

# ART HISTORY IN CANADA PROJECT

## Department Fact Sheet

Prepared by Evonne Levy and Brooke Ferneti, Research Assistant, The Art History in Canada Project,  
University of Toronto

### University

University of Toronto (founded 1827)

### Founding Date of Department

1935

### Names of Department (include dates)

#### St. George campus (UTSG) 1935-

1934-46 Department of Fine Art (1934<sup>i</sup>–1946<sup>ii</sup>)

1946-62 Department of Art and Archaeology (1946<sup>iii</sup>–1962<sup>iv</sup>)

1962-2007 Department of Fine Art (1962–2007)<sup>v</sup>

2007-2015 Department of Art/Graduate Department of Art)<sup>vi</sup>

2015- Department of Art History (UG, UTSG)/Graduate Department of Art

#### Scarborough campus (UTSC) 1967-

1967-1998 Department of Fine Art

1998-2012 Visual and Performing Arts

2012-present Department of Arts, Culture, and Media

#### Mississauga campus (UTM) 1971-

1971-2004 Department of Fine Art

2004-2010 Centre for Visual and Media Culture

2010-present Department of Visual Studies

### History of Department Composition (i.e., Has art history been taught alone or alongside studio art, humanities, performing arts, etc.?) (include dates)

**UTSG:** Studio art and art history were present together from the founding of the department on the St. George campus in the 1930s until “Visual Arts” moved to the Faculty of Architecture in 2014. While initially, studio and art history were closely integrated, they eventually became distinct concentrations and have now separated entirely.

**UTM:** The art history program was from the beginning part of a collaborative program with a studio art faculty at Sheridan College. The collaborative Art and Art History program continues today with distinct faculties teaching in the program on the 2 campuses.

**UTSC:** From 1967-1972, only art history courses were offered in UTSC’s Fine Art Department. Studio arts became part of the curriculum in 1972 although art history remained a distinct concentration. Studio art is one of the programs, along with art history, residing in the Department of Arts, Culture

and Media.

### Degrees Offered (include dates)

#### UNDERGRADUATE

**1935:** BA “Fine Art” (Combined Studio and Art History)

**1969** Distinct BA in Art History and Studio art<sup>vi</sup> at UTSG

**1972** Art Education BA offered at Erindale College (UTM) in conjunction with Sheridan College

**1974** Scarborough (UTSC) offers BA in Art History

**1979** Art Education degree at Erindale (UTM) renamed “Art and Art History”

**1984** BA in Art History offered at Erindale (UTM)

**2003** Visual Culture and Communication Major offered at UTM (later also Visual Culture)

#### GRADUATE

**1940:** MA Art History

**1968:** PhD Art History

### Is visual culture or visual studies taught in your department? If so, when were tenure-stream faculty in these areas hired?

Of the three campuses at U of T, the department on the UTM campus has moved increasingly in the direction of visual culture and visual studies, as indicated by the name changes after 2004. The department has hired two faculty (Brian Price and Megan Sutherland) in moving images studies and has established a minor in cinema studies with a major being presented this year. Six other faculty members move between courses in art history and visual culture (three explicitly) as the department services 4 courses of study (combined studio and art history, art history, visual culture, cinema studies). The Director of the Blackwood Gallery a contemporary art gallery on the Mississauga campus, is appointed a lecturer and teaches two courses in curatorial studies.

### University Museum or Gallery (include date founded and relationship to department)

**The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM)** was formally part of the University of Toronto until 1955 when the two institutions were separated. ROM Curators, especially in ancient art and archaeology taught at the university even before the formation of the Department of Fine Arts.

**The Art Museum at the University of Toronto** is comprised of the **Justina M. Barnicke Gallery** (Hart House) and the **University of Toronto Art Centre** (University College). Located just a few steps apart, the two galleries were federated in 2014 and began operating under a new visual identity as the Art Museum at the University of Toronto, one of the largest gallery spaces for visual art exhibitions and programming in Toronto.<sup>viii</sup>

**The Blackwood Art Gallery** was founded at the University of Toronto Mississauga “Opened in 1969 as the Erindale College Art Gallery—the first public art gallery in the Peel region—the Gallery was renamed in 1992 in honour of Canadian artist David Blackwood who was artist-in-residence at UTM from 1967-1971 ([www.davidblackwood.com](http://www.davidblackwood.com)). The Blackwood family marked the occasion by making a significant gift of art works that remain a cornerstone of the Blackwood’s permanent collection.” The Gallery is fully integrated into curatorial studies courses, serves the MVS in Curatorial Studies program, as well as other departments on the UTM campus. Its exhibition program emphasizes

contemporary Canadian and international art.

The **Doris McCarthy Gallery** on the Scarborough campus serves a similar function as the Blackwood on its campus.

### Notable Events

See “More History of the University of Toronto” PDF

### Bibliography

“About Us.” *History of Art, Graduate Department of Art*. <http://art.utoronto.ca/about-us/>.

“Brieger, Peter H.” *Dictionary of Art Historians*. <https://dictionaryofarthistorians.org/briegerp.htm>.

Friedland, Martin. *The University of Toronto: A History*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2000.

“History.” *History of Art, Graduate Department of Art*. <http://art.utoronto.ca/about-us/history/>.

Panayotidis, Lisa E. “The Department of Fine Art at the University of Toronto, 1926–1945: Institutionalizing the 'Culture of the Aesthetic'.” *Journal of Canadian Art History / Annales d'histoire de l'art Canadien*, Vol. 25 (2004): 100-125.

Carrie L. Vassallo, “The Early Years of Art History in English-Speaking Canada: McMaster, Toronto and Queen’s Universities, ca. 1930-1945,” MA Thesis, UWO, 2001.

University of Toronto Archive, Special Collections, Princeton University.

---

<sup>i</sup> “About Us,” *History of Art, Graduate Department of Art*, <http://art.utoronto.ca/about-us/>.

<sup>ii</sup> Martin Friedland, *The University of Toronto: A History* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2000), 326.

<sup>iii</sup> Friedland, 326.

<sup>iv</sup> Lisa E. Panayotidis, “The Department of Fine Art at the University of Toronto, 1926–1945: Institutionalizing the 'Culture of the Aesthetic',” *Journal of Canadian Art History / Annales d'histoire de l'art Canadien*, Vol. 25 (2004): 122.

<sup>v</sup> 2007–2008 Calendar, pg. 70.

<sup>vi</sup> “About Us.”

<sup>vii</sup> John Rupert Martin in his report on the proposed PhD program (1968) recommended that art history and studio art be made distinct, following the example of many departments in the U.S. John Rupert Martin Papers, Special Collections, Princeton University.

<sup>viii</sup> <http://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/about-us/#mandate-history>