CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF THE ARTS GRADUATE STUDIES
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GRADUATE STUDIES
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Graduate school is a singular time for both personal exploration and professional development. It is an immersion experience in which you engage in critical thinking and discover new modes of practice. It’s an opportunity for concentrated study, theoretical engagement, reflection, and, most importantly, experimentation.

As a CCA graduate student you will participate in some of the most compelling conversations in our culture today, looking at contemporary issues such as sustainability, diversity, social justice, political awareness, and global impact. You will also learn how to maneuver the landscape of your chosen profession—how to evolve your own sophisticated approach in the context of a world that is constantly changing.

Our graduate curriculum encourages collaboration and exchange of insights, information, and ideas across all programs of study. We celebrate interdisciplinary work that demonstrates social engagement, hybridity, and environmental responsibility. Our faculty and visiting artists are committed to helping you develop professionally, whether you are looking to launch a new career or bring deeper skills and conceptual knowledge to your current career path.
Founded in 1907, CCA has been a leader in art and design education for more than 100 years. *U.S. News & World Report* ranks CCA’s Graduate Program in Fine Arts as one of the top MFA programs, and *BusinessWeek* magazine has named CCA one of the world’s best design schools.

CCA is known for its groundbreaking graduate programs. There’s the MBA in Design Strategy, whose 2008 launch was cited by *Fast Company* as one of the biggest events of that year; the Social Practice program, which was founded in 2005 and lauded in the *New York Times* as the first of its kind in the nation; the Graduate Program in Curatorial Practice, the first of its kind on the West Coast; and the MFA in Comics program, which offers a totally unique kind of training that combines literary and graphic storytelling.
COME TO THE LEFT COAST
The San Francisco Bay Area is a high-density locus of creative energy and a transformative place to study. All of CCA’s graduate programs push students toward innovative and entrepreneurial practices, an approach inspired and supported by our surroundings in a global hub of future-focused thinking.

The Bay Area is home to a rich creative community that fosters extraordinary platforms for creative practice. It is home to maker fairs, pop-ups, and more than 250 art venues; active literary and film scenes; leading architecture firms; and some of the most innovative design and technology companies in the world. Forty percent of all venture capital money in the United States is invested here.

CCA’s San Francisco campus is situated in the city’s “Innovation Corridor.” It is near the design district, a growing number of galleries and alternative art spaces, and companies such as Adobe, Twitter, fuseproject, and Zynga. It’s very close to the new Mission Bay biotech and medical research area, and less than two miles from the city’s downtown museums.

Read more about why San Francisco is a great place to study at cca.edu/about/location.
CCA’s faculty includes nearly 500 nationally and internationally recognized artists, architects, designers, and writers. All of them are actively working in the region’s flourishing professional communities in the arts, design, business, consulting, animation, film, writing, and beyond.

Many work for leading Bay Area companies such as Apple, Gensler, Google, LucasArts, and Pixar, or are principals of their own firms. They regularly win major awards and accolades: Academy Awards, Fulbrights, Rome Prizes, MacArthur Awards, Emmys, Guggenheim fellowships, AIGA medals, and more.

Every semester, our Graduate Studies Lecture Series and the internationally recognized CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts bring to campus some of the world’s most important creative minds. These visits often involve not only lectures but also master classes, critiques of student work, and extended residencies.
Past visitors have included:

Glenn Adamson
Jennifer Allora and
Guillermo Calzadilla
Binta Ayofemi
Gijs Bakker
John Baldessari
Nayland Blake
Judith Butler
Stuart Candy
Natalie Chanin
Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev
Claire Fontaine
David Colwell
Scott Constable
Michael Cooper
Charlotte Cotton
Manuel De Landa
Jeremy Deller
Thomas Demand
Hernán Diaz Alonso
Mark Dion
DJ Spooky
Keller Easterling
Stanley Fish
David Fletcher
Harrell Fletcher
Hal Foster
Jonathan Franzen
Ryan Gander
Jeanne Gang
Theaster Gates
David Goldblatt
Guillermo Gómez-Peña
Sam Green
Mary Heilmann
Sofía Hernández Chong Cuy
Werner Herzog
Jessica Hische
Toyo Ito
Christian Jankowski
Phil Jimenez
Mike Kelley
Walter Kitundu
Zak Kyes
Maskull Lasserre
Simone Leigh
Maria Lind
Kris Martin
Jürgen Mayer H.
Roy McMakin
Jim Melchert
Trinh T. Minh-ha
Meleko Mokgosi
Vik Muniz
David Nash
Ryue Nishizawa
Kas Oosterhuis
Tod Papageorge
Martin Parr
Gregg Pasquarelli
Renzo Piano
Ishmael Reed
Francois Roche
Tomás Saraceno
Tino Sehgal
Jason Shiga
Sister Spit
Scott Snibbe
Simon Starling
Mark Steinmetz
Cheryl Strayed
Studio Gorm
Scott Summitt
Triple Candie
Bernard Tschumi
Gus Van Sant
Anthony Vidler
Danh Vo
Kara Walker
Jess Walter
John Waters
Xu Bing
Al Young
Alejandro Zaera-Polo

Find upcoming lectures and see a list of past ones at cca.edu/calendar/lecture-series.

Read more about the CCA Wattis Institute at wattis.org.
CCA actively connects with hundreds of companies, organizations, and institutions across the globe, creating unparalleled opportunities for our students. These include:

- Sponsored studios
- Residencies
- Internships
- The Graduate Studies Lecture Series
- Community-based courses (ENGAGE at CCA)
- Comics in the City lecture series
- Weekly Writers Series
- Hackathons
- IMPACT Social Entrepreneurship Awards
- The Center for Art and Public Life
- Mix & Stir start-up events
- Travel programs
- Design sprints
- *Eleven Eleven* literary journal
AN INFLUENTIAL NETWORK OF ALUMNI

Our alumni are featured in *Artforum*, *Fast Company*, and the *Huffington Post*. They are exhibiting at the Guggenheim, the Museum of Modern Art, SFMOMA, and the Whitney. They are award-winning writers, artists, filmmakers, designers, and architects. They are working for, and many are establishing, some of the most innovative companies in the world.

Our most recent alumni survey revealed that:
- 78 percent of CCA alumni are actively working in fields related to art, architecture, design, or writing
- 29 percent of CCA alumni hold management-level positions in arts-related fields
- 25 percent of CCA alumni own their own businesses

You will find our alumni on every continent and in almost every major city. As an alum yourself, you will become part of this diaspora of creative talent, with access to a global network of professional peers.

COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITIES

Where do an MFA student, a Design MBA student, and a Master of Architecture student come together to undertake a socially innovative project? At CCA, where collaboration is integral to educating makers of creative change.

Within the graduate programs and across the college, CCA creates all kinds of collaborative opportunities. You’ll see Film students working with acting students from American Conservatory Theater, design students working on innovative exhibitions at the California Academy of Sciences, and Writing students working with Dave Eggers of 826 Valencia and McSweeney’s. As a graduate student here, you’ll gain invaluable experience through real-world projects.
APPLY

Find program-specific application requirements at cca.edu/graduate.

FINANCIAL AID

The college offers merit, diversity, and need-based scholarships in addition to teaching assistantships. More info on these opportunities is at cca.edu/financialaid.

HOUSING

Read about campus-sponsored housing options at cca.edu/housing.

PRIORITY DEADLINE

January 10 is the priority deadline for admissions and scholarship consideration.

VISIT CCA

Attend a lecture, a special event, or a tour. To RSVP for a tour, visit cca.edu/admissions/visiting. Find upcoming lectures and events at cca.edu/calendar.
As you consider graduate school, here are some questions to get you thinking. We invite you to use this sketchbook to work out your ideas.

**Architecture.** Imagine the house of the future, the office of the future, the library of the future. What does our future city look like? How does it work? What technologies guide it, and how do they shape the way we live?

**Comics.** What would your life look like as a comic? Can you distill a day down to just a couple of panels? What would make the cut? Doodle your life as a comic, every day for a week.

**Curatorial Practice.** Choose an existing exhibition, historical or contemporary. Propose three alterations to the list of works included, or the mechanisms of display, that would create a significant shift in the visual effect and experience.

**Design.** Map a conflict in your life.

**Design MBA.** Devise an idea and diagram a stakeholder analysis: Name all of the people and organizations your idea impacts, then use arrows to map what gets exchanged among them (money, ideas, resources, emotion, affiliation, and other forms of value).

**Film.** Make a silent music video. No sound or musical instruments are permitted; the sense of musicality must come exclusively from your use of visual rhythm and tonality. Minimum length: 3 minutes.

**Fine Arts.** Remember a drawing you made as a child. Redraw it from memory.

**Visual and Critical Studies.** Choose an example of “bad art.” Describe it. (What do you see?) Relate it. (What does it remind you of? What features/conventions do you recognize?) Analyze it. (How does it create meaning with its title, form, material, or metaphorical and symbolic references?) Interpret it. (If you could make up a new title for the work, what would it be, and why?)

**Writing.** Observe a stranger on public transportation. Write down every physical detail and gesture. Eavesdrop on his or her conversation and transcribe it. Use these notes to write a scene that begins when this person steps off the bus or train.
CCA is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD), the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), and the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA).

The Master of Architecture (MArch) is a NAAB-accredited professional degree. In the United States, most state registration boards require a degree from an accredited professional degree program as a prerequisite for licensure. The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) is the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degree programs in architecture.

CCA grants the following degrees: bachelor of fine arts (BFA), bachelor of arts (BA), bachelor of architecture (BArch), master of fine arts (MFA), master of arts (MA), master of architecture (MArch), master of advanced architectural design (MAAD), and master of business administration (MBA).

For information regarding CCA’s academic programs, financial aid, graduation and retention rates, cost of attendance, crime awareness and public safety (including the annual campus security report), and other general campus information, see cca.edu/right-to-know.

CCA is an equal-opportunity institution of higher education and employer, and it is firmly committed to nondiscrimination in its delivery of educational services and employment practices. In compliance with all applicable federal and state laws, such decisions will be made irrespective of an individual’s race, color, religion, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, age (except for minors), sex, marital status, citizenship status, military service status, sexual orientation, gender identity, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic), disability, or any other status protected by law. When necessary the college will reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities if the individual is otherwise qualified to meet the fundamental requirements and aspects of the program and to perform safely all essential functions without undue hardship to the college and without altering fundamental aspects of the program. For more information about accommodations visit cca.edu/students/handbook/regulations.

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