

**Art History (MA) and Art History and Visual Culture (PhD)**

**School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design**

**Cyclical Program Review – 2007 - 2013**

**Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan**

**Reported to Joint-Committee on Quality Assurance: April 18, 2016**

**Program description**

There are two core graduate degree programs (MA and PhD) in Art History at York University. The MA in Art History was established in 1980 with an optional and concurrent Diploma in Curatorial Studies added in 2003. The MA is a 5 term, two year course of study comprising coursework and a Major Research Paper. The PhD in Art History and Visual Culture accepted its first students in 2008. The fields of study in the doctoral program are: Modern and Contemporary Art, Architectural Studies, Canadian and Aboriginal Art, Curatorial and Museological Studies.

In January 1999, the joint degree program MA (Art History)/MBA (Arts & Media Administration) was introduced. It allows students to earn both degrees after a three-year course of study. Graduates of this highly challenging program follow career paths in which knowledge of the arts, management, and business are required. This option is available for qualified students in all the graduate programs in Fine Arts.

Program	Accepts 2013	Enrolment FTES 2013	Degrees Awarded 2013
MA	11	22	12
PhD	3	12	

**Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:**

Denise Blake Oleksijczuk, Associate Professor, Art and Culture Studies, School for the Contemporary Arts, Simon Fraser University

Mark A. Cheetham, FRSC, Professor, Department of the History of Art, University of Toronto

Markus Reisenleitner, Graduate Program Director, Department of Humanities, York University

**Site Visit:** November 24, 2014

The Site visit included meetings with the Vice-Provost Academic, the Dean and Associate Dean of the School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design, the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Chair of the Department of Visual Art and Art History, faculty members, graduate students and staff, including the librarian.

**Outcome:**

The Joint-Committee on Quality Assurance concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations. The Dean of the School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design is responsible for implementing recommendations as per the Decanal Implementation Plan. Follow-up report due November 2017. The next Cyclical Program Review will begin in Fall 2019 and will align with the undergraduate program.

**Program Strengths:**

York's graduate programs in Art History and Visual Culture are distinctive for their strong ties with art institutions in Toronto. In addition to adjunct professors who work at the most



prestigious institutions in Toronto, placements at galleries and museums help students create professional networks before they graduate. The curriculum is at the forefront of disciplinary questions and concerns in art history and curatorial practice. The library holdings for graduate students in the MA, MBA and PhD programs are excellent. The special collection of Canadian and international artist books is a valuable research archive for these programs. Professional Development is one of the strongest features of the MA and PhD programs and several students reported that they came to York because of the special combination and integration of practical experience and academic study. Such EE internships are well planned and matched to the students' interests and academic needs.

### **Opportunities for Program improvement (selected)**

The Goldfarb Centre is an extremely important facility for graduate students of art history at York University, but is underutilized. Increased hours for the Goldfarb and other exhibition space would enhance the program's emphasis on offering its students opportunities for hands-on learning, particularly for students taking the Curatorial Diploma. Stronger links between the graduate programs in Art History and Visual Culture and the Art Gallery of York University would benefit faculty members who seek exhibition space and students looking for hands on experience. The review committee recommends the streamlining of fields over the longer term to build on strengths in Canadian, Indigenous, Museum/Curatorial, 19th- & 20th-C modern & contemporary art, and the retention and if possible augmentation the faculty complement in these areas especially.

### **Decanal Implementation Plan (selected):**

The Chair of the Department, in conjunction with the Dean, will keep the need for a specialist in indigenous art and visual culture at the forefront of complement planning. The Graduate Program Director and Associate Dean Students will work closely with the Art Gallery (AGYU) and the Goldfarb Centre to facilitate student opportunities. The Graduate Program Director will review the supervisory capacity for doctoral students and will participate in school-wide discussions on this matter. All of these initiatives will be addressed within the 2016-2017 year.

### **Executive Summary**

York's graduate programs in Art History and Visual Culture are distinctive for their strong ties with art institutions in Toronto. In addition to adjunct professors who work at the most prestigious institutions in Toronto, students placements at galleries and museums help them to create professional networks before they graduate. Strengthening the links between the graduate programs and the Art Gallery of York University would benefit both faculty members and students. The Dean's Implementation Plan has a focus on complement planning and discussions with the York University gallery spaces at York University to facilitate student and faculty opportunities.

Alice J. Pitt, Vice-Provost Academic