

Career possibilities for art historians and studio artists, organized by SUBJECT AREA

<i>Education</i>	Elementary or secondary College or university Slide librarian or visual resources curator Art librarian, audiovisual librarian, or film librarian Curator or gallery director for college/university galleries Museum Educator (develops and supervises educational or outreach programs)
<i>Art therapy</i>	Schools and mental health organizations Hospitals Private practice
<i>Museums</i>	Director, administration, marketing, grant writing Curator and research positions Registrar (handles documentation, transportation, insurance, etc.) Visual resources librarian/Archivist Exhibit designer Installation specialist or preparator Museum educator or Director of Education Reproductions and retailing Conservation, restoration, and preservation of art objects
<i>Arts administration and management</i>	University administration/art school administration Nonprofit or community-based arts organizations Government-funded arts organizations Curator for corporate or private art collections Gallery director for nonprofit organizations Lawyer or accountant specializing in arts issues
<i>Sales and marketing</i>	Commercial gallery owner or art dealer Auction houses: many specialties – see sothebys.com or christies.com Estate appraiser Antiques dealer Antiquarian book or print dealer Corporate or private art consultant Artists' agent Photographers' representative

Commercial publishing and writing

Art journalist, art critic/reviewer, art-related travel writing
Photo editor for magazines, newspapers, publishing houses
Picture researcher (stock photo houses)

Restoration and preservation

Architectural Restoration consultant
Conservator or restorer

Fine artist, self-supporting through sale of work or by accepting commissions

Career Alternatives for Art Historians is an excellent resource for ideas and information on careers beyond the immediately obvious option of teaching:

<http://www3.nd.edu/~crosenbe/jobs.html>

Some commercial and professional applications of studio art

Graphic design

Web design or website development
Corporate design (logos, corporate identity)
Information design (signs, symbols, maps, charts, graphs, ballots, etc.)
Interface design for interactive software
Print design in general (all formats)
Editorial design (magazines, newspapers)
Typographic design
Book design
Production artist (layout editor, prepress specialist)

New media/multimedia

Website design
Virtual reality production for museums, architects and realtors
Interactive design and game development

Advertising

Creative director/Art director/Assistant in advertising design

<i>Illustration</i>	<p>Editorial/journalistic (all formats)</p> <p>Scientific, medical, and forensic visualization</p> <p>Journalistic/documentary</p> <p>Children's books</p>
<i>Photography</i>	<p>Commercial/advertising</p> <p>Portrait</p> <p>Freelance journalist</p>
<i>Industrial design</i>	<p>Design of commercially mass-produced objects (clothing, textiles, toys, vehicles, tools . . . anything mass-produced has been designed)</p>
<i>Artisanal or fine crafts</i>	<p>Jewelry, furniture, ceramics, glass, metals, decorative painting, murals</p>
<i>Exhibit design</i>	<p>Corporate or retail displays, museums</p> <p>Multimedia/virtual reality specialist (museums, environmental design)</p>
<i>Environmental design</i>	<p>Architecture</p> <p>Historic preservation and adaptive reuse</p> <p>Landscape architecture (design and planning of outdoor spaces)</p> <p>Landscape restoration specialist</p> <p>City or town planner</p> <p>Interior architecture (fits out interior spaces, incl. lighting, acoustics, etc)</p> <p>Interior design or interior decoration</p>
<i>Theater design</i>	<p>Sets, props, lighting, costumes</p> <p>Scenic artist/scenic painter</p>
<i>Film, television, video</i>	<p>Editing, cinematography, directing, art direction</p> <p>Set/production design</p> <p>Motion graphics: animation and effects</p> <p>Electronic graphics/post-production</p>

Some art-related careers, organized BY MINIMUM CREDENTIAL or TRAINING REQUIRED

*Bachelor's degree in art history or studio art, plus appropriate internship(s) and/or portfolio.
Substantial on-the-job or internship experience can substitute for a BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) or MFA degree in some design fields.*

Museum work, including but not limited to:

- Researcher/curatorial assistant
- Exhibit designer/installation specialist/preparator
- Apprentice in conservation department (requires some science courses)
- Registrar or Assistant Registrar
- Writing or assisting in the production of publications, including public relations
- Development, fund-raising
- Community outreach and education programs
- Website design and maintenance, development of interactive content
- Reproductions and retailing

Teaching art in a private or religious school, K - 12

Nonprofit or community-based arts organizations (administration or teaching)

Sales and marketing

- Entry-level positions in auction houses
- Estate appraiser
- Antiques dealer, antiquarian book or print dealer
- Commercial gallery owner or assistant
- Corporate or private art consultant
- Artists' agent
- Photographers' representative
- Sales representative or demonstrator for art supply manufacturers

Publishing/editorial work

- Writing or research for art-related publications
- Photo editor/picture researcher

Commercial art and design fields

Graphic design

- Web design/website development, interface design
- Corporate design (logos, corporate identity)
- Information design (sign symbols, maps, charts, graphs, ballots, etc.)
- Information architecture/interface design
- Print design in general
- Editorial design (magazines, newspapers)
- Book design
- Typographic design
- Production artist (layout editor, prepress specialist)

Advertising and promotion: Creative director/Art director/Assistant

Illustration

- Editorial/journalistic

- Scientific and forensic (require some science background)

- Children's books

Photography

- Commercial/advertising, portrait

- Biological, medical or scientific (requires some science background)

- Journalistic/documentary

Industrial design (design of commercially mass-produced objects)

Clothing or textile design

Design and production of handcrafted objects: furniture, textiles, jewelry, glass, ceramics

Interior design, interior decoration

Exhibit design (corporate or retail displays, trade shows, museums, galleries)

- Multimedia/virtual reality specialist (museums, architecture and environmental design firms)

Theater: sets, props, lighting, costumes, scenic artist

Film, television, and video production

- Editing, cinematography, directing, art direction

- Motion graphics: animation and special effects

- Electronic graphics/post-production

Freelance fine artist or artisan

BA plus teaching certificate, with Masters degree in teaching (MAT) within five years

Elementary or secondary art education in public schools

Specialized or professional Masters degree following a BA

Environmental design (requires some math plus physics or biology before graduate program) Architecture (M.Arch)

- Design of private and commercial buildings

- Historic preservation and adaptive reuse

Interior architecture

Landscape architecture (M.L.Arch)

- Design of private and commercial landscapes (gardens, campuses, parks, etc.) Landscape preservation and restoration

Medical illustration (requires extensive science coursework) –MFA in biomedical illustration

Color chemist, technical specialist for art supply manufacturers (Master of Science degree) Art therapy (specialized M.A. or M.S., coursework in psychology and counseling)

Art librarian, audiovisual librarian, or film librarian (MLS, Master of Library Science)

College or university-level art teaching in studio art (MFA, Master of Fine Arts)

M.F.A. (Master of Fine Arts) in printmaking, plus specialized apprenticeship

Master printer for fine art prints

Specialized apprenticeship, with or without Masters degree in art conservation

Conservation, restoration, and preservation of art objects, in museums or private practice (requires coursework in chemistry and physics at undergraduate level or before graduate training)

M.A. (Master of Arts) in art history OR M.F.A in studio art

Art journalist, art critic/reviewer

Visual resources curator for colleges/universities

Curator/gallery director for college/university galleries

Curator for corporate or private art collections

Gallery director for nonprofit organizations

Assistant or junior curator in a museum

Slide librarian/Archivist in a museum

Museum educator or Director of Education

MA in Art History

Higher-level positions in art auction houses (Sotheby's, Christie's)

Ph.D (Doctorate) in Art History

Museum director

Head or high-level curator in a museum

College or university professor of art history

Updated 11/14/14

L. Curtis