The Department of Art History promotes an understanding of art, architecture, objects, and ideas worthy of close visual analysis to be local, hemispheric, transnational, and international, and existing both within and outside of traditional institutions of display. In guiding our students to develop skills in visual analysis, close reading, historical contextualization, and communication and interpretation through writing about art, conducting research on objects in our museum collections, and organizing exhibitions, our department is committed to building an understanding of how humans perceive, create, and inhabit the world.

Opportunities to work with and present collections to the public, both at the Chazen Museum and through internships at other Wisconsin institutions, afford our students the chance to connect with diverse audiences beyond the borders of campus.