

## Request for the revision of the name for the Department of Art and Art History

The Department of Art and Art History in the School of Fine Arts, University of Connecticut has always been attuned and responsive to changing conditions.

Prior to 1997, the Department had been named the Department of Art since its inception in 1951. The Department added Art History to its title, effective in the 1997/98 academic year, when the Art History program was brought over from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The revised title respected and communicated the hybrid nature of the Department – a department that encompasses affiliated but different disciplines.

Now recognizing the significance and prominence of Design, both nationally and within the Department's academic programs, the Department must again revise its title to communicate that understanding to students, parents, and all of its stakeholders. While the Department continues its hybridity, the constitutive elements have evolved and multiplied.

Design was once ancillary to the training of fine artists and seen as a secondary discipline. Although painting students may have found work in advertising art, or sculpture students in the industrial arts, fine art training was the focus and often privileged over commercial applications in academic art departments.

Design has since developed to the point where a fine arts training is no longer sufficient to prepare students for design careers. For example, design has a methodology where the creative problem solving is often externally directed and in service of a client, whereas fine art is often internally directed and in service of the artist's vision. Design as a field now requires students to focus on defined preparation earlier in their studies than was once expected so a student will possess the necessary knowledge and skills to participate competitively in a design profession upon graduation.

The Department curriculum reflects these facts. The extensive graphic design curriculum, for example, prepares students to compete as designers upon graduation. Students know this and a large percentage of the BFA-Art students concentrate in design. With the addition of industrial design to the department's faculty expertise in 2019, the number of department majors in design is expected to grow. In light of these facts, Design must be acknowledged in the Department title.

Department faculty respectfully request that the department's title be revised to the **Department of Art, Art History + Design**.