



CORCORAN
SCHOOL OF
THE ARTS
AND DESIGN



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The Corcoran School of the Arts and Design at the George Washington University is dedicated to fostering an innovative and groundbreaking learning environment that promotes diversity of thought and experience, addresses critical social issues and educates the next generation of creative cultural citizens.

Benefiting from the resources at GW's Columbian College of Arts and Sciences – with its Engaged Liberal Arts philosophy – and the broader Washington, D.C., community, the Corcoran School prepares its students for a lifetime of creative practice and gives them the tools and critical thinking needed to address some of the most pressing issues of our time.



Yacine Fall (B.F.A. '19) comes from a family where disciples, or the Baye Fall, don't wear shoes in order to remain in constant contact with the environment. Yacine uses her environment and her Senegalese ancestry to influence her art. Her thesis, "Un Lien (A Link)," engages the viewers in performance art featuring a long strip of burlap, rope and clay.

TEN REASONS TO STUDY AT THE CORCORAN SCHOOL

10

1

FACULTY

Students learn from leading, internationally recognized arts and design professionals and scholars.

2

CLASS SIZE

Classes are small, and students receive one-on-one instruction in a variety of studio facilities, from the alternative process darkrooms and the digital Fab Lab to music practice rooms.

3

COMMUNITY

The Corcoran School at GW is a community of performing and visual artists, historians, scholars and designers who are dedicated to nurturing students' personal growth and professional development as lifelong practitioners.

4

LOCATION

The nation's capital is a city where leading creative professionals work, play and network. The cultural and artistic landscape boasts world-class museums, concert halls and a thriving arts community to inspire artistic talents of all kinds.

5

SOCIAL CHANGE

Through a variety of programs and classes, students and faculty connect with the D.C. community and promote creativity for positive social change.

6

INTERNSHIPS

Corcoran students intern at some of the most prestigious companies, galleries, museums and design firms in the world.

7

EXHIBITIONS & PERFORMANCES

Throughout the year, Corcoran students have numerous opportunities to present their work through community projects, exhibitions and performances in the Flagg Building, spaces across the GW campus and beyond.

8

FINANCIAL AID

GW offers merit scholarships and need-based financial aid for eligible students, as well as Yellow Ribbon benefits for eligible military families.

9

RESOURCES

Access to a wealth of resources at a major research university, an impressive alumni network and a dynamic undergraduate environment make the Corcoran School an engaging place to be.

10

VISITING ARTISTS

Professional artists and local experts participate in lectures, classroom critiques, master classes and residency programs that engage students and encourage collaboration across disciplines.



Katie Auerswald ('21), Sophia Young ('23), and Aaron Mancus ('22) make Kogan Plaza their stage.

CORCORAN SCHOLARS

Each year, an exceptional group of first-year students are selected as Corcoran Scholars, joining a cohort of talented arts and design students. They are supported in artistic pursuits while exploring a diversity of practices across disciplines, gaining a deeper understanding of the creative process in a greater cultural context. They explore our nation's most important museums, stages, libraries, centers for performing arts and art organizations. Corcoran Scholar awards are renewable for up to 10 consecutive semesters of undergraduate study. See corcoran.gwu.edu/scholars to apply!

ARTS + DESIGN LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY

The Arts + Design Living Learning Community gives first-year students the option to participate in a creative, intellectual living environment that raises awareness of the power of the arts and design in their daily lives and the impact they have on our community. Students prepare to be leaders at GW and in local communities through formal and informal opportunities, special projects, discussions, and visits to local venues, exhibition spaces and other arts organizations. Admitted students simply indicate the living preference on their housing application.

FAST FACTS

FOUNDED IN
1878

OVER 500 STUDENTS IN OUR UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS

OVER 50 FULL-TIME FACULTY AND 200 PART-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS

DEGREE PROGRAMS

// ART HISTORY B.A.

The Bachelor of Arts in Art History program encourages observation and direct engagement with the visual arts. The curriculum spans ancient to contemporary art, with significant emphasis on research and writing. Students develop writing skills in contemporary criticism and historical analysis. Through research-based courses, students cultivate connections between the studio arts and other fields of inquiry, intertwining visual and historical analyses with philosophical hypotheses and theoretical and political debates.

// ART HISTORY AND FINE ARTS, DUAL B.A.

The Bachelor of Arts dual degree in Art History and Fine Arts emphasizes a critical and creative relationship between content and form, awareness of art historical connections and engagement with diverse contexts of creative production. In today's world, artists must take an interdisciplinary approach to create innovative and interesting art, and at the Corcoran, students have the opportunity to put these skills into practice. With a more diverse background, our students are prepared to ideate richer subject matter, processes and outcomes.

// FINE ARTS B.A.

The Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts program allows students to balance fine arts courses with other academic programs of study by fostering an experimental approach to art-making. Less studio intensive than the B.F.A., this program offers coursework across a wide range of studio arts, including ceramics, photography, new media and graphic design. With a foundation in the liberal arts, this program emphasizes a critical and creative relationship between content and form as well as an awareness of art historical connections.

// FINE ARTS B.F.A.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fine Arts is a rigorous, studio-based program of study. Students begin with First Year Foundations to develop their studio skills in drawing, painting, photography, video, audio, design and sculpture. In subsequent semesters, fine arts studio and thesis courses, composed of content-driven assignments, guide students toward an increased understanding of their own artistic practices in relation to the contemporary art world. These allow focused work in any medium of the student's choosing. Senior year is devoted to the investigation, fabrication and exhibition of thesis projects – the culmination of the student's professional artistic development.

// PHOTOJOURNALISM B.F.A.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photojournalism program is an ideal training ground for a new generation of creative visual reporters and documentarians. Photojournalism majors learn the traditions of visual storytelling and are introduced to the new media skill sets required in this rapidly changing field. Faculty include working photographers from nationally recognized publications. The curriculum offers a fine arts component that underscores individual creativity with classes emphasizing the legal, ethical and economic challenges of photojournalism. Students take some courses through the GW School of Media and Public Affairs.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO MINOR WITHIN THE CORCORAN?

Yes, our minors are designed for students who may be studying in another field and want to add to their experience and knowledge in the arts. Having a background in another field of study allows students to widen their perspective.

WHAT ARE THE MINORS AVAILABLE AT THE CORCORAN?

Art History	Music
Dance	Photography
Fine Arts	Theatre
Graphic Design	

CAN I PURSUE A DOUBLE MAJOR OR DOUBLE DEGREE?

Yes, Corcoran students can choose to pursue additional majors or degrees during their time at GW, although time to completion depends on the choice of majors and degrees. Students should review the GW Bulletin carefully and work closely with their academic advisors to plan a program of study that meets both degree requirements.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

// GRAPHIC DESIGN B.F.A.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design program begins with a strong foundation in design principles and digital technologies, then progresses to more specialized courses in the discipline. Students study current industry practices and engage in dialogues about the role of design in contemporary society, culture and business, culminating in a two-semester thesis project in their senior year. Graphic design students focus on developing skills on developing skills to communicate visual messages and brand strategies in diverse media formats, including print, web, motion and mobile devices.

// INTERACTION DESIGN B.F.A.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interaction Design program engages students in critical thinking and problem-solving to reimagine how people interact with physical and digital environments. The curriculum focuses on creative coding, prototyping, visualization and development of narrative while preparing students to address human-centered solutions to complex design challenges. Through studio- and project-based study, students create platforms that reinvent mobile interfaces, develop new types of social networks, and innovate experiences people encounter when utilizing products, systems, devices and spaces.

// INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE B.F.A.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Architecture is the only program in the nation's capital that is accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation, and one of ten interior programs located at universities that rank in the top 70 of *U.S. News & World Report's* list of national research universities. With a focus on conceptual thinking and the design process, the program exposes students to many design methods and tools that encourage them to push the boundaries of creativity. Students take a core studio course along with two supporting courses that range from history to graphics to lighting. Students learn about habitable environments spanning from small interiors to larger, more complex commercial and institutional spaces.

// DANCE B.A.

The Bachelor of Arts in Dance features the practice of contemporary and post-modern dance techniques with emphasis on experimentation and choreography. Students study with dedicated faculty members who dance, choreograph and collaborate professionally worldwide. The program offers a wealth of opportunities for students to perform, create original work and engage deeply with an array of guest artists from around the globe. Students train in elements of dance production, dance history, world dance, improvisation and performance art. The degree is designed to be compatible with double majors across the university.

// MUSIC B.A.

The Bachelor of Arts in Music offers a broad base for understanding music as an art form and as a social, economic and political practice. Music faculty are active, published scholars and creative artists performing with, composing for and leading significant national and international ensembles in a variety of genres. The program offers courses in music theory, history, composition, ethnomusicology and electronic and computer music, as well as performance study opportunities in both private lessons and a variety of large and small ensembles. The curriculum builds a strong foundation for advanced music study in graduate school and entry into a variety of music-related professions.

// THEATRE B.A.

The Bachelor of Arts in Theatre immerses students in the art of theatre – its techniques, history and criticism – with an emphasis on experiential learning. The curriculum is designed to provide a firm grounding in all aspects of theatre, while giving students the opportunity to focus in a particular area such as acting, design, criticism or theatre of social change. The degree is strongly interdisciplinary, partnering with other programs and departments across the university. Study abroad is encouraged, as is the completion of a senior honors thesis, which can be oriented toward performance, production or scholarship.

CAN STUDENTS EXHIBIT WORK OR PERFORM ON CAMPUS?

Yes, students perform in dance, theatre and music productions and ensembles. Student-run galleries such as Gallery 102 show work year-round. Graduating students also participate in NEXT, the Corcoran's annual year-end show.



View NEXT



See Our Spaces

WHERE YOU'LL GO



MAGGIE CONTRERAS
B.A. THEATRE '06

Maggie Contreras is a director-producer behind award-winning films tackling a wide range of topics, from comics to solar energy. She recently produced Jonathan Scott's *Power Trip*, which followed the titular HGTV celebrity's journey across the US to examine how solar holds the key to energy freedom. Her digital series have been seen on AMC, NFL Network, Hulu and the Tribeca Film Festival. Before falling in love with documentary storytelling, Maggie began her career as an actor, appearing in *Criminal Minds* and *Law and Order*.



AVI GUPTA
B.F.A. '04

Avi Gupta works as director of photography for *U.S. News & World Report* and has taught as a part-time professor in photojournalism and fine art photography at the Corcoran. His works are held in the permanent collection of the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian's Asia Pacific Center in Washington, D.C., and have been showcased in solo shows at the Orlando Museum of Art, the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Art and the Nottingham Castle Museum.



A "Zoom" board from *Zoom Interiors*, Fischel-Bock's first company.

BEATRICE FISCHEL-BOCK
B.F.A. INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN AND FINE ARTS '13

Beatrice Fischel-Bock is the CEO and co-founder of Hutch, an online platform and mobile app that mixes 3D technology with online shopping to help users design their space. Her work has been featured on *Shark Tank*, and in 2018 she was named one of *Forbes*' "30 Under 30" in Retail and E-Commerce.



Hair Portrait #3, from *The Refutation of Good Hair*, 2012, by Nakeya Brown.

NAKEYA BROWN
M.F.A. '17

Nakeya Brown is a conceptual photographer known for her interpretation of the politics of black hair, examining how it relates to culture and identity. She has had her work featured on season one of the HBO series *Insecure*, *New York magazine*, *Dazed & Confused*, *The Fader*, *TIME* and *Vice*. Her work has been included in photography books *Babe* and *Girl on Girl: Art and Photography in Age of the Female Gaze*. She lives and works in Maryland with her daughters Mia and Ella.



WHERE OUR STUDENTS AND ALUMNI WORK

U.S. News & World Report
Politico
The Wall Street Journal
The Washington Post
National Geographic
Associated Press
Apple
Harper's Bazaar
Architectural Digest - Condé Nast

NBC
PBS
Newsweek
Smithsonian Institution
Shakespeare Theatre Company
Patron Magazine
DC Jazz Festival
The Kennedy Center
Washington Concert Opera

National Endowment for the Arts
AARP
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
Bust Magazine
National Gallery of Art
Philadelphia Museum of Art
The Walt Disney Company
Boon Paris, Darnoama (Cairo, Egypt)
Peretz Architecture (Tel Aviv, Israel)

THE GEORGE
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WASHINGTON, DC

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