



About Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts

VCUarts is one of the nation's leading arts schools, dedicated to advancing creative expression, supporting new scholarship, sparking innovation and deepening the role of the arts throughout society. Distinguished for fostering artistic excellence and catalyzing dynamic collaborations across Virginia Commonwealth University and beyond, the school acts as a center for innovation within creative practices and across divergent areas of study. Its visual arts and design graduate program has received top rankings among public universities by U.S. News & World Report since 2003.

The school's physical campus and curricula are woven throughout the larger public research university, encouraging students and faculty to engage in cross-disciplinary endeavors, creating new approaches for tackling challenges within and beyond traditional arts practices. The da Vinci Center, a partnership between schools of the arts, business, engineering, and the college of humanities and sciences, brings together students, faculty and outside professionals in a unique collegiate model that advances innovation and entrepreneurship through hands-on, cross-disciplinary collaboration. The Center for the Creative Economy draws students and experts from across the university and Richmond area to drive innovation and new business models around the world. Students and faculty also regularly partner with VCU's celebrated medical school, working alongside doctors and surgeons to devise solutions to real-world challenges across the medical field.

VCUarts serves its students at its campus in Richmond, Va. and a satellite campus in Doha, Qatar, which was the inaugural campus in Qatar's Education City. The university is also part of a global network of partner universities offering students and faculty unparalleled opportunities for learning within and beyond their chosen fields, fostering lifelong connections and building a professional network around the world.

The School of the Arts is a vital element of Richmond's cultural vibrancy, helping establish and grow the city's dynamic arts scene, which is home to museums, galleries, dance, music and theater organizations, as well as historic sites. In October 2017, the university will open the Institute for Contemporary Art, a non-collecting art institution dedicated to presenting the art of today. Acting as part exhibition and performance space, part lab and incubator, the ICA mirrors VCU's cross-disciplinary approach and will be a catalyst for creative discourse.

The school's distinguished faculty and alumni are celebrated artists whose work is exhibited and collected by major U.S. museums, shown in leading film festivals, and debuted at some of the nation's most well-known opera houses and stages. Prominent faculty and alumni include Kendall Buster and Corin Hewitt (Sculpture and Extended Media), Sonya Clark (Craft/Material Studies), Toni-Leslie James and David Leong (Theatre), Hilary Wilder (Painting and Printmaking), Rex Richardson (Music), Stephen Vitiello (Kinetic Imaging), sculptor Tara Donovan (MFA, 1999), sculptor Teresita Fernández (MFA, 1992), actor Jason Butler Harner (BFA, 1992), production designer Dan Bishop (BFA, 1980), jazz musician Victor Goines (MM, 1990), fashion entrepreneur Donwan T. Harrell (BFA, 1992), illustrator and painter Sterling Hundley (BFA, 1998), dancer Jason Akira Somma (BFA, 2003), glass artist Kazue Taguchi (MFA, 2007), and designer Jillian Rene (Interior Design, 2012).

The School of the Arts offers degrees across 15 departments and programs, including Art Education, Art History, Cinema, Communication Arts, Craft/Material Studies, Dance and Choreography, Fashion Design and Merchandising, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Kinetic Imaging, Music, Painting and Printmaking, Photography and Film, Sculpture and Extended Media, and Theatre. For more information, please visit: arts.vcu.edu.