



**THE DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTER**

Department of Visual Arts and Art History

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To: Graduate Programs Committee,

From: Linda K Johnson  
Chair, Department of Visual Arts and Art History

Date: February 24, 2011

RE: Master of Fine Art in Visual Arts – concentration changes  
Add concentration: Book Arts, Drawing, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture  
Change concentration name: Graphic Design to Visual Communication Design  
Remove concentration: Computer Arts

The M.F.A. in Visual Arts is a terminal graduate level degree program. The Department of Visual Arts and Art History (VAAH) in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters proposes to add 5 concentration areas to the existing M.F.A. in Visual Arts and remove one concentration. Currently, the M.F.A. in Visual Arts offers concentrations in Ceramics and Painting on the Boca Raton Campus and Graphic Design and Computer Arts on the Fort Lauderdale Campus.

**ADDING CONCENTRATIONS:** VAAH proposes to add concentration in all areas that are served by one or more tenure-line faculty members in the Department. This would expand the concentrations on the Boca Raton campus to include Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, Photography, Printmaking and Sculpture. The Book Arts concentration would be added to the concentrations as a multi-campus program to utilize faculty expertise in Fort Lauderdale and the Jaffe Center for Book Arts on the Boca Raton Campus. All areas listed are served by tenure-line faculty and would not require any additional faculty lines.

**REMOVE CONCENTRATION:** VAAH proposes to remove the concentration Computer Arts from the M.F.A. in Visual Arts. The School of Communication has been approved to offer an M.F.A. in Multi-media Studies inclusive of the Computer Arts in Animation curriculum. The Department has not accepted new students into this concentration the past two semesters. The students currently in the concentration are scheduled to graduate within the next year. The Department of Visual Arts and Art History will honor its commitment to the five students currently enrolled in this concentration. These students will be able to complete their degrees with full access to the 5000 and 6000 level courses offered through the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A) in the Visual Arts graduate program or through course offering in the M.F.A in Multi-media Studies through the School of Communications.

**FACULTY IMPACT:** The proposed changes would utilize the full roster of tenure line faculty in the department and would not require new tenure faculty lines. The current program limits MFA in Visual Arts students to 4

concentrations in a department that houses tenure faculty lines in 8 studio arts/design areas. This puts the burden of administering the program and thesis advising on faculty in those 4 areas. To open the program to all concentrations with tenure line positions would more fully utilize the range of expertise offered by the Visual Arts and Art History faculty and more efficiently distribute the graduate level teaching and thesis advising to all tenure line faculty in the department. This would engage all full-time faculty in the graduate program and facilitate the goal of the Department to increase enrollment in the M.F.A. and encourage applications from a larger pool of qualified applicants.