KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS in Studio Art
OUR MISSION

The Kentucky College of Art + Design promotes a creative and productive life through an undergraduate education in the contemporary arts.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The Kentucky College of Art + Design was founded in 2009 by Churchill G. Davenport as the Kentucky School of Contemporary Art. Over the last decade, Davenport and his team worked toward creating a program that evolved into Kentucky’s only four-year college of art and design.

Today, KyCAD is an independent, private, nonprofit institution known for its focus on access and diversity, an intensively taught interdisciplinary program, and a subject-led approach to practice that builds relevance and engagement around the role of the artist.

OUR MISSION

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**OUR VALUES**

Create a workplace where students, faculty and staff are equally heard.

Develop practices that embrace innovation and change.

Make decisions within a culture of open integrity.

Act in responsible ways to protect the urban and natural environment.

Become effective collaborative citizens in our community and beyond.

**OUR VISION**

The Kentucky College of Art + Design will be an accredited, independent college of art and design.

KyCAD will be recognized for new approaches to teaching and learning by supporting collaborative interdisciplinary practice, artistic research and a subject-led curriculum.

A strong studio culture will develop excellent skills across a wide range of traditional and emerging practices.

Through the experience of an innovative and diverse visiting artist’s program, active and engaged faculty and an environment that promotes exploration and risk, student’s will develop a strong sense of themselves within a contemporary arts culture.

As a new college in the center of the city of Louisville, KyCAD will build strategic partnerships for our faculty and students. These partnerships will develop research collaborations, professional internship opportunities and integrate the college into the fabric and systems of the city. KyCAD will strive to bring value to the city and commonwealth of Kentucky by attracting and developing creative talent, reflecting and communicating culture and change, building on the city’s growing reputation as a lively center of the arts.
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As a brand-new College looking to demonstrate the value of the arts to society, we embrace the ability of the arts to reflect a generation’s interests and opinions. This College places the meaning of practice and the artist’s voice beside the skills and the tools with which we speak. Our professionally active faculty and staff bring perspectives, practices, crafts, and skills to each student in a way that enables the individual to become the artist or designer they might aspire to be.

KyCAD has an enterprising spirit that reaches beyond the college to the Louisville community; we encourage our students to be collaborative, problem-solving citizens who embrace innovation. In addition, inclusion and diversity are fundamental to our operational health, while social justice is a humanitarian effort that many of our student artists actively support and explore.

Our core Fine Art subjects promote the communication skills and professional confidence that help to build a strong foundation for lifelong learning and success. From our histories to new technologies, from our crafts and material practices to a new digital world of the virtual and unreal, we investigate the very roots of what it means to be human in a wide variety of ways.

We believe in the transformational process of education, and we know that our small classes and commitment to kindness and empathy will support, enable, and equip each of our students to step out with new skills into a rapidly changing world.

We invite you to join us on our journey. We embody and teach an understanding that in today’s society, the arts have a vital role to play. We welcome your application to Kentucky’s only four-year, independent college of art and design. As a brand-new college, we are pushing forward with energy and excitement. Come and join us.

Moira Scott Payne
President, Kentucky College of Art + Design
ABOUT OUR PROGRAM
Bachelor of Fine Arts, or BFA, is a four-year professional degree centered on intensive studies in the arts.

A quarter of the program will focus on the liberal arts and general education, providing an integrated learning experience in both an academic and studio setting.

In 2018, the Kentucky College of Art + Design was granted authority by the Kentucky Council on Post Secondary Education to offer a BFA in Studio Art. As a brand new college, KyCAD’s degree program is not currently accredited. A student enrolled in an unaccredited institution is not eligible for federal financial aid programs.
YEARS 1 + 2

The first two years are highly taught with the student being exposed to a wide arts experience that introduces them to the many disciplines and conceptual and cultural territories within which the contemporary artist might work.

YEARS 3 + 4

The second two years move to a mentoring model that expects the student to gradually take hold of their own practice, to lead and to develop their ideas and learning with individual mentoring and support from a team of faculty, staff and industry partners.
FOUR YEAR JOURNEY
FOUNDATION
THE FOUNDATION YEAR

Foundation courses offer a wide range of attitudes, subjects, skills and perspectives.

FIRST YEAR COURSES

The Foundation Program at KyCAD provides students with intensive instruction in the fundamentals of art and design. This series of six studio courses allows space to experiment across media and investigate creativity through various disciplines. Students build skills ranging from the basic linguistics of line and form to experimental digital technologies.

All students are required to take FYS 101 - First Year Writing Seminar in their first year at KyCAD. This course introduces students to the fundamentals of research and written communication vital to the contemporary artist.

Student also begin exploring context and critical theory through a series of Art History survey courses which give an overview from the development of ancient art forms to the contemporary arts landscape of today.
Our subject-centered curriculum creates opportunities for students to expand their thinking and ideas about what art is and can be. It creates an environment where interdisciplinary work can truly flourish.

At KyCAD, rather than leading the practice by medium, our college leads with knowledge and research at the center of the educational experience. Students choose a center of learning to focus their studies (much like a traditional concentration, focus, or minor).

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A BALANCED EDUCATION

Blending traditional with emerging media, students engage in various approaches to their work including video, sound, performance, site-specific installation, time-based art, and community art projects. Students work with diverse materials and processes, balancing contemporary with traditional methods.
These centers represent areas of thinking and learning within the college, reflecting territories of exploration for the contemporary artist.
AT KYCAD, STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEE IDEAS AND RESEARCH AS THE FOUNDATION OF THEIR ARTS PRACTICES. AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO THINKING AND MAKING CREATES AN ADAPTABLE STUDENT ABLE TO APPLY THEIR WORK TO A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD.
The Capstone Experience is a series of eight integrative courses, throughout the junior and senior years, that allow for the development of a confident student capable of self-led inquiry.

In the studio, students experience a mentoring model in which they increasingly take possession of their own practice acquiring the skills to lead and develop their ideas and learning with individual mentoring and support from a team of faculty, staff and industry partners culminating in a final exhibition or capstone project supported by a written thesis.

Applied knowledge and experience outside the studio is gained through Professional Seminar and an Internship.
KyCAD and Americans for the Arts are developing a non-credit bearing Certificate Program in Professional Practice. Students learn from industry professionals the skills individual artists need to enter the marketplace as a creative economy employee, a freelance/contract employee, or an independent entrepreneur.
KYCAD TALENT
STUDIO ART
JEFF BRICE
Chair, Center of Visualization
Professor of Design

Jeff Brice is an award-winning illustrator and designer whose speculative design practice is an inquiry using visualizations to explore personal and social imaginaries.

CELINE BROWNING
Assistant Professor of Studio Art

Céline Browning is an artist whose socially and politically engaged studio work is an active exploration of power dynamics in American culture.

ANDREW COZZENS
Chair, Center of Environment
Assistant Professor of Studio Art

Andrew Cozzens is an award-winning visual artist who researches time subjectivity and its effect on human experience and aging.

DR. JENA SEILER
Assistant Professor of Studio Art

Jena Seiler is an artist, educator, and scholar whose work focuses on how sensing and thinking through visual and auditory media can reveal issues of power and the limits of representation.
PART-TIME FACULTY + VISITING ARTISTS

Part-Time Faculty, Visiting Faculty, and guest lecturers are sought for enhancement and fresh views. This curated educational experience brings flexibility and diverse talent and perspectives to the program.

Our Visiting Artist Program invites innovative, nationally recognized artists to campus. Balancing community outreach with student engagement, these leaders bring a fresh, disruptive voice to KyCAD and surrounding Louisville.

Past visiting artists include: Edgar Arceneaux, Lori Nix, Fahamu Pecou, Judy Pfaff, Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle, Henry Horenstein, Rene Trevino, Sarah Sentilles, Shahzia Sikander, Christopher Ottinger, and Denenge Duyst-Akpem
TEACHING FORGING IDENTITY: RACE, CLASS AND GENDER AT KYCAD WAS SUCH A POWERFUL, LIFE-AFFIRMING EXPERIENCE. THE STUDENTS AND I EMBRACED OUR FEARS AND CHALLENGED OUR OWN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH IDENTITY AS A SOCIAL CONSTRUCT. EMBRACING FAILURE WHILE CREATING, QUESTIONING TRAUMA AND CREATING ART IN THE PURSUIT OF HEALING WERE EXPLORED IN WAYS THAT I AM CONTINUALLY INSPIRED BY.
KyCAD is nestled within a vibrant city that has long enjoyed a reputation for nurturing various forms of art and culture. The Louisville Orchestra, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Great Meadows Foundation, and the Louisville Ballet thrive alongside an influx of music, art galleries, world-class dining, and local shops.

Louisville is recognized as one of America’s most livable cities. Boasting a thriving arts scene amidst renowned parks and natural surroundings, it is also one of the most rich dining and cultural destinations in the Midwest. Hop in the car or bus, and you are within a half-day’s drive to Chicago, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Nashville, Asheville and other exciting destinations.
Located in Louisville, the Kentucky College of Art + Design’s campus connects Louisville’s SoBro neighborhood with historic Old Louisville. Campus facilities are located within blocks of the Louisville Free Public Library and The Filson Historical Society. The Speed Art Museum, 21c Museum Hotel, KMAC Museum and Museum Row are located within a convenient mile and a half of campus, accessible via the fare-free 4th Street (Rt. 1) LouLift.

KyCAD’s cross-disciplinary lab space includes Apple iMac workstations used for creating print-based, digital and three-dimensional work outfitted with scanners and a variety of printers ranging from large format photo to 3D. Students can check out a variety of cameras and accessories, projectors, and lighting equipment.

In addition to the digital facilities available, students have access to a selection of analog equipment including hand tools, a kiln and woodworking and metal fabrication facilities.

We believe learning experiences extend beyond the classroom. KyCAD provides opportunities to connect, stimulate curiosity, and become involved beyond in the campus community through a variety of cultural, social, and recreational activities and programs.
FOCUSED LEARNING

Artwork by Lizzie Hill
We offer an innovative block schedule that encourages immersive, focused learning. This learning model encourages a flexible dynamic that allows the students to focus on fewer courses while still staying on track to graduate in four years.

KyCAD’s program is organized around two semesters (Fall and Spring) consisting of two 6-week sessions and one 3-week session each.

A SEMESTER AT KYCAD

A typical full-time student at KyCAD takes 2 courses during each of our 6-week sessions, and only one course during our immersive 3-week sessions.

Our schedule includes session breaks, of at least one week, between each session to allow students to recharge, reflect, and prepare for their next course of study.
APPLY TO THE PROGRAM

VISIT

The best way to find out if KyCAD is where you belong is to visit our campus. See our studio spaces, classrooms, and the surrounding sites in person, and meet with our community of faculty, students and staff.

Schedule your visit today by contacting us at admissions@kycad.org.

CONTACT

Office of Admissions
Kentucky College of Art + Design
505 West Ormsby Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky 40203
admissions@kycad.org

APPLY

Our application process is similar to other art schools. You will need to fill out an application and submit transcripts and a portfolio of recent artwork. We do not require an application fee or standardized test scores and we give applicants the option to supplement their application with a personal statement and letters of recommendation.

To begin your application today, click APPLY at the top of any page on our website: kycad.org
KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN OFFERS A NUMBER OF PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS THROUGH OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. EVERY APPLICANT TO OUR PROGRAM IS CONSIDERED FOR SCHOLARSHIP.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS RANGE FROM PARTIAL TO FULL-TUITION AND CAN BE RENEWABLE UP TO 4 YEARS.

FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE AT ADMISSIONS@KYCAD.ORG.