An Artist's Career Path

Our BFA degree programs have two main objectives: to help students develop the commitment and skills necessary to pursue a career in art; and to prepare students for graduate work. Outcomes for artists are very different than for other majors – “career success” can be defined as selling work, exhibiting at shows and galleries, freelancing, and many other activities. For that reason, the CDC provides services to artists in all these areas.

Sample Job Titles

- Studio artist
- Photographer
- Artist-in-residence
- Illustrator
- Website designer
- Advertising artist
- Graphic designer
- Art teacher/instructor
- Art director
- Museum curator
- Animator
- Industrial designer
- Restorer
- Slide registry librarian
- Archivist
- Conservator
- Education director
- Fashion illustrator
- Film editor/producer
- Buyer
- Set designer
- Model maker
- Furniture designer
- Critic
- Communications assistant
- Visual merchandising manager
- Interior designer
- Art appraiser
- Gallery assistant
- Art therapist

Our Graduates... Where Are They Now?

Within the past few years, graduates have obtained employment as:

- Hot Glass Instructor – Corning Museum
- Artistic Coordinator – MD Productions
- Internal Design and Marketing Representative – Capital Printing Ink
- Wax sculpture worker – New Arts
- Foundry/The Bee Folks
- Curator – Poplar Hill Mansion
- Photo Editor – Totsy
- Education Coordinator – 516 Arts
- Assistant to an Executive Producer – Fox
- Television Animation
- Sculpture Department/Glass Instructor – Bella Design/More Fire Glass Studio
- Scenic Painter – Adirondack Scenic Inc.
- Potter – MacKenzie Childs, Moravian Pottery & Tileworks
- Production Manager – Lifetouch, Inc.
- Gallery Docent – Wayne County Arts Alliance
- Graphic Designer – OfficeMax (Corporate Headquarters)
- Kids Accessory Designer – Accessory Network Group
- Production Manager, Jewelry Reproduction – Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Costume Maker – Izquierdo Studio
- Furniture Designer/Painter – MacKenzie Childs Ltd.
- Shoe Designer – MiuMiu (Prada)
- Fabrication Specialist – Shedd Aquarium
- Ceramic Art Instructor – 171 Cedar Arts Center
Automotive Sculptor – General Motors of North America
Graphic Designer – Time Magazine
Tile Designer – Elon Tile
Fabricator- Rolls Royce

...and have attended graduate school at:

SUNY Albany (Sculpture) Boston University (Education)
SUNY New Paltz (Sculpture) Concordia University (Art Therapy)
School of Visual Arts (Photography, Video & Related Media) Rhode Island School of Design
California College of the Arts (Architecture) School of the Art Institute of Chicago (Art Therapy)
Lesley University (Creative Arts Learning) University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Florida Atlantic University (Landscape Architecture) California Institute of the Arts (Film/Video)
Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (Ceramics) Nazareth College (Art Therapy)
Seton Hall Law School (Law) Ohio State University (Ceramics)

Alumni who graduated several years ago have obtained employment as:

Professional Artist – Self-Employed (many)
Professor of Art – University of Miami
Artist - Mulcahy Desmett Art Associates
Graphic Designer – Vignelli Associates
Associate Art Director – Harry Abrams Publishing
Co-Director - Maryland Institute for Individual & Family Therapy
Managing Director – Pope Theatre Company
Art Director – George Eastman House
Fashion Designer – Bye Bye Designs
Assistant Professor of Sculpture- Alfred University

Get experience on campus

Try to get involved on campus in activities or organizations related to your area of interest. For example, if your dream is to become a designer for Nike, volunteer to take on freelance design projects to build your portfolio. Some campus organizations, clubs, or offices through which you can gain relevant experience include:

- Assist a visiting artist or faculty member
- Work in the art department of the Fiat, the Kanakadea Yearbook, Poesis, etc.
- The Art Union
- The Art Therapy Club
- Show your work as much as possible on campus and around town. Talk to a CDC staff member about finding opportunities outside Alfred.
- Work with performing arts organizations (Friday Night Live, Pirate Theatre, and AU Performing Arts) to design sets, lighting, costumes, props, etc.
- Get involved with other clubs and organizations that will allow you to create for them, to build your portfolio

Where to go from here?

- Individual career counseling for anything from choosing a major to getting a job
- Saxon Job Link web services (www.alfred.edu/cdc) to view jobs and internships, post a resume and more
- Saxon Career Volunteer network – speak to alumni in your career field
- Web resources: www.artjob.com, www.artswire.org, or contact the CDC for additional possibilities

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