

Implementation Plan

1. Cover memo

Department of Art History

Year of appraisal 2015

To: Dr. Cathy Bolton, Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning
From: Dr. Rebecca Duclos, Dean
Faculty of: Fine Arts
Date: December 19, 2016

Please find enclosed the finalized Implementation Plan for the Department cited above as part of the academic program appraisals process. This Plan was duly discussed with:

- ✓ The Department Chair
- ✓ The Dean of Graduate Studies (if applicable)

As mentioned in the Concordia University Academic Program Appraisals Manual, 5th edition revised, the Faculty and Department will follow-up on this Plan in two years, when prompted by your office.

Sincerely,

Faculty Dean's name Dr. Rebecca Duclos

Faculty Dean's signature



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2. Summary

Department Overview

The Department of Art History creates a dynamic pedagogical environment for students at all levels. Teaching and research in the department cover historical, modern, and contemporary topics, encompassing various forms of art and architecture. Professors use multiple theoretical and methodological axes in their own research, and introduce these to students. The history of art is thus approached in interdisciplinary terms, while in general terms the department is committed to socially engaged scholarship.

Programs offered by the department:

Undergraduate

Major in Art History

Major in Art History and Film Studies

Major in Art History and Studio Art

Minor in Art History (not part of the appraisal)

Graduate

MA in Art History

PhD in Art History (part of another appraisal process)

Research Strengths and Opportunities

Researchers in the department have advanced the discipline. Most faculty members have made significant contributions to feminist/gender studies and the department is also at the forefront of Canadian art history. The department also has a significant reputation for looking beyond traditional art history media, for example working with postcards, photography, craft, place-based and vernacular studies, voice, sound, and performance. Faculty research goes beyond these foundations to include post-colonial, settler societies, indigeneity and diasporic studies, and also now firmly embracing new media.

Collaborative work among colleagues and with students continues to be a strength of the Department. As Concordia New Scholar Research Chair in Indigenous Studies and Community Engagement and active teacher in her research area, Prof. Heather Igloliorte has organized a vibrant group of PhD, MA and senior undergraduate researchers through the Indigenous Art Research Group (IARG). Prof. Johanne Sloan's recently awarded SSHRC Insight grant on Networked Art Histories will inevitably secure the department's leadership in the study of late modern and

contemporary art. Beyond these examples, the success in obtaining research funding is extraordinary for an Art History department.

The department's archives, particularly the Canadian Women's Art History Initiative (CWAHI), co-founded by former Concordia University Research Chair Prof. Kristina Huneault, provide a unique and important resource. The work of the Jarislowsky Institute for the Study of Canadian Art, directed by endowed chair Prof. Martha Langford, connects senior scholars and faculty working in the study of Canadian art across the country. The student-led Ethnocultural Art Histories Research Group (EAHR), with the guidance of Prof. Alice Jim, also draws together senior and emerging scholars with students both within and beyond the university. The number of student-led initiatives, including groups, journals, conferences, exhibitions and catalogues showcases the level of both student-led research and student-faculty collaborations.

Key Recommendations

In order to build on the department's strengths and to address some of the challenges, and as an accompaniment to the recommendations made by the DAC, the EE, and the UAC, the dean's office offers specific Faculty recommendations. Key points are outlined below – and all are outlined in the table on the following pages.

The department has been advised by the EE to continue to prioritize a tenure-track appointment in the art history of the Americas. As hires are approved at the level of the provost's office, this cannot be guaranteed. Nonetheless, it is possible for the department to begin the important work of creating the curricular basis for this hire by creating one or more Special Topics courses in 2017-18. The dean's office supports the development of this area of study and research.

The department has been engaged in very productive conversations with the dean's office and the office of Student Academic Services to rethink methods of undergraduate advising in the department. The department is advised to institute a position of Undergraduate Advisor, in order to give students a full-time faculty point person for advising questions. This position may also serve as the department's chief liaison for undergraduate recruitment and may include a role coordinating professional and experiential learning opportunities for students. This may be a way of integrating the internship course more fully within the department's offerings, as recommended by the EE, consolidating advising and aiding with retention. As this three-part role would be a serious service commitment, it may be advisable to create a pilot internship project to determine its workload implications.

The DAC report and the EE report indicate that an additional 3 credits should be allocated for an MA seminar to be added to the graduate course offerings. It is not yet clear to the dean's office that there is sufficient enrollment in the program to justify this addition. The department is encouraged to assess the number of Independent Studies approved for graduate students, in case this is adversely affecting seminar enrollment. In addition, the department should strongly consider admitting MA students to PhD-level courses in cases where MA students possess the

qualifications and/or language skills. Seminar enrollment numbers will continue to be monitored to determine if additional sections are required to meet student demand.

Strengthening the MA program is a priority. The dean's office agrees that the department should continue to explore the creation of an interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Curatorial Studies. As a first step, the department might consider the idea of a course-based stream within its current MA program. It could require curatorial or exhibition-based work in place of a thesis. Positive response would be indicative of interest in the more comprehensive certificate program.

The dean's office encourages the department to provide the GradProSkills program with feedback on its workshops and with ideas for possible offerings suitable for students in art history programs. GradProSkills provides workshops in a variety of areas: career building, communication, language training, leadership and management, success in graduate school, and teaching, among others. Within these areas, workshops could be targeted towards students working in fine arts fields. Collaborating with GradProSkills would be highly beneficial for art history students.

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3. Recommendations

The Faculty Dean is invited to include a numbered list of recommendations for improvement, as well as a rationale and implementation schedule (an Excel spreadsheet is also available by request to the Appraisal Coordinator).

Recommendations	Prioritized timeline for completion	Responsibility	Dean's comments and resource implications
<p>1. In the area of faculty renewal, the department is strongly encouraged to continue to prioritize a new tenure-track hire in the area of the art history of the Americas as a way to expand beyond its existing strengths. The department is encouraged to lay the curricular groundwork by developing and running Special Topics courses in this area.</p> <p>Rationale: Given that new hires will depend on Faculty-wide needs and final approval at the provost level, it is not possible to guarantee when the department will receive approval for tenure-track hiring. Nevertheless, it should be possible to begin this important expansion of the curriculum in the next departmental timetable.</p>	2017-18	Chair, Full-time Faculty	

<p>2. The department is encouraged to initiate a working group to develop a Minor in the History of Architecture and the Built Environment. It is promising that the department has received initial support from the Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment as well as from the Department of Design and Computation Arts.</p> <p>Rationale: The study of architecture and the built environment is an area of future growth for Fine Arts and for the university. A cross-faculty Minor would be a welcome addition to the array of Minor options.</p>	<p>2018-2019</p>	<p>Members of the Department Curriculum Committee, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, Faculties of Fine Arts and Arts and Science</p>	<p>Erica Howse, Facilitator in the dean's office, can provide curriculum development support.</p>
<p>3. The DAC and EE indicate the importance of securing additional funding for graduate student support. Funding for graduate students is a concern across the faculty and the university. The Associate Dean, Research will continue to work with the department and with the Office of Advancement & Alumni Relations to build a case for additional funding.</p> <p>Rationale: Financial support for graduate students is well below levels offered by Concordia's competitor programs.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Associate Dean, Research; Graduate Program Director, Art History; Fine Arts Advancement officer</p>	

<p>4. The DAC and the EE reports indicate that an additional MA seminar should be added to the graduate course offerings. The department is encouraged to assess the number of Independent Studies approved for graduate students, in case this affects seminar enrollment. The School of Graduate Studies should compile and publicize lists of available graduate seminars across the university in order to encourage students to identify relevant electives in other programs. The dean's office will continue to monitor seminar enrollment numbers to determine if additional sections are required to meet student demand.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Associate Dean, Academic Affairs; Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies; Chair and GPD, Art History; Manager, Student Academic Services, Fine Arts.</p>	
<p>Rationale: At current enrollment levels, seminars are not oversubscribed.</p>			
<p>5. The Department is strongly encouraged to establish the position of Undergraduate Program Advisor, assigning one full-time faculty member to hold the position for a rotating three-year term. The incumbent should lead stewardship of undergraduate programs and should serve as the liaison on matters pertaining to recruitment. The responsibilities may also include coordinating the internship course, with a pilot project to determine the workload implications of such a service commitment.</p>	<p>Position should take effect May, 2018</p>	<p>Chair, Full-time Faculty</p>	

<p>Rationale: Currently, too much advising work is done by administrative staff. And program recruitment should not be entirely on the shoulders of the department chair, but rather should be shared by the chair, the new undergraduate advisor, and the GPD, with the full support of the office of student recruitment and university communication services. As well, the internship course should be consolidated under the guidance of a faculty member who could build and sustain professional networks for student placements and whose role would fully integrate this experiential learning into the offerings of the department.</p>			
<p>6. The department chair is strongly encouraged to work closely with the office of student recruitment to review and refine its recruitment plan, including but not limited to visits to CEGEPs and other potential feeder schools. The department should also undertake a rewrite of its website narrative and calendar program descriptions, in collaboration with the Fine Arts communications advisor, in order to more accurately and creatively reflect current research and teaching.</p>	<p>Recruitment planning should be ongoing; website and program description review in 2017</p>	<p>Undergraduate Program Advisor (as per #5 above) or Chair, Graduate Program Director, Fine Arts Recruitment Officer, Fine Arts</p>	<p>The Faculty of Fine Arts will work with all departments to discuss improving recruitment plans and forging links with CEGEPs and high schools.</p>

<p>Rationale: The DAC and EE have identified recruitment and communications as linked areas in need of serious attention, specifically in order to reach out to prospective students for the department's programs as well as to communicate its research strengths more broadly.</p>		Communications Advisor	
<p>7. The dean's office suggests that the department explore the creation of an interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Curatorial Studies. It also suggests that a good first step might be a course-based stream within the current MA, where curatorial or museum-based work might take the place of a thesis.</p>	2017-18	Department curriculum committee; Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, Fine Arts	Erica Howse, Facilitator in the dean's office, can provide curriculum development support.
<p>Rationale: Strengthening the MA is a priority for both the department and the dean's office. This suggestion would allow interest to be assessed prior to developing the full certificate program.</p>			
<p>8. The department is encouraged to provide its feedback and suggestions to the GradProSkills program so that workshops targeting students in Fine Arts fields can benefit.</p>		School of Graduate Studies; Centre for Teaching and Learning	
<p>Rationale: Current SGS workshop offerings for graduate students are useful, but often too generalized to be of use for students in Art History or other Fine Arts studies areas.</p>			

<p>9. The department is encouraged to continue its curriculum review process, including program narratives and course descriptions and titles, in order to bring these in line with current conversations in the field and with research interests of the faculty.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Department Curriculum Committee; Department Council</p>	<p>Erica Howse, Facilitator in the dean's office, can provide curriculum development support.</p>
<p>Rationale: This is curriculum review work that should be undertaken periodically in all departments.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Department Council, Chair, Part-time representative</p>	
<p>10. The department should continue to ensure the open and clear pathways for communication with part-time faculty. The part-time representative on the department's council should regularly report back to colleagues and bring their concerns in for discussion.</p>			
<p>Rationale: All part-time instructors in the department should feel connected to the curricular vision and should be made aware of special events and initiatives.</p>			