

# MASTER OF ARTS Exhibition Design

The Corcoran College of Art + Design offers one of the few accredited graduate programs in the nation devoted to interpretive exhibition design. Students attain the professional skills needed to create experiences that engage, educate, and entertain audiences, while assuming the responsibilities of storytellers, communicators, and visitor advocates.

The curriculum is a balanced integration of academic, technical, and design courses. Students also enjoy many opportunities to engage with the extensive collection and professionals at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and at museums and art galleries throughout Washington, D.C.

Corcoran students also take advantage of our well-known Study Away opportunities, enhancing their education with coursework in India, Mexico, Greece, Denmark, or the United Kingdom, for example, or through programs here in the United States.

Alumni of the program are prepared to pursue careers in museums of art, history, natural history, and science; children's museums; and private design firms across the country.

*India: Ancient Culture in Modern Times* is a popular Corcoran-sponsored Study Away program to the Ladakh region in the Himalaya Mountains.



**CORCORAN**  
GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN

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**GRADUATE**  
**PROGRAMS**

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## ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

The master of arts in Exhibition Design program serves students with undergraduate degrees in Museum Studies, Art History, Studio Art, or Design by providing a two-year course of graduate study that develops advanced skills necessary to succeed in the profession. Students with bachelor's degrees in other fields of study may pursue a prescribed series of prerequisites to enter the graduate degree program curriculum. Admission to the program is competitive and based on the evaluation of:

- Completed application form
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions
- Current resume or curriculum vitae
- Statement of interest and intentions
- Two letters of recommendation
- Design portfolio (For applicants without backgrounds in art or design, portfolios can include photography, inspirational images, sketches, or any other media that visually represent the student).
- Interview with program chair

A nonrefundable application fee (\$75) is required. International students should contact the Admissions office for additional application requirements.

In assembling a student body of diverse educational, cultural, and interest backgrounds, the Admissions Committee reviews academic qualifications as well as art and design ability. In general, the Committee expects candidates to have a minimum undergraduate or graduate grade point average of 3.0.

An applicant may petition for advanced standing or waiver of prerequisites based upon undergraduate coursework already completed and documented in official college or university transcripts. The Office of Admissions and the chair of Exhibition Design evaluate course substitutions for the prescribed prerequisites.

## ENROLLMENT POLICIES

The two-year master of arts in Exhibition Design program requires 48 semester credits, or four semesters of 12 credits on average. Students must enroll in a minimum of six credits per semester, allowing the possibility of part-time studies for those unable to attend full-time. Students have up to four years to complete the degree. At least 75 percent (36 credits) of the program must be completed in residency. No more than nine credits may be transferred into the program.

## FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

At the Corcoran College of Art + Design, we know how important financial aid can be in making graduate studies a reality. The Corcoran offers a comprehensive merit scholarship and need-based financial aid program. Through a combination of institutional merit scholarships and grants, federal and state aid, and tuition payment plans, we help make the personalized Corcoran education affordable.

Students interested in being considered for need-based financial aid as well as non-need-based federal loan programs should ensure they complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as close to January 1 as possible for the upcoming fall term. The Corcoran's federal school code number is **011950**.

Please visit [www.corcoran.edu](http://www.corcoran.edu) for estimated student budgets, tuition and fee information, financial aid awards, and the financial aid process.

## ABOUT THE CORCORAN

Founded in 1890, the Corcoran College of Art + Design is the only college of art and design in Washington, D.C. The Corcoran's vibrant and active creative community includes degree students pursuing a wide range of associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees in the visual arts. The College also offers part-time credit and non-credit classes for pre-college students and adults through its extensive Continuing Education program.

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, a privately funded institution, was founded in 1869 by William Wilson Corcoran. As Washington's first and largest non-federal museum of art, the Corcoran is internationally known for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art, as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts.

The Corcoran College is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design and by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

EXHIBITION DESIGN  
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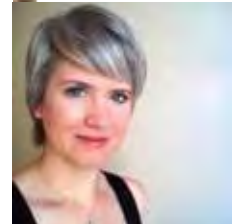


Students enhance communication skills in successive Exhibition Design Studios and Thesis courses. As they develop creative problem-solving, they are challenged to pursue a range of interdisciplinary skills to create engaging, three-dimensional experiences.



**CLARE BROWN**  
Chair, Exhibition Design

Ms. Brown is an exhibition and graphic designer with 15 years of museum experience in Washington, D.C., New York City, and Massachusetts. Most recently, Ms. Brown has worked for five years as exhibition designer for the National Museum of American History. During her time at the Smithsonian, Ms. Brown designed two exhibitions of the First Ladies Gowns collection, the new installation of Julia Child's Kitchen and the associated exhibition titled *Food: Transforming the American Table, 1950-2000*. She has also designed the Albert H. Small Documents Gallery and eight rotating exhibitions of historically significant documents.



**EXHIBITION DESIGN FACULTY**

Instructors are working professionals with years of experience in creating exhibitions and experiences around the globe for museums, historic sites, galleries, and specialty attractions. Because classes are small, each is able to devote focused time to instruct, mentor, and interact with students. In addition to the rigorous real-world instruction they offer, all are dedicated to helping students to establish professional networks and, ultimately, to establish rewarding careers.

Prior to her work at the Smithsonian, Ms. Brown was exhibition designer for the New-York Historical Society and the Newseum. She is also the Principal of Clare Brown Designs, providing project management, exhibition design, and graphic design services to clients in Washington, D.C. and New York City.

Ms. Brown serves on the Board of Directors of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums where she works to expand programs and resources for students. She holds a Master of Arts in Museum Studies from the George Washington University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and Art from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.



**CURRICULUM**

The Master of Arts in Exhibition Design is a two-year, 48-credit program that can be completed in four semesters of full-time study. Part-time study is available for those balancing careers and other demands with coursework.

**PREREQUISITE COURSES**

- AutoCad I or Revit I
- Art History Survey

**REQUIRED COURSES**

- Exhibition Design Studios I, II, and III
- Materials, Finishes, and Methods for Exhibitions
- Lighting for Exhibitions
- Conservation and Art Handling
- Museum Management and Operations
- Methods of Visual Representation for Exhibitions
- Construction and Detailing for Exhibitions
- AutoCad II, Vectorworks
- Curatorial Studies
- Art History Electives
- Pro-Thesis and Thesis Exhibition Design Studios



**INTERNSHIPS**

The Corcoran encourages students to gain real-world experience through internships in museums, historic sites, and private design firms. Recent hosts include the National Museum of American History, the National Air and Space Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the National Postal Museum, the new National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and nationally known design firms.

Students are also encouraged to learn all aspects of museum operations. They gain an understanding of how collections are a vital part of interpretation and participate in the development of educational public programs. Internships may be in curatorial, education graphic design, or exhibition design departments.

*(Top)* Internships at the National Museum of American History engage exhibition design students in major projects, including the re-design of the permanent gallery *The First Ladies* at the Smithsonian.

*(Bottom)* Exhibition design Students also intern for private firms such as C&G Partners. This rendering illustrated artifact interpretation for a new exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History.



**STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Two dynamic student-led organizations enhance opportunities to learn interdisciplinary skills through field trips, guest speakers, special events, study groups, and academic summits.

Students develop valuable professional networks through membership in SEGD at CCA+D, the student organization of the Society for Environmental Graphic Design. SEGD is a global community of professionals working at the intersection of communication design and the built environment. Members include exhibition, graphic, interior, architectural, and media designers.

Recent activities have included field trips to network with designers and participate in annual SEGD conferences in Montreal, Canada; Washington, D.C.; and New York City. Students also meet curators, designers, and administrators through special behind-the-scenes tours at nationally recognized venues such as the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park Visitor Center, Mount Vernon, the U.S. National Holocaust Museum, and the National American Jewish Museum.

*(Top)* SEGD members tour a variety of venues, including the Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, North Carolina. *(Bottom right)* Corcoran SEGD in New York City.

USGBC at Corcoran—the United States Green Building Council student group—serves to foster, develop, and improve design and research in the field of environmentally sustainable design. Students form study groups for LEED AP and GA exams, which can lead to a professional certification in green design.

Lectures, site visits, and social events also supplement the learning process, allowing students to explore green spaces and meet other designers who are passionate about sustainability.

