

OTIS COLLEGE OF
ART AND DESIGN
LOS ANGELES

MFA FINE ARTS





Sandy Kupfer ('24 MFA Fine Arts)
Soft, Like Wet Cement, 2024, installation view




In the MFA Fine Arts program at Otis College of Art and Design, we believe artists thrive when they work closely with a diverse group of artists and can explore a wide range of topics, media, methods, and approaches in artmaking and all its related disciplines. Our program provides an artistic learning environment where artists of different backgrounds, ages, experiences, and approaches to creative practice can flourish together. Our courses, events, studios, labs, galleries, and social spaces are welcoming places where everyone in our community can develop as artists and as engaged participants in society.



Vita Kari ('24 MFA Fine Arts),
Billboard Prenup: A BYTE OF LOVE, 2024,
performance documentation



Patsy Pitts ('24 MFA Fine Arts) and Sandy Kupfer ('24 MFA Fine Arts)
inside Kupfer's studio during MFA Fine Arts Open Studios

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

A photograph of a performance art installation. In the foreground, a person with long braids, wearing a black t-shirt and shorts, stands with their back to the camera. To their right, a person in a black suit and a mask that resembles a stylized animal head with long dreadlocks is operating a DJ mixer. The background shows a gallery space with other people and art pieces on the wall. The floor is covered with various cables and equipment. The overall lighting is dim, with some green light visible on the left side.

Joaquin Stacey-Calle ('24 MFA Fine Arts)
Running the distance of a bread, 2024,
performance documentation

COURSEWORK

Artists in our program are simultaneously supported and challenged. The balance of group critiques, rigorous academic coursework, and one-on-one studio visits with faculty fosters the development of sustained interdisciplinary practices.

In Graduate Critique, all graduate students, regardless of media, individually present work to their peers and faculty for a collective, in-depth discussion about the work's material and its theoretical and cultural positioning. The course provides an investigation of how an artist's work is perceived as a public statement and how one's work exists in the world.

Graduate Studio is structured around dedicated studio time and one-on-one studio visits with faculty members. This two-year course sequence focuses on each individual student's practice, specifically directed toward an interrogation of the aesthetic, conceptual, and technical issues arising out of their work. It culminates in the end-of-semester review, during which the student and a review committee discuss and evaluate the development of the student's practice as observed over the course of the semester.

Our theory and art history seminars are structured by critical inquiry into various histories, methodologies, and frames of thought. The Visiting Artist Lecture Series brings distinguished artists, curators, and thinkers into close dialogue with students. Graduate studies culminate in a written thesis and final MFA thesis exhibition.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

MFA Fine Arts Open Studios
Studio of Alex Israel ('25 MFA Fine Arts)





STUDIOS AND EXHIBITIONS

Our MFA studios with 24/7 access are located in the Galef Fine Arts Center in the heart of campus. These dedicated spaces provide graduate students with the opportunity to create ambitious work and to experiment in a broad range of media. Annual open studios, the mid-residency show, and final thesis shows in the Bolsky Gallery offer ample opportunities for exhibition over the course of the two-year program.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Top left: Joaquin Stacey-Calle ('24 MFA Fine Arts) and Erica G. Peralta ('23 MFA Fine Arts) inside Stacey-Calle's studio during MFA Fine Arts Open Studios

Bottom left: Sayer Delk ('23 MFA Fine Arts)
Your Name Up In Lights, 2023, installation view

This page: MFA Fine Arts group show

LABS AND SHOPS

All MFA students have access to large painting, sculpture, and lighting studios; state-of-the-art, professionally staffed wood and metal shops; photography, video, film, printmaking, and ceramics labs; the Millard Sheets Library; and free, secure 24/7 parking.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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FACULTY



Meg Cranston

MEG CRANSTON
Chair, Fine Arts
Professor



Kathrin Burmester

KATHRIN BURMESTER
Director, MFA Fine Arts
Assistant Professor

LINDSAY AUGUST-SALAZAR
Senior Lecturer

von curtis
Lecturer

**CLETUS
DALGLISCH-SCHOMMER**
Senior Lecturer

ASHER HARTMAN
Senior Lecturer

JENNIFER MOON
Associate Professor

KORI NEWKIRK
Senior Lecturer

KADE L. TWIST
Associate Professor

BENJAMIN WEISSMAN
Senior Lecturer



Right: MFA Fine Arts 2025 cohort and faculty

MANDY AND CLIFF EINSTEIN VISITING ARTIST SERIES

The Mandy and Cliff Einstein Visiting Artist Series brings world-renowned artists and thinkers to Otis College. The series provides students an opportunity to learn and engage directly with major figures in the art world in small group conversations, studio visits, and other distinctive events. Previous guests for the Einstein series include:

Doug Aitken
Njideka Akunyili Crosby
Denise Ferreira da Silva
Elmgreen & Dragset
Edgar Heap of Birds
Trenton Doyle Hancock
Zoe Whitley
Theaster Gates
Shirin Neshat
Kara Walker
Jeffrey Vallance
Anicka Yi

VISITING ARTIST LECTURE SERIES

The Visiting Artist Lecture Series brings distinguished artists, curators, and thinkers into close dialogue with students. Recent speakers include:

Audrey Chan	Matt Lipps
Paul Chan	Nancy Lupo
Miles Coolidge	Fred Moten
Beatriz Cortez	Ragen Moss
Nicole Eisenman	Alison O'Daniel
Anne Ellegood	Oguri
Darby English	Ry Rocklin
Denise Ferreira da Silva	Alison Saar (’81 MFA Fine Arts)
Karen Finley	Lezley Saar
Charles Gaines	Alexandro Segade
Malik Gaines	Susan Silton
Katie Grinnan	Shinique Smith
Ann Hamilton	Devon Tsuno
Salomón Huerta	Catherine G. Wagley
Ragnar Kjartansson	

MFA Fine Arts final group exhibition
Somebody's Something, 2025



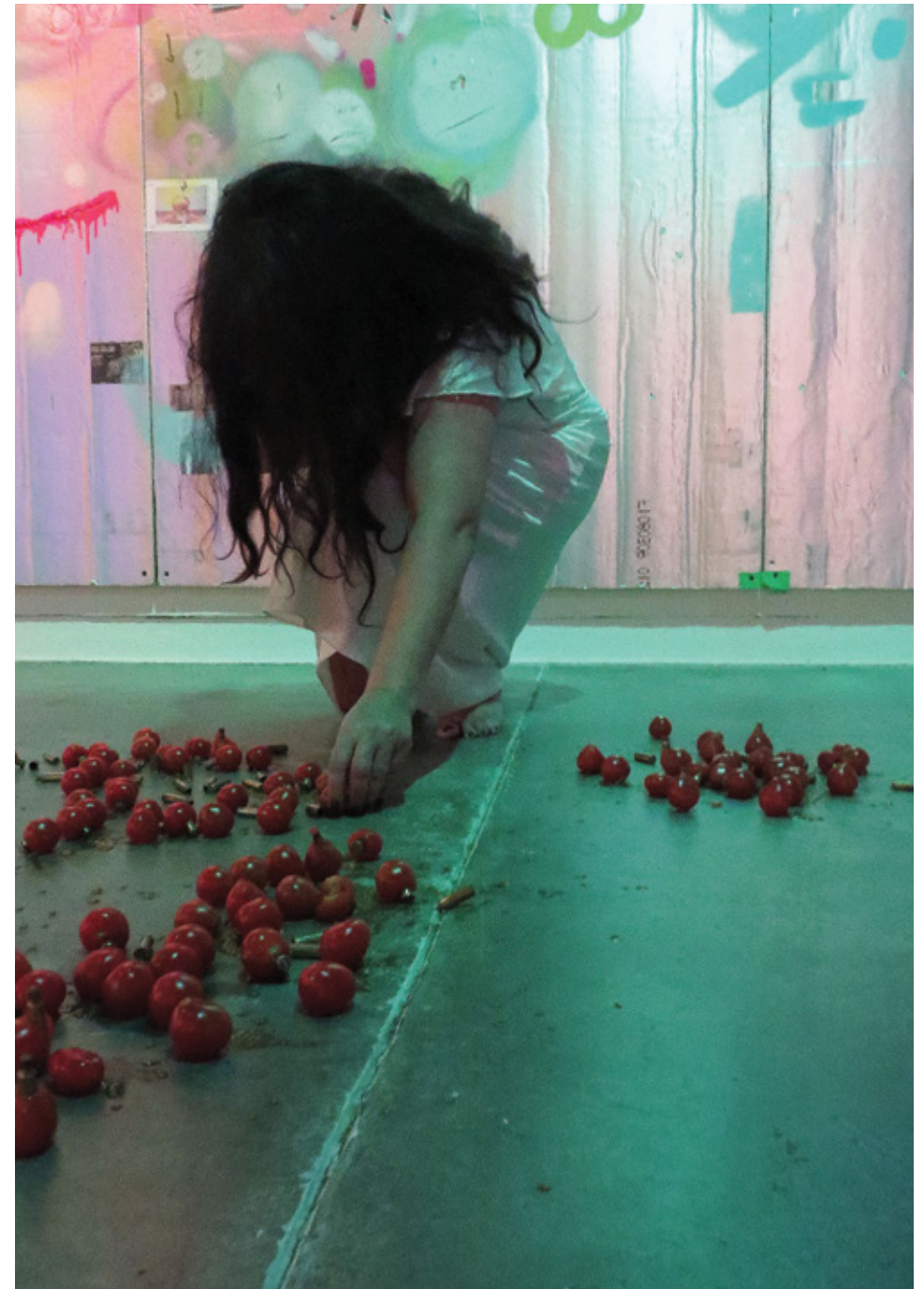
MFA Fine Arts Studio of
Jessica Wilcox ('25 MFA Fine Arts)



Manny Valdez ('25 MFA Fine Arts)
Principal Brownman's Sports Dress Code, 2025



Amy Friedberg ('20 MFA Fine Arts)
Neon Sign, 2020



Xiouping ('21 MFA Fine Arts)
BIPOD, 2019, performance documentation



Joseph L. Sherman Jr. ('23 MFA Fine Arts)
African Winters in Leimert, 2023



Tia Xia ('25 MFA Fine Arts)
Dying Speech of an Old Philosopher, 2024



Suwichada Busamrong-Press ('23 MFA Fine Arts)
A Missing Time, 2023, performance documentation



Astrid Li ('23 MFA Fine Arts)
Family Portrait, 2023, and *Stringer*, 2023



Ali Minette ('22 MFA Fine Arts)
Untitled, 2022



Sophie Roessler ('22 MFA Fine Arts)
Peep Show, 2022



Ali Minette ('22 MFA Fine Arts)
Untitled, 2022

HOW TO APPLY



MFA Fine Arts Open Studios
Studio of Ren Ramirez ('26 MFA Fine Arts)

DEADLINES

SEMESTER OF ENTRY	DEADLINE
FALL	JANUARY 15*
SPRING	OCTOBER 1

*After this date, applications will be accepted on a rolling admission basis as space remains available.

REQUIREMENTS

1. ONLINE APPLICATION

Submit the online application at **otis.edu/apply**. Applications are free to submit.

2. RESUME

3. STATEMENT

An artist statement is an important element of the MFA application. Please address the following prompts in your statement (an overall wordcount of 500-800 words is recommended). Details at **otis.edu/gradapp**

- Describe your artistic practice and process (ideas, research, materials, ways of making, etc).
- Describe your artistic goals and aspirations.
- What motivates you to pursue a MFA at Otis College of Art and Design?

4. TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts are required from any college or university where you pursued undergraduate study, and where you earned your bachelor's degree. Unofficial transcripts are accepted for initial admissions review. Official transcripts verifying bachelor's degree are required for enrolling students.

5. PORTFOLIO

Submit images of 15-20 works representing your most recent and relevant work. Please include title, dimensions, and medium for each piece. For additional information, please visit **otis.edu/grad-portfolio**.

6. OPTIONAL: LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Up to three letters of recommendation can be submitted through the online application, but are not required.

APPLICATION INTERVIEWS

Applicants may be requested to interview with a faculty member over video conference as a part of the application process.

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAM

If you are an international applicant whose primary/native language is not English, you should take one of the four tests recognized by Otis College: the TOEFL, the IELTS, the Pearson Test of English, or the Duolingo English Test. The minimum scores required for MFA admission are 79 on the TOEFL iBT, 6.5 on the IELTS, 58 on the Pearson Test of English, or 105 on Duolingo.

Applicants who have earned a bachelor's degree from an institution where English is the primary language of instruction may meet our English proficiency requirement. A transcript is required to make this determination.

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION MATERIALS

Check to see if your application materials have been received by logging in to your applicant account at **admissions.otis.edu/status**.

Application materials not submitted digitally should be sent to:

Otis College of Art and Design
Attention: Admissions Office
9045 Lincoln Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90045

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS
otis.edu/gradapp

CALL

310-665-6820
 310-853-5764 (Text)

EMAIL

GradAdmissions@otis.edu

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

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SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

All applicants are considered for generous merit scholarships based on their application and portfolio. After the first year, students can possibly receive additional funding by applying for Continuing Student Scholarships funded by donors to the College.

In addition, U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents should submit the FAFSA at **fafsa.gov** and add Otis's school code 001251 to be considered for federal financial aid. MFA students may be eligible for federal unsubsidized loans. More information can be found online at **otis.edu/financial-aid**.

Payment plans are also available that allow students to divide their remaining balance into 6, 5, or 4 payments. More information at **otis.edu/paymentplan**.



MFA Fine Arts Open Studio
of Kader Amkpa ('25 MFA Fine Arts)

CREDITS

This book includes the work of students from the Otis College of Art and Design MFA Fine Arts program.

Photography by Monica Nouwens, Chris Stoltz, Eric Cortes, Jess Star, Seth Lower, Sarah Golonka, Danielle Vega, Kathrin Burmester, and Joseph L. Sherman. Additional photography by Fawad Assadullah and Gina Cholick. Page 14 faculty portraits of Meg Cranston by Meg Cranston; Kathrin Burmester portrait by Chris Stoltz.

Creative Director: Emily Carlson
Graphic Designer: Julie Moon
Contributors: Mitch Marr and Anna Raya
Printing: ClearImage Printing
Produced by Otis College of Art and Design
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Statement of Nondiscrimination

Otis College does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions), sexual orientation, sexual identity, marital status, family care status, veteran status, disability, medical condition, age, or any other protected category. Otis College seeks full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, which respectively prohibit such forms of discrimination.

The following personnel have been designated to respond to inquiries regarding Otis College's nondiscrimination policies:

Karen Hill, *V.P. of Human Resources and Development*: 310-846-2597

Dr. Nicholas E. Vela-Negrete, *V.P. of Student Affairs*: 310-665-6936

Correspondence may be addressed to the above personnel at:

Otis College of Art and Design, 9045 Lincoln Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045

310-665-6800 or 800-527-OTIS (6847)

admissions@otis.edu

otis.edu

Accreditation and Affiliations:

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD), Association of Independent Schools of Art and Design (AICAD), and Partnership for Academic Leadership on Sustainability (PALS)

COVER CREDITS:

1	1. MFA Fine Arts Mid-Residency Exhibition <i>nobody's everything</i> , 2024, installation views
2	2. Alexandria Lee Bevilacqua ('25 MFA Fine Arts) <i>The Vibration of an Apple</i> , 2024, installation view
3	3. Vita Kari ('24 MFA Fine Arts) <i>I Think She Lied About Her First Food In The US</i> , 2024



Agnes Hong ('25 MFA Fine Arts)
200 Hours of Care, 2025

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