

VISUAL ARTS

The visual arts program at Loomis Chaffee is centered in the Richmond Art Center, which offers professional studios in drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, photography, computer graphics, video production, filmmaking, and animation. Exhibits in the Sue and Eugene Mercy Jr. Gallery show work by professional artists, and an active Visiting Artist Program brings professional artists on campus to work in the building and to serve as role models for students. Art courses are designed for all students, regardless of previous experience or ability, and are open to students in all classes unless otherwise indicated. New students who wish to be excused from a prerequisite must present a portfolio of work to be evaluated by the Art Department prior to registration for an advanced class. Students whose portfolios are not deemed adequate will be required to take the prerequisite.

Students enrolled in visual arts courses are required to attend visiting artist lectures, demonstrations, and gallery openings. Classes may take field trips to art galleries and museums. Opportunities to study from a live model are incorporated into the Advanced Drawing and Sculpture courses.

To be competitive for admission to art schools and/or to establish a strong body of artwork for liberal arts college applications, a serious student should plan to take art each year and the CL Seminar course as a senior. (Juniors may enroll with permission of the department head.) A serious art student should take the drawing sequence before the senior year. Help in planning can be obtained from the department head early in the student's career.

The school's arts requirement of three courses for entering freshmen or two courses for all others may be satisfied by any combination of visual arts, daytime dance, theater, or music courses.

For information on courses designated *GESC*, please refer to pages 5–6.

Visual Arts Electives

Drawing I (*term course*)

Drawing I (*half course*)

This course builds basic drawing skills, which form the foundation for later creative work in drawing as well as in all other media. Class work introduces students to observational drawing and to techniques used to represent the three-dimensional world on a two-dimensional surface. Through the study of still life and other imagery, students work in pencil, charcoal, and pen and ink to learn about line, value, and rudimentary issues of composition. The class is designed to benefit all levels of ability, from beginner to individuals with experience.

Drawing II

half course

This course continues lessons begun in Drawing I and maintains a progression toward a greater understanding of observational drawing with an emphasis on composition. Through diverse media and source materials, students also have the opportunity to explore and develop personal imagery. Various materials are introduced, and students may work from the live model to study figure drawing and/or portraiture. Prerequisite: Drawing I

Introduction to Printmaking (*term course*)

Introduction to Printmaking (*half course*)

This course introduces students to two printmaking techniques: relief and etching. In relief, students complete several linoleum block prints beginning with a black-and-white image and progressing to a more complex, color, and multiple-block print. In etching, students explore the basic technique of soft-ground etching on a copper plate and may be introduced to the technique of aquatint. This class is designed for the beginning art student.

Ceramics I (*GESC*) (*term course*)

Ceramics I (*GESC*) (*half course*)

These courses introduce the student to the physical properties of clay as well as firing and glazing techniques. The syllabus includes wheel throwing and hand forming, creating works in coil and slabs of clay as well as bas relief sculpting, and mold-making. Clay is an ancient and world-wide medium, and students will be introduced to the aesthetics and techniques of ceramicists from a wide variety of time periods and cultures.

Ceramics II

half course

As students discover and develop a personal style, this course stresses advanced throwing and handbuilding skills, including large-scale ceramic mosaic work. Field trips and community service projects are part of the course as well. Students in this course are able to run the ceramics booth and sell their work at Springfest. Prerequisite: Ceramics I

Sculpture

term course

This course explores sculpture through the medium of clay. The two main ways to create sculpture — additive and subtractive — are presented through bas-relief and in-the-round assignments. Figure sculpture is a focus during the second half of the term. An optional trip to museums in New York during spring term is also part of this course.

Advanced Studies in Sculpture and Ceramics

half course

Emphasis in this course will be placed on the development of personal artistic vision and excellence in craftsmanship. Advanced techniques will be explored in depth as will glazing and other finishing techniques. Mixed media will also be incorporated in the works. The course will include a survey of historically important practitioners of the medium as well as field trips to local galleries and ceramics and sculpture studios. Visiting artists to the class will introduce such techniques as body casting, screen-printing on clay, and glass forming. Students will participate in field trips to local galleries and at least one trip to New York City in the spring. A body of work will be created over the course of the year, culminating in an exhibition in the Barnes and Wilde galleries. Prerequisite: Ceramics II or Sculpture

Painting

half course

Stressing painting from observation, this course provides a foundation in the use of oil paint and brush techniques. Students explore the painting of landscape, still life, portraits and self-portraits, and painting from photographs. Time permitting, monoprinting is also introduced in this course. Previous work in drawing is helpful.

Watercolor Painting

half course/not offered in 2019-20

Stressing working from observation, this course introduces students to sound principles in handling watercolor. Students explore the painting of landscape, still life, portraits and self-portraits, and painting from photographs. Previous work in drawing is helpful.

Photography I (Digital) (term course)

Photography I (Digital) (half course)

In these courses students learn the fundamentals of digital photography, starting with proper control of the Single Lens Reflex (SLR) digital camera. Lessons in capture, resolution consideration, image enhancement/manipulation (utilizing Adobe Photoshop), and ink jet printing techniques are explored. In addition, we discuss the medium's relationship to cultural, historical, and aesthetic issues within a fine art context. A Nikon D40 or similar SLR digital camera is required for the digital course, and is available for rental or purchase in the school bookstore.

Photography II (Digital)

term course

This course continues to explore the digital photographic environment, with students learning more complex techniques in Adobe Photoshop. Analogies are made between traditional darkroom practices and digital ones. Students develop a more personal relationship to the medium, which culminates in both a digital and a printed portfolio plus the creation of a hardcover Apple Book. Prerequisite: Photography I (Digital)

Advanced Photo III (Digital)

term course

This course is for students who completed Digital Photography I and II and have shown the ability to work on a self-directed thematic project over an extended period of time that would culminate in an exhibition in the Barnes and Wilde Galleries. In addition, each student will research historically important photographers and/or photographic genres, and give two substantial presentations to the Digital Photography II classes within the term. A final portfolio and the production of a photographic book will round out this term course. Prerequisite: Photography II (Digital) and permission of the department

Film/Video Production

half course

In this course students learn the fundamentals of filmmaking utilizing digital video cameras and Apple Final Cut Express software to edit their footage. We start with an introduction to early cinema and explore film genres ranging from documentary to music videos. Students create their own DVDs with projects based in narrative storytelling to experimental dream sequences incorporating special effects.

Digital Animation/Special Effects in Video

half course

This course introduces students to techniques in “stop motion” animation as well as other digital animation approaches. Projects range from clay-mation to drawing and painting for animation, utilizing a range of effects and sound. Screening of animated short films will accompany the technical, conceptual, and aesthetic components of this class. In addition, students explore “green screen” technology as a way to combine video footage within a studio setting.

3D Fabrication and Craft

half course

Students will build three-dimensional objects using both traditional media like woodworking alongside contemporary digital fabrication methods such as 3D printing and CNC machining. Students will use design thinking and critical artmaking approaches to build objects that are valuable for either/both their usefulness and/or their artistic features. The course will emphasize the creative use of materials and fabrication processes.

Digital Media in Art and Design

term course

This course teaches the underlying principles, techniques, craft, and creative practices of using the computer for art and visual communication. Students will produce a range of computer-based creative projects, which may include digital painting and illustration, photographic manipulation and collage, graphic design for logos and posters, and multi-page publications. In addition, this course will introduce students to the histories, theories, and artists of computer-based art and design. This course covers a range of digital art software, including Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign.

Modern Art

term course/ juniors and seniors; sophomores with permission of the department/ not offered 2019-20

Around 1850, the history of western art took an unexpected turn. The period between 1850 and 1960 has produced some of the most iconic works in all of art history, but in their day these were often not the things of blockbuster museum exhibitions. From Realism to Abstract Expressionism, this course explores the stylistic genres of what art historians call “Modern Art.” Students will be introduced to a variety of art historical “lenses” or methodologies for interpreting the art of this period as well as be expected to revise, again and again, their definitions of “art.” Students develop visual literacy skills that empower them to unpack visual sources, to ask questions of their purpose, and to begin to do the analytical work of art historians. Enrichment activities include field trips to art museums and demonstrations by artists.

Portfolio Preparation

Advanced and independent study courses provide the serious art student with opportunities to study a preferred medium in greater depth and/or to prepare a portfolio for college or art school admission.

CL Art Seminar

seniors; juniors with permission of the department

This is a yearlong intensive studio art experience and prepares the serious art student to submit work for two class exhibitions in the Richmond Art Center and, optionally, for the AP examination portfolio. Additionally, students who wish to complete a portfolio for their college application receive instruction and assistance on photographing, editing, and documenting their work. Students follow a self-directed course of study as they complete their work, decide on a preferred medium, and choose a subject matter to explore. Prerequisite: at least two previous courses taken in the visual arts and departmental approval

Independent Studies in Art (term course)

Independent Studies in Art (half course)

Intended for the student who wishes to continue the study of a specific medium beyond the highest level offered, this elective requires a **written proposal** approved by the academic advisor, project advisor, department head, and dean

of faculty. If approved, the student must enroll in the highest level of the appropriate course and serve as a studio lab assistant while working on assignments given by the instructor. The department restricts eligibility to students who have completed their arts requirement through visual arts classes and have taken the highest-level course in the particular medium involved. Painting, watercolor, and printmaking candidates must also have completed Drawing I.