

Career: Art History

A specialty in Art History, whether it is an undergraduate concentration or an advanced degree, can lead to many interesting career options. Common career paths for people with skills and interest in art history include curating, museum management or education, teaching and writing fields such as art criticism. Opportunities can be found in galleries, museums, schools and universities, and nonprofit arts organizations. Galleries tend to hire individuals with knowledge of contemporary art and an instinct for business. Museums and universities often hire specialists; this usually requires a master's or doctorate degree. Many people who are interested in art history enjoy writing art criticism, art theory or reviews and articles for periodicals. This kind of work requires a high level of knowledge, but not necessarily advanced degrees and is usually on a freelance basis.

Some Employers of Pratt Alumni

ArtPace Foundation for Contemporary Art
White Box Gallery
Sotheby's Auction House
Axelle Fine Arts Gallery
Christie's Auction House
Skyscraper Museum
Vin Lintel Gallery
Art Resource
Brooklyn Museum of Art

Paul Morris Gallery
Westchester Community College
St. Vincent College
Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum
El Museo del Barrio
Peruvian Advertising Institute
Parsons School of Design

National University of Singapore Museums
Art Forum
Wichita State University
Museum of Modern Art
Amherst College
Adelphi University
Brooklyn Botanical Gardens
Bard Graduate Center
New York Public Library

Profile of a Successful Graduate

One Art History alumnus began her career in museum work as an unpaid docent (tour guide) then did several internships with curators at the Brooklyn Museum of Art. She moved on to a paid internship at the MoMA. She then worked as a museum educator and eventually as the Director of Education for two mid-sized art museums.

Bottom Line

Starting Salary Range:

BFA: \$20,000-\$30,000

MS: \$30,000-\$35,000

Special Characteristics:

An undergraduate degree is a good tool for getting an entry level job in an arts organization, but many mid to upper level jobs will require a master's or

doctorate degree. Most positions will require strong writing and research skills.

The Office of Career Services lists over 4000 jobs annually. We offer career counseling and job referrals for those entering their professional field as well as general art-related jobs for those still developing portfolios.

In addition, a number of companies come each year to interview students for internships and permanent positions.

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