

International
Center of
Photography

ICP-Bard Program in
Advanced Photographic
Studies



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From the Executive Director



Just as imagemaking and storytelling are continuing to evolve, the International Center of Photography is entering a new era as the leading organization dedicated to photography and visual culture. ICP's founder, Cornell Capa, described photography as "the most vital, effective, and universal means of communication of facts and ideas." Today, we are exploring the vitality of photography and the power of the image in a time of significant change around the world. As we engage in dialogue about the way images are made and interpreted, ICP remains an important forum for provocative ideas, innovation, and debate.

This new era is marked by our recent move to our integrated center at Essex Crossing on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. For the first time in decades, our education programs and exhibitions are united to develop richer content and curriculum, unparalleled resources in a state-of-the-art production facility, and a dedicated library open to students and the public. We are continuing to maintain our collections at Mana Contemporary in Jersey City, New Jersey, and offer MFA studio space in Long Island City, Queens.

Our faculty and staff, known for integrating expertise, experience, and experimentation, continuously develop new approaches to learning and are creating inventive education programs that respect traditional photography while embracing the future of visual storytelling.

This is an exciting moment for all of us and I am honored to lead ICP into this new era. I'm also eager to get to know each of you and personally welcome you to ICP.

Mark Lubell
Executive Director

Holly Bynoe
MFA 2010

“The ICP-Bard MFA Program is a challenging space of deep engagement. From day one, you question your prior knowledge and your theoretical and practical framework for creating. The program integrates a wide range of interests with a circulating faculty of some of the most influential instructors, curators, practitioners, and contemporary artists.”

© Jeremy Brenner (MFA 2020)



ICP

A Brief Overview of ICP

The International Center of Photography (ICP) is the world's leading institution dedicated to photography and visual culture. Through our exhibitions, education programs, community outreach, and public events, we offer an open forum for dialogue about the role images play in our culture. Since our founding, we have presented more than 700 exhibitions and offered thousands of classes, providing instruction at every level.

Our new integrated center at Essex Crossing brings together imagemakers, artists, students, scholars, and photo enthusiasts to create and interpret the image. Here, our unique community is encouraged to explore photography and visual culture as mediums of empowerment and as catalysts for social change.

Our exhibition program welcomes more than 150,000 visitors each year. Through our traveling program, ICP exhibitions are seen around the world, reaching an audience of nearly one million viewers annually. Housed in a state-of-the-art facility, our permanent collection includes 150,000 original prints spanning the history of photography. Access to the Print Study Room is available to members, students, scholars, and others by appointment. ICP's library contains approximately 20,000 books, more than 2,000 biographical files on photographers, and 50 periodical titles with 6,000 current and back issues of magazines and journals.



For more information:
icp.org
admissions@icp.edu
212.857.0006

Among the world's most extensive and best equipped, our education programs serve more than 3,500 students each year, providing instruction in a curriculum that ranges from digital media to darkroom classes. ICP also offers One-Year Certificate programs and an MFA degree. Our substantive public programming features panels, lectures, symposia, workshops, performances, book discussions, and film screenings.



© Kevin Downs, Nina Mendez Marti (MFA 2014)



© Avijit Halder (MFA 2019)

From the President of Bard College



Initiated in 2003, the ICP-Bard Program in Advanced Photographic Studies is a partnership between the International Center of Photography and the Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts at Bard College. The program combines Bard's legacy of educational breadth with ICP's specialized resources in photography. Students earn a master of fine arts degree through intensive work at ICP, integrating firsthand experience in the field of photography with challenging critical study of the history, impact, and evolution of the medium. This innovative program is at once a sound academic platform from which to examine the important issues facing photography and an exciting venue in which to experiment with the photographic process.

This partnership with ICP reflects Bard's long-standing commitment to innovation in education and support for the arts. Our philosophy has always embraced the arts and artists as central to a valid documentation of our culture, worthy of serious consideration in academic institutions.

In its interdisciplinary programs, Bard continues to seek new ways to integrate academic practice with the teaching of fine arts. Continually expanding the model of a liberal arts college, Bard has forged creative alliances with other colleges and universities, museums, research institutions, and arts organizations in the United States and abroad. The ICP-Bard Program in Advanced Photographic Studies is a strong part of this tradition. The program broadens the academic horizons of both institutions and offers committed students of photography an unparalleled opportunity for advanced learning.

Leon Botstein
President of Bard College

Patricia Silva
MFA 2013 and current ICP faculty

“The ICP-Bard MFA Program certainly influenced my work for the better, and I’ll tell you specifically how. It does come down to two things—attentive, focused conversation and taking things seriously. That changes things.”

© Dillon DeWaters (MFA 2010)



Bard College

A Brief Overview of Bard College

Founded in 1860, Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, is an independent, nonsectarian, residential, coeducational college offering a four-year BA program in the liberal arts and sciences and a five-year BA/BS degree in economics and finance. The Bard College Conservatory of Music offers a five-year program in which students pursue a dual degree—a BMusic and a BA in a field other than music—and offers an MMusic in vocal arts and in conducting. Bard also bestows an MMusic degree through The Orchestra Now and at Longy School of Music of Bard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Bard and its affiliated institutions also grant the following degrees: AA at Bard High School Early Colleges in New York City, Newark, Cleveland, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C.; AA and BA at Bard College at Simon’s Rock: The Early College, in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and through the Bard Prison Initiative at six correctional institutions in New York State; MA in curatorial studies, MS and MA in economic theory and policy, and MS in environmental policy and in climate science and policy at the Annandale campus; MFA and MAT at multiple campuses; MBA in sustainability in New York City; and MA, MPhil, and PhD in the decorative arts, design history, and material culture at the Bard Graduate Center in Manhattan. Internationally, Bard confers BA and MA degrees at the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences, St. Petersburg State University, Russia (Smolny College); BA degrees at Bard College Berlin: A Liberal Arts University; and BA and MAT degrees at Al-Quds University in East Jerusalem and American University of Central Asia in Kyrgyzstan.



For more information:
bard.edu

Bard offers nearly 50 academic programs in four divisions. Total enrollment for Bard College and its affiliates is about 6,000 students. The undergraduate College has an enrollment of approximately 1,900 and a student-to-faculty ratio of 9:1.

Accreditation

Bard College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The courses of study leading to the bachelor of arts, bachelor of music, and bachelor of science degrees at Bard are registered by the New York State Education Department. The programs of study leading to the master of arts, master of arts in teaching, master of fine arts, master of business administration in sustainability, master of music, master of science in environmental policy, master of science in climate science and policy, and master of science in economic theory and policy degrees, and master of arts degrees in economic theory and policy, and the master and doctor of philosophy degrees in decorative arts, design history, and material culture at Bard are registered by the New York State Education Department, Office of Higher Education, Education Building Annex, Room 977, Albany, NY 12234; phone 518.486.3633.

Bard is also a member of the American Council on Education, American Council of Learned Societies, Association of American Colleges and Universities, College Entrance Examination Board, Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, Educational Records Bureau, and Environmental Consortium of Hudson Valley Colleges and Universities.

Kathy Akey
MFA 2014

“My classmates and I have really taken to heart one of the greatest lessons you learn in this program, that of self-empowerment and community building.”

© Tracy Williams (MFA 2015)



From the Chair



For nearly two decades, the ICP-Bard Program in Advanced Photographic Studies has trained creators to think beyond the boundaries of traditional photography and photographic careers. We do this through a guided program of study that gives them access to curators, writers, publishers, and thinkers, and asks that they work on projects that highlight their personal views of where we are today. At a time when images increasingly shape our understanding of the world and of our fellow human beings, those who create these images need to be thoughtful, nimble, and empathetic. We want to help you to shape the future and not to be a passive guardian of the status quo.

Artists arrive at ICP from widely differing circumstances: differences of age, nationality, economic background, and professional experience. They leave with a deep understanding of how to work together and how their differences strengthen the world of art. Our alumni hang on the walls of museums, run presses, and curate exhibitions around the world. They are shaping the future.

Nayland Blake
Chair, ICP-Bard MFA Program

Program

Program of Study

Operating from ICP's integrated center on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and MFA studios in Long Island City, the ICP-Bard Program in Advanced Photographic Studies offers a rigorous exploration of all aspects of photography through an integrated curriculum of studio and professional practice, critical study, and Resident Artist Projects. The 60 credits required for the master of fine arts degree cover the production of a final solo exhibition of original artwork, participation in a final group exhibition, and a cumulative publication, as well as the completion of class assignments and internships.

At the center of the program is an exploration of the ways in which the photograph operates in society. The ICP-Bard approach emphasizes creative vision and openness to examining the many iterations of the image, from traditional photography to digital imaging, installation, and video. By considering how photographs are created, presented, discussed, used, and documented, students gain an intimate knowledge of the ways in which images increasingly structure modern society and consciousness.

Led by ICP-Bard core faculty members, graduate seminars blend in-depth study, intensive discussions, and individual work. Students also gain an understanding of the role of art historians by working with ICP's curatorial team and the Museum's extensive archives; they explore how exhibitions are curated, archives maintained, and research conducted. In Resident Artist Projects and internships, students learn firsthand from contemporary artists about the practical conditions of making art as well as innovative approaches to photographic practice. With its strong emphasis on writing and publication, the program encourages students to articulate the relationship between their



For more information:
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practice and that of other artists. Through ongoing studio work, critiques, and internships, students challenge their ideas and test new approaches to imagemaking, synthesizing the program's varied experiences and defining their own ways of working.

Throughout the program, students receive individualized attention and support from a distinguished and dedicated core faculty and noted visiting artists, in addition to mentors with whom they intern. Visiting faculty members vary from year to year and include practicing artists, scholars, critics, and historians.

© Naiwen Zhang (MFA 2018)



Sample Student Week

Monday

10 AM–1 PM First-Year Students:
Practices, Techniques, Strategies

Tuesday

2–5 PM First-Year Students:
Graduate Seminar

6:30–9:30 PM Second-Year Students:
Curatorial Strategies

Wednesday

10 AM–1 PM Second-Year Students:
From Critique to Rehabilitation:
Documentary Today

2–5 PM First- and Second-Year Students:
Critique

Thursday

10 AM–1 PM First-Year Students:
Introduction to Experimental Film
and Video

2–3:30 PM First- and Second-Year Students:
Internship Preparation

6:30–9:30 PM Second-Year Students:
Professional Practice—Producing
the Symposium

Friday

12–3 PM First-Year Students:
Contemporary Practice: A Survey

Please note that this schedule is meant to give an overall indication of an average student's workweek. All specific classes are subject to change.

Curriculum

Quito Ziegler
MFA 2007

“I learned to put my work in context with other artists, and was exposed to so much photography I hadn’t seen before. But mostly, I was given the space to let go of my assumptions of what kind of artist I wanted to be and the freedom to experiment with new ideas in a supportive environment.”

© Genevieve Fournier (MFA 2018)



Studio Practice

The foundation of the program, Studio Practice is a seminar in which students integrate what they are experiencing and learning into their own creative work. Through ongoing studio assignments, group critiques, and one-on-one meetings with faculty, students develop their photographic work and define a personal approach to their practice. A final exhibition of original work, presented at the end of the second year, is required for graduation.

Critical Study

In these topical seminars, students focus on theoretical and critical issues in the history of photography. Working with historians, editors, photographers, and ICP curatorial staff, students engage in writing, research, and curatorial activities. Students' own writings chart the development of their ideas about photography in relation to the work of other photographers. A written thesis, which serves as an anthology of two years of critical coursework and professional practice, is required for graduation.

Professional Practice

Internships are an integral part of the program, as they enable students to gain practical exposure to various aspects of the field. First-year students are required to intern for individual photographers/artists. Second-year students are required to intern with photographic and media-based organizations, such as museums, photo agencies, and magazines. All students are expected to report on their internship in classroom discussions and to record these experiences as part of a final written thesis.

Resident Artist Projects

Each semester, prominent photographers and critics work with MFA students in focused, project-oriented seminars, exposing the students to a wide range of styles and career paths. Each class provides in-depth examination of photographic techniques and emerging issues in photography, as well as group and one-on-one critiques of student work. By engaging in projects that reflect the visiting instructors' aesthetic, students come to understand the implications of art-making in different contexts.

Faculty



Nayland Blake
Chair, ICP-Bard
MFA Program

Nayland Blake is an internationally acclaimed interdisciplinary artist and educator whose work is included in the collections of the Brooklyn Museum, the Des Moines Art Center, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive. His writing has been published in *Artforum*, *Interview*, *Out*, *Outlook*, and numerous exhibition catalogues. He was previously on the faculty of the Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts and has taught at the San Francisco Art Institute, the California Institute of the Arts, the University of California, Berkeley, Parsons School of Design, New York University, the School of Visual Arts, and Harvard University's Department of Visual and Environmental Studies. He is represented by Matthew Marks Gallery in New York.

The program's faculty is made up of professionals—artists, curators, critics, operating at the top of their respective fields—with an emphasis on those working within and responsive to multiple disciplines. In addition to ICP's regular faculty, students work with visiting faculty on projects that vary from year to year.

Visit icp.org/faculty for faculty biographies.

Core Faculty

Nayland Blake
David Deitcher
Justine Kurland

Additional Faculty

Erin Barnett
Sharang Biswas
Jean Marie Casbarian
Marina Chao
Deirdre Donohue
Marvin Heiferman
Michi Jigarjian

Joanna Lehan
Qiana Mestrich
Liz Sales
Carrie Schneider
Victor Sira
Carol Squiers
Bradly Dever Treadaway

© Pippa Hetherington (MFA 2019)



Pradeep Dalal
MFA 2005

“The ICP-Bard MFA Program brought me to New York—where I feel I can finally drop anchor—and it helped me find a group of friends and colleagues who take pleasure in photography and art with a fierce intensity. But most importantly, the two years at ICP gave me the confidence and commitment to involve myself fully in the kinds of arts-related activities I love.”

If you are really keen on deepening your thinking about art and are open to revising the ways in which you engage with the world, then I would encourage you to apply. In my experience, going into an arts program with a checklist of expectations can be counterproductive—you have to be open to various outcomes.”

© Naiwen Zhang (MFA 2018)





© Kaz Senju (MFA 2018)



© Eugene Lee (MFA 2019)

Courses

First Year	Semester I (Fall)	Credits
	Graduate Seminar.....	3
	Practice, Techniques, and Strategies.....	1.5
	Critique.....	3
	Digital Editing: Video I.....	1.5
	Contemporary Practice: A Survey.....	3
	Introduction to Experimental Film and Video.....	1.5
	Internship.....	1.5
	Total	15
	 Semester II (Spring)	 Credits
	Graduate Seminar.....	3
	Practice, Techniques, and Strategies.....	1.5
	Critique.....	3
	From Critique to Rehabilitation: Documentary Today....	3
	Critical Practice.....	3
	The Book: Imaginary Studio—A Nonstop Process.....	1
	Internship.....	1.5
	Total	16

Two-Year Academic Schedule

The typical course schedule for a full-time student in the graduate program is outlined below. Required seminars and practicums are taken during the semesters indicated. All seminar courses usually meet for three hours each week, although some include additional discussion sessions, as well as meetings in other locations, mostly at institutions or studios in New York City. The Resident Artist Projects workshop meets for a total of 18 hours per term.

Second Year	Semester III (Fall)	Credits
	Practice, Techniques, and Strategies.....	1.5
	Critique.....	3
	Curatorial Strategies.....	3
	Professional Practice: Symposium.....	3
	From Critique to Rehabilitation: Documentary Today....	3
	Photo Research, Collections, and Digital Assets.....	1
	Resident Artist Project.....	1
	Internship.....	1.5
	Total	17
	 Semester IV (Spring)	 Credits
	Practice, Techniques, and Strategies.....	1.5
	Photo Conceptualism and Its Legacy.....	3
	Critique.....	3
	Writing for the MFA Degree.....	3
	Professional Practice.....	3
	Resident Artist Project.....	1
	Internship.....	1.5
	Total	16

The International Center of Photography is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Key Dates 2020–2021

Fall Term

August 22–December 21, 2020

Spring Term

January 25–May 14, 2021

Commencement

Saturday, May 29, 2021

Bard College

Dates subject to change.

The ICP-Bard Program in Advanced Photographic Studies catalogue for 2020–2021 is published by the International Center of Photography.

All photographers represented in this catalogue are graduates or faculty of the ICP-Bard MFA Program, except where noted.

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