

Printmaking

Graduate Program Coordinator
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Printmaking Department
Rhode Island School of Design
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Providence, RI 02903 USA

About the Program

Integrating new artistic and technical approaches to printmaking with the great historical traditions of the medium, this two-year program encourages individual artistic growth through exploration of printed multiples. Exposure to critical insights from faculty, visiting artists and print-world professionals leads each student to advanced personal work responding to the issues that define the field today. Mastery of intaglio, lithography, screenprint, relief, photo and digital methods, with special emphasis on one area, ensures confidence in the professional arena. Intensive study of historical and contemporary prints in → **The RISD Museum** and other collections in the region provides inspiration through direct contact with original works of art.

The RISD Print Editions program publishes prints for artists-in-residence and allows time for critical interaction between visitors and students. Professional experiences are extended through off-campus internships during Wintersession and summer.

Individual Printmaking studios are located in a newly renovated building in downtown Providence near the RISD campus. This building is shared with the Sculpture, Photography and Painting Graduate Programs. Each studio is equipped with a computer hookup and Internet access. There is an intaglio editioning studio, a screen-printing facility (shared with the graduate Textiles program), a woodshop, a computer lab and spaces for student exhibitions and group critiques.

The Printmaking building, Benson Hall, is a three-story facility in the heart of the campus. Lithography, intaglio and screenprint each have their own floors. A computer lab, darkroom, exposing unit for photo methods, student-run gallery, and extensive paper and personal storage space round out the facility. State-of-the-art, industrial-grade ventilation provides utmost safety and utility, allowing a range of traditional and experimental printmaking explorations.

The program culminates in the completion of a mature body of work, supported by a written thesis developed in consultation with faculty, visiting artists and critics.

Enrollment

of currently enrolled graduate students: 16
of currently enrolled undergraduates: 39

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the technical facilities for printmaking at RISD?

RISD graduate students are free to work in two well-equipped buildings: Benson Hall, a multipurpose facility that includes digital and darkroom equipment as well as large areas for intaglio, silkscreen and lithography; and Mason Building, which offers a large print studio for producing private press editions.

Do graduate students get private studios?

Yes, each graduate student is given large private space in the Fletcher Building. These spaces are used 24 hours a day for individual studio practice and at times for individual critiques with visiting critics.

Is any financial aid available for Printmaking grad students?

Assistantships are available in which students receive a stipend for assisting the Printmaking faculty in a wide variety of courses and research projects.

Do graduate students teach courses of their own?

Yes, during the second year of study graduate students may teach a course that he or she conceives of and develops. This usually takes place over RISD's six-week Wintersession.

Are there opportunities for internships at professional printmaking workshops?

Many RISD graduate students have interned at major print workshops and with visiting artists.

GRADUATE STUDY

Application Requirements

Application Form + Fee

The graduate application form must be filled in completely and accompanied by a \$60 application fee (non-refundable).

Academic Transcripts

Applicants must submit official transcripts (displaying the registrar's signature and school seal) of all undergraduate and/or graduate study indicating satisfactory completion or evidence of anticipated completion of an undergraduate degree program from an accredited college or university.

An international student completing requirements for a diploma, rather than a degree, must submit a written statement prepared by an appropriate official at the school you are attending verifying the status of the diploma to be the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree in the United States. All academic credentials must be translated into English.

Letters of Recommendation

Applicants should arrange to have three letters of recommendation written by professors, instructors or professionals with whom you have recently worked or studied. These letters are required. We strongly suggest that your recommenders use our form (pdf), which you may →[download here](#). (Recommenders may also use their own stationery, but it is critical that they include your full name in their letter.) Each person who writes a recommendation should send it directly to the Admissions Office in time to meet the deadline of January 21, 2009.

Portfolio

Applicants are required to submit 10 to 20 examples of their work, reproduced as as digital image files on a CD or DVD. Each image should be submitted as a separate file in .jpg format. Individual file sizes should not exceed 3MB. Do not combine images in a prepared presentation or slideshow of any type (i.e. PowerPoint) and please do not affix any adhesive labels to your CD or DVD. You should also include a printed contact sheet/thumbnailed page of the images on your disk.

Time-based work or performance pieces may be submitted in video format or as QuickTime files on a CD or DVD.

Please include a work description sheet. Number the examples you are submitting and on your description page list the corresponding number, medium, size, date of completion and title for each work. It is very important that your full name and address are clearly noted on your CD/DVD and on your description sheet and thumbnail pages.

Please note: All portfolio materials will be handled with great care, but neither RISD nor the Admissions Office takes responsibility for loss or damage.

Statement of Purpose

Please submit a written statement (500-750 words) outlining your interest in graduate study. Please be certain to include your full name and address on your statement form.

TESTS

Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

Results from the Graduate Record Examination are not required for admission to this department.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

If English is not your native language, you must submit results from the TOEFL. Proficiency in English is a prerequisite for acceptance and applicants must attain an acceptable score on this test.

On the Internet-Based TOEFL (IBT), which is becoming more widely available, we expect a minimum score of 93. On the paper-based version, which is still in use in some testing centers, we expect a score of 580. Finally, some applicants may have taken the Computer-Based TOEFL (CBT), which uses a different scoring scale; we expect a result of at least 237 if you used this version of the test.

You should schedule to take the TOEFL well in advance of the application deadline you have chosen, as it may take (depending on the test center location and the test format) six weeks for your scores to be sent to RISD. Further information about TOEFL is available at →www.toefl.org.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Students may choose to submit their result from IELTS in place of TOEFL. RISD expects a minimum score of 6.5 from an IELTS examination. Further information is available at →www.ielts.org.

Summer Program in English Language Studies

The Summer Program in English Language Studies is recommended for non-native speakers of English who either need or would like to increase their fluency in listening, reading and/or writing formal English. The program runs for six weeks and prepares students for the regular RISD curriculum with a rich mix of classes. Students who successfully complete the summer program will receive three Liberal Arts elective credits.

During these classes, students listen to and write English, focusing on the specifics of art and design studies. In the reading and writing course, they develop critical reading and writing skills, whereas in the studio class they focus on the language of art critiques and develop self-confidence in speaking in front of their peers. Students in the summer program live on-campus in RISD's residence halls, make use of the collections of The RISD Museum of Art and the

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GRADUATE STUDY AT RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

Fleet Library at RISD, travel as a group to New York City and visit the many art galleries and smaller museums in and around Providence. During the six-week program, which begins in late June, students have the opportunity to practice both formal and informal English within the larger community of students who study at RISD during the summer months.

In rare circumstances, a student may be required to attend and successfully complete this program as a condition of their acceptance to RISD.

Curriculum

1st year

- Graduate Printmaking I + II
- Graduate Seminar
- Graduate Printmaking Projects I
- Advanced Printmaking Elective
- Liberal Arts
- Non-Major Elective
- Wintersession: Internship, International Study or Elective

2nd year

- Graduate Printmaking III + IV
- Graduate Seminar
- Graduate Printmaking Studio
- Thesis
- Advanced Printmaking Elective
- Portfolio Project (Single Edition)
- Liberal Arts
- Non-Major Elective
- Wintersession: Internship, International Study or Elective

Thesis

The program culminates in a mature body of work, supported by a written thesis developed in consultation with faculty, visiting artists, and critics. The Gabor Peterdi Graduate Purchase Prize is juried by the RISD Museum print curators to recognize excellence from the thesis body of work.

Equipment + Facilities

Mason Print Shop 004

- 1 American French Tool Etching Press, 36" X 60" bed size, excellent condition
- 1 Vandercook Offset Lithography Press
- 1 Small Ramec-Alan Marsland etching press, 20" X 36" bed size, recently reconditioned
- Inking tables for intaglio
- Shelves for ink storage
- Cabinet for flammable products
- 1 Drying Rack with vacuum motor for intaglio editions

- 1 Large Drying Rack for silkscreen prints
- 1 Large silkscreen vacuum printing table
- Several large and medium silkscreens with various mesh sizes
- Large storage cupboard for screens coated with photoemulsion
- Large Vacuum/Exposing Unit
- Large wash out sink with Pressure Washer
- Large rubber covered silkscreen printing table for Textile Grads for the printing of yardage

This studio is also stocked with inks for etching and silkscreen, bases and or inks for etching and silkscreen, solvents and screen cleaning products and assorted miscellaneous small tools and squeegees in assorted sizes, blotters, newsprint and a rag service. The Studio is equipped with two sets of overhead lights—white lights for working and yellow lights for photo-sensitive emulsions.

Benson Hall is primarily our undergraduate facility but grads have classes in Benson and contact between the grads and undergrads is encouraged. Benson Hall is a state-of-the-art facility and we continually repair, upgrade and purchase new equipment. Each floor is basically dedicated to one printmaking discipline. We also have a student run gallery on the first floor. All studios have excellent exhaust systems. All studios have rag service.

Lithography Studio, Benson Hall 101

- 2 Large Brand Lithography Presses, 36" X 54" bed size
- 1 Large American French Tool Lithography Press, 36" X 54" bed size
- 1 Large Takach Lithography Press, 36" X 54" bed size
- 1 Small lithography press
- Large wash out and graining sink
- Litho plate processing sink and acid room with flammable cabinet and acid cabinet
- Stone storage for small, medium and large litho stones
- 1 Large Drying Rack

Intaglio Studio, Benson Hall 206

- 1 Large Brand Etching Press, 36' X 60" bed size
- 1 Large American French Tool Etching Press, 36" X 60" bed size
- 1 Small American French Tool Etching Press, 20" X 36" bed size
- 1 Drying Rack with vacuum motor for intaglio editions
- 3 Inking tables
- 1 Jump Cutter Metal Shear
- Paper soaking sink and clean paper area
- Flammable storage cabinets and clean up area
- Stone wash out sink
- 4 large acid bins, 2 for Ferric Chloride, 2 for Nitric Acid
- Hot plate area with a counter for coating plates
- Flammable cabinet for grounds and solvents
- Hot inking stand
- Rosin Box
- Rosin oven with hood exhaust
- Spray paint aquatint booth
- We also supply some inks, blotters, newsprint, files, c-clamps, etc.

Silkscreen Studio, Benson Hall 306

10 silkscreen vacuum printing tables for medium screens

1 Large vacuum printing table

1 Large motorized one-arm squeegee printing table

Screens

Squeegees

Screen storage racks for dry screen and photo-emulsion coated screens

Flammable cabinets with clean up area

1 Large wash out sink with high-powered

Quicky Pressure Washer

1 Small wash out and coating sink with garden hose spray wash-out

Large Vacuum/Exposing Unit

Small Nu Arc Vacuum/Exposing Unit

Steel facing tank

Small darkroom

Computer Lab, Mac G4, scanner and printers

Large scale Hewlett-Packard Design Jet 800ps

Campus Locations

Benson Hall

235 Benefit Street

Fletcher studios

CIT complex, 169 Weybosset Street

Faculty

department head

→ **Henry Ferreira**

Associate Professor

BFA, Southeastern Massachusetts University

MFA, Rhode Island School of Design

full-time

Cornelia McSheehy

Professor

BFA, Massachusetts College of Art

MA, State University of New York at Albany

Randa Newland

Professor

BFA, Southwest Missouri State University

MA, MFA, University of Iowa

Andrew Raftery

Professor

BFA, Boston University

MFA, Yale University

Brian Shure

Assistant Professor

BA, Antioch College

Duane Slick

Professor

BFA, University of Northern Iowa

MFA, University of California at Davis

adjunct faculty

Shawn Greenlee

BFA, Rhode Island School of Design

MA, PhD, Brown University

Daniel Heyman

BA, Dartmouth College

MFA, University of Pennsylvania

Heddi Siebel

BFA, Rhode Island School of Design

MFA, Yale University

Paul Taylor

BA, Evergreen State College

MFA, Rhode Island School of Design

Chris Ulivo

BFA, Tyler School of Art

MFA, Rhode Island School of Design

Recent Visiting Designers + Critics

→ **Rosemarie Bernardi**

Leslie Bostrom

Melissa Brown

Joe Buzzell

→ **Squeak Carnwath**

Benigna Chilla

Brian Chippendale

Rachelle Ciccone

Jim DiMarcantonio

Wendy Edwards

→ **Cindi Ettinger**

Wendy Ewald

Joanne Greenbaum

Kirsten Hassenfeld

Adam Helms

Matthew Day Jackson

Michael Krueger

Helen Molesworth

Paul Mullowney

Gunther Nitschke

→ **Jamisen Ogg**

Nel Pak

Jürgen Partenheimer

Sheila Pepe

Judy Pfaff

Veronika Schapers

Howard Singerman

Katherine Stewart

Ruby Skye Stiler

James Stroud

Richard Ziemann