Art, B.A.

Art is a potent and positive force for change in contemporary society, and Cal Poly Humboldt’s Department of Art + Film is dedicated to educating the students who will shape the culture of our future. The hands-on techniques that you’ll learn in our small, intimate classrooms, studios, and galleries allow you to explore issues, ethics, history, and culture with a unique and personal vision in your career.

Experience Your Learning

With small class sizes and supported by well-equipped studio facilities, the Art program is hands-on, providing students a rigorous grounding in fundamentals and opportunities to push their limits of creativity.

- Cast and fabricate your creations in molten bronze at the foundry, where you’ll pour, fill, finish, polish, and patinate ideas into a three-dimensional reality.
- Manage the teapot show, a popular annual exhibition on campus of student teapot creations. Learn curatorial strategies, exhibition design, preparation and programming, and more.
- Develop curriculum and teach art in Humboldt’s Studio School, a class for local children and teens, as well as in local schools; and help prepare local high school students to serve as docents for local galleries and museums.
- Exhibit your work and creative concepts at any of our University art galleries and at ideaFest, a popular annual showcase of student and faculty work attended by hundreds of campus and local community members. Humboldt ceramics faculty and students have also participated in the California Conference for the Advancement of Ceramic Art, which helps promote Humboldt’s Art program to a wide audience.

Did you know?

- Art is one of the largest majors at Cal Poly Humboldt.
- There are three art galleries on campus, including the Goudi’ni Native American Arts Gallery, which highlights the work of contemporary and traditional Native American artists.
- Every second weekend of the month, downtown Arcata puts on Arts! Arcata. It’s a self-guided celebration of visual and performing arts, and a great opportunity to meet local artists and get to know the community.
Program Concentrations

Art Studio
Students learn processes and strategies used in creating works of art in various media through problem-solving assignments and accompanying instruction. Students are given the opportunity at the upper division level to concentrate on a particular studio area in depth, allowing them to prepare a portfolio for further professional opportunities or for postgraduate study.

Areas of focus include:
- Ceramics
- Digital Arts + Graphic Design
- Drawing and Painting
- Jewelry & Small Metals
- Photography
- Printmaking
- Sculpture

Art History & Museum Studies
Study the visual culture of the world, from prehistoric cave art to works being produced by artists active today. Explore works of art, plus the different geographies, histories, and cultural traditions that surrounded them.

Art Education
Gain the foundation needed to teach art in K-12 schools and prepare for California’s mandatory fifth-year, single-subject teaching credential program. Humboldt’s Art Department offers an approved subject matter waiver program through the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

Art, B.F.A.
The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree offers students the opportunity to further their studio art practice and to prepare for graduate school or professional art careers through a rigorous and focused course of study in the visual arts. Bachelor of Fine Arts students begin with the same core classes as Bachelor of Arts students, and apply for the Fine Arts program after their second year.

Minors & Certificates
- Art History & Museum Studies Minor
- Art Studio Minor
- Museum & Gallery Practices Certificate

Careers
With the Art degree (and the communication, organizational, and critical thinking skills that come with it) there’s so much you can do!
- Animator
- Art Critic
- Art Director
- Curator
- Exhibit Designer
- Fashion Designer
- Graphic Artist
- Illustrator
- Jeweler
- Photographer

There was something that just felt right about Humboldt. I fell in love with it. It was exactly what I needed, to have a more peaceful place to focus. It was a very reflective space where I could work on figuring out who I was.”

Felix Quintana (’14, Art), whose work is part of the Oakland Museum of California and Altamed Foundation art collections, and has been featured in the Los Angeles Times and on National Public Radio.