

**Mission and Aspirations:** The Department of Art's mission is to provide excellent undergraduate education through a rigorous, focused and comprehensive curriculum that gives students a complete education in the studio arts disciplines. The department offers two degrees, a Bachelor of Arts and our honors degree, the Bachelor of Fine Arts. We also now offer two concentrations: a BA in Art with a concentration in Graphic Design and a BA in Art with a concentration in Art History (effective fall 2008). We have established a Sophomore Portfolio Review that we have both fall and spring semesters, for which students must submit work and pass before they are allowed to advance in the art department. In addition, we have worked to create a more effective 'exit interview' for graduating seniors in the BFA program. This includes a senior thesis exhibition and will also include a committee of art faculty invited to discuss the exhibition in a critical forum. This exit interview will begin as an official departmental practice, fall 2009.

We have seen an ever increasing number of students declaring art as their major. We have been sporadically successful in need full-time faculty numbers (adjunct and temporary APL replacements and retirement replacement: Shadwell, Baumbach and Hunt, respectively), and realistically our existing studio course offerings to reflect current studio trends nationwide. For the next five years these would include: **A small metals program** (which would not require an additional faculty line); a **digital media/photography studio program**. It would be logical to combine our need for a photography program with our desire for a digital media program, since the two have become more and more entwined. Now that the department has been approved to offer a concentration in art history, we feel we would be in a good position to offer a **major in art history**, since we are already establishing a curriculum and will be enrolling students tracking art history as their primary discipline. This would require at least one additional art history faculty (full time, tenure track).

The department will also be seeking a position for an **Exhibitions Coordinator/Director of Exhibitions** to manage the newly created Eminent Artist-in-Residence position (rotating between Music, Theater and Dance and Art). This position will be essential for a smooth, professionally run Visiting Artist/Lecturer Program. This position would most likely need to be an Academic Professional, since there may be teaching in conjunction with **the Museum Studies Minor**. In addition, the successful hire will be responsible for advertising, managing all aspects of the visiting artists, overseeing student interns, managing the **Art Department Gallery** (which will be part of the new Art Building), including hanging exhibitions and hosting visiting artist lectures.

The department is excited about a new **building to house the entire department** and provide the studio and art history areas with the proper facilities needed for future growth. We anticipate that with a new building the art department would have a viable chance to achieve accreditation. There are high expectations that with all things proceeding according to plan, a new building would be built and ready to inhabit by 2013.

### Previous Planning Accomplishments:

<b>Art-1 APII:</b> address new areas of curriculum in response to changes to the department and student need (drawing, new media studies, planning for retirements)	Implementation from 2003- 2008	Successful hire for Drawing Assistant Professor, Doug Russell, 2005. Spousal hire, Elizabeth Hunt, 2006 (Replacement for Shaeffer retirement), temporary hire Shadwell and Baumbach for adjunct and temp retirements.
<b>Art-2 APII:</b> Improve teaching and research facilities	Implementation from 2003- 2008	The fine arts facilities plan is in its fourth year and is currently starting phase II of planning. It is hoped that a new art building will accommodate any growth that is inevitable with a growing department. It is anticipated a new art building will be ready for habitation in 2012.
<b>Art-3 APII:</b> Provide statewide leadership in the arts through a multi-year articulation with high school educators.	Implementation from 2003- 2008	This has remained an on-going articulation, which we try to engage in through a variety of activities (WSAE High School Art Symposium, High School institute, and high school art intensives).
<b>Art-4 APII:</b> Manage enrollments through regular, progressive portfolio reviews following completion of foundation core.	Implementation from 2003- 2008	Now in its third year, the sophomore portfolio review has helped to regulate the progress of students tracking an art degree. Students who do not pass the review are prevented from progressing in the major.
<b>Art-5 APII:</b> Program assessment through criteria for sophomore, junior and senior exit portfolio evaluations	Implementation from 2003- 2008	The department is implementing more rigor in its BFA degree through required committee of art faculty to evaluate senior exhibitions. Other assessment tools are being addressed through the sophomore portfolio review.
<b>Art-6 APII:</b> To continue and enhance cooperative efforts between the Art Department, the Art Museum and the AHC.	Implementation from 2003- 2008	Both the department head and museum director meet monthly to discuss their respective programs and missions. The museum is supported by the art department through sponsoring student trips (ArtBasel; Miami). Curricular co-operation occurs through connecting course offerings with museum exhibition schedules. AHC is a primary art history resource along with the museum.
<b>Art-7 APII:</b> To refine curriculum to serve student needs with available resources: sculpture and graphic design curricula; create a drawing emphasis; develop I-course for freshmen as part of foundations core.	Implementation from 2003- 2008	There is an established drawing curriculum, now in its third year. Both sculpture and graphic design have been working to revamp curricula. The department now has an I-course, art 1115 digital media (approved spring 2008), as part of its freshman foundation core.

### Relevant Institutional Issues:

**Excellence:** We continually strive to bring our program goals and aspirations more closely aligned with the College of Arts and Sciences and University's vision for the future. The department has done this in several ways: As an **Area of Distinction** identified in the 2004 academic plan, we have remained proactive in our curricular development and programs. We strive to offer both depth of study and breadth of experiences for studio majors. With the newly created, **Eminent Artist-in-Residence** the

department will gain even more prominence in both the state and nationally through the visiting artists and lecturers brought yearly to the Department of Art. We remain committed to increasing ways in which to work more closely with the UWAM and AHC and many of the previously perceived difficulties are no longer relevant.

**Internationalization:** The Department of Art has two established study abroad courses that are offered in the summer; study in India is offered bi-annually and study in Turkey is offered in alternating years. We hope to offer even more opportunity to study abroad. As such, the Department of Art has been very closely aligned with **International Programs**, who have been instrumental in helping these courses to become integral to the department. The Art History faculty have been in close contact with the History Department to create the minor in European Studies and will be closely involved with the success of the proposed **Center for European Studies**, once implemented.

**Diversity:** It will be a goal of this department through future hires to seek out faculty of disparate, diverse ethnic backgrounds. The department head has been in conversation with Judy Antel, American Indian Studies, to find ways to connect art with AIST through a possible faculty hire.

The Department of Art is already exploring ways to connect to the **range of outdoor experiences**; such a rich resource in this state and a perfect expressive conduit for artists. As such, the department currently offers, ART 4620 : Outdoor Studio, a three week summer studio course with one week taking place at the University of Wyoming AMK Research Station, Jackson Lake at the foothills of the Grand Tetons.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

To continue stabilization and growth through requests to hire for both replacement faculty and new studio area development, the department proposes the following hires and curricular changes:

**Art-1:** In order for art history to achieve recognition as a discipline beyond its role as support for studio art majors and for interdisciplinary course offerings, the department must address the need of an additional full time, **Tenure track art historian with an emphasis in 20<sup>th</sup> century American art**. This hire has support from American studies and will further cement the department's already strong interdisciplinary links with Chicano/a studies, Women's studies, African American studies, American studies and possibly with American Indian studies. Although some changes may occur in the next few years with existing art history faculty, the need for at least one additional faculty in the department remains unchanged. With this hire, the art history program can maintain the essential introductory courses and will fulfill other programs' and departments' curricular requirements (e.g.: American Art in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century is a course that will be cross listed with American studies). There is strong support for a position in the area of American Art in American Studies as well as Women's Studies, History and English.

**Art-2:** Following the retirement of two crucial long term adjunct APL faculty in drawing last spring, the department foresaw the need to hire a full time faculty to teach this high demand (USP CA) introductory course. A full time, **Tenure track Assistant Professor or Extended Term Academic Professional Lecturer for drawing** is desperately needed for this area, and we cannot rely on temporary faculty indefinitely to fill the teaching needs of the drawing classes that are part of the University Studies CA offering. At present we only have one permanent member of faculty teaching in drawing

**Art-3:** In an increasingly digital age, it is essential that the Department of Art continue to stay abreast of studio innovation through curricular adjustments and new course offerings that reflect the changes occurring nationwide in studio art departments. An **assistant professor of Digital Photography/New Media** would bring the art department into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and help to solidify our position as a leader in the arts for the state. This position would require infrastructure that we currently don't have, but which would be attainable through a new art facility. Although there is a lot of difference between photo-journalism and studio applications of photography, there would be a lot of areas in which Communications/Journalism and Art could overlap, perhaps through shared lab facilities and cross-listed photography course offerings

**Art-4:** Following the retirement of a long term adjunct Academic Professional Lecturer, the department's foundation program lost a very important teaching component. An **Assistant Professor Tenure track position in foundations** is desperately needed in these freshmen foundation level courses, which are so crucial to the success of our undergraduate art students. We hope to have a successful hire for this position next year, to start fall 2009.

**Art-5:** The department will also be seeking a position for an **Exhibitions Coordinator/Director of Exhibitions** to manage the newly created Endowed Chair in Fine Arts (rotating between Music, Theater and Dance and Art). This position will be essential for a smooth, professionally run Visiting Artist/Lecturer Program, which in conjunction with the tri-annual Endowed Chair Visiting Artist/Lecturer will also manage and run the yearly visiting artists and lecturers who will be a constant presence in the department of art. This position would be an Academic Professional, since there may be teaching in conjunction with the **Museum Studies Minor**. In addition, the successful hire will be responsible for advertising, managing all aspects of the visiting artists, overseeing student interns, managing the **Art Department Gallery** (which will be part of the new Art Building) and hosting visiting artist lectures. Because regular faculty teach a 3/2 load and have a very large service component already built-in to their normal department duties, this will have to be a separate position and unique within the department of art.

**In addition to these faculty lines, the department has put forth some of its curricular changes it would like to see implemented in the next five years.**

**Art-6:** Although the Department of Art has a variety of studio course offerings, we lack in our 3-D offerings. We propose to build a **small metals curriculum**. The small metals

program would occupy a niche similar to sculpture but unique in that it can also address function in the form of jewelry. We already have a faculty member in place ready to add small metals instruction to their original teaching responsibilities as well as most of the equipment purchased through one-time funding requests.

**Art-7:** Now that students in the Department of Art can have a BA degree with a concentration in Art History, we feel the next step will be to create a **major in art history**. The curriculum will already be established through the concentration along with support courses offered through the departments of Anthropology, History, American Studies, Women's Studies, etc. The success of developing a major in art history hinges on the continued cooperation and shared vision between studio and art history. This major would also need at least one additional full time tenure-track faculty hire to successfully implement a major in art history.

**Art-8:** In the spirit of interdisciplinary links across university colleges and departments, the art department is currently drafting a proposal to create a **Museum Studies Minor**. The applications of a minor in museum studies could straddle many other disciplines, forming ties with American Studies, American Indian Studies, African-American Studies, Anthropology, Entomology, Geology, Family and Consumer Sciences, Marketing, the American Heritage Center, the University of Wyoming Art Museum and other regional museums and curatorial institutions. The proposed curriculum introduces students to curatorial, administrative and developmental strategies linked to museum work.

**Art-9:** Perhaps our most crucial need as a department is for a **new art department building**. The department has been involved in phase I of the planning process for a new art building for the past three years and is now poised to take the discussions to the next step; phase II. It is very important that any discussion takes into account the need for expansion in studio and art history that will inevitably occur in the years to come, so that the department does not have the same 'temporary' facilities to address growth that it was given in the early 1970's.

**Time line for implementation of the above Action Items are as follows:**

<b>Art-1:</b> Art Historian with an emphasis in 20 <sup>th</sup> century American Art.	Implementation from 2009 - 2014	We presented to CPM this past spring, and the request was looked on favorably by the committee. With a successful bid to CPM, we would hope to have this position ready to fill within two years (fall 2010) at the latest.
<b>Art-2:</b> Tenure track or extended term APL position for Drawing	Implementation from 2009 - 2014	We have a temporary APL faculty already in this position, but this position needs stability. We would hope to have this position by the start of fall 2009.
<b>Art-3:</b> Photography/New Media Tenure track Assistant professor.	Implementation from 2009 - 2014	Although the department recognizes this area as one of need to develop, we do not have the infrastructure to meet the requirements this studio offering

		would need, although some could be handled with the graphics lab. We would expect to see this position once a new building is built (est. 2013).
<b>Art-4: Tenure track Assistant professor, Foundations</b>	Implementation for 2009 - 2014	This position is a deferred position from last year's CPM request, and we expect to see it filled after a successful national search for fall 2009.
<b>Art-5: Academic Professional Exhibition Coordinator for the Endowed Chair Visiting Artist/Lecturer.</b>	Implementation for 2009 - 2014	This is a new position based on the newly created Endowed Chair for Fine Arts. Art Faculty numbers are too few to be able to take on the extremely time-consuming tasks and responsibilities connected to the Endowed Chair and all it entails. This would be a full-time job. This will be a position requested spring 2009 and we will continue to request it until it is granted.
<b>Art-6: Small Metals Program</b>	Implementation for 2009 - 2014	Course action proposals have been submitted to the committee, and the department is currently working to secure funding for equipment. No new faculty lines will be required for this position. We expect to offer the first small metals class in fall 2009.
<b>Art-7: Art History Major</b>	Implementation for 2009 - 2014	Depending on the enrollments with the new concentration and hinging on another faculty line in art history, we would like to see a major in art history offered within the next four years, ideally fall 2011.
<b>Art-8: Museum Studies Minor</b>	Implementation for 2009 - 2014	Lisa Hunt is currently refining the first draft of the museum studies proposal, and we would hope to see it approved and in effect by fall 2009.
<b>Art-9: New Art Building</b>	Implementation from 2009 - 2014	The department is currently starting phase II of planning and we would expect to move into a new building in 2012.

The Department of Art is a solid and positive department. We have a strong and reasonable vision for the future that will only enhance a steadily growing reputation. This would include several of the action items listed above, and would also eventually put us in the position to entertain revisiting the **Masters of Fine Arts Degree in Studio Art**. This would only be attainable with a new building and growth in the studio courses offered and faculty lines.