10</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>Early Modern Art and Architecture in the Low Countries and Italy</b>	7935RMC8 7935RCW8	s	<b>500 10</b>

The Villa. Histories of a Typology from the Villa Madama to the Villa dall'Ava.

**Material culture, applied arts and collections  
& Asian art**

What art history is in Asia. *Or*  
Museums, Collections and Cultural Politics.

**Contemporary Art and Theory & World Art  
Studies**

Eying one another: (contemporary) portraiture  
from a cross-cultural perspective.

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<b>II</b>	<b>Literature Exam</b>	7935LIT	<b>sst 500</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>Practical Component</b> Internship	7935PCS	<b>sst 400</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>MA-thesis</b>	7935Th	<b>sst 500</b>	<b>20</b>
				<b>30</b>

\* Electives also from MA Photographic Studies: (1) History of Photography; (2) Theory of Photography