

MFA

IN PHOTOGRAPHY AND RELATED MEDIA

GRADUATE STUDIES AT
ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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“The Photography and Related Media MFA at RIT has provided a foundational study of the medium in a community that is rich with photographic knowledge, innovation, and creativity.”

LOUIS CHAVEZ '23 MFA

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

The Photography and Related Media (MFA) program at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) is a nationally ranked, top-10 graduate program. It is an advanced course of study in fine art photography, digital imaging, and video.

The program emphasizes an expansive interpretation of photography as a conceptual art form. Through an extensive study of art practice, criticism, and aesthetics, our intention is to engage and nurture each student's individuality in their continued development as innovative and critically thinking artists.

The program is a two-year, 60-credit plan of study that builds upon individual strengths and interests. This approach embraces the creative growth of each graduate student with supportive full-time faculty, dedicated facilities, and access to top-of-the-line equipment.

Rochester Institute's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences also offers MFA students access to experts in the fields of the photographic sciences, visual media, photojournalism, and advertising photography.

Additionally, The School of Photographic Arts and Sciences is one of five schools within RIT's College of Art and Design. The College is a renowned professional art school within a world-class technical university. With nine MFA programs, the College offers unrivaled academic programming that combines the best of art, design, and technology. The other schools are the School for American Crafts, School of Art, School of Design, and School of Film and Animation.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Full-time faculty who exhibit and publish in renowned national and international forums

100%

of our students receive scholarships

Graduate assistantships include teaching, archival and library assistantships, faculty research assistantships, gallery assistantships, and more

Dedicated graduate studio spaces, computer labs, and printers

Newly renovated, world-class photographic facilities that include:

- + Dedicated graduate studio spaces, computer labs, and printers
- + Professional gallery spaces
- + Kreonite analog color processor
- + Lambda digital chromogenic printer/processor
- + Alternative process facilities and chemicals
- + Black and white and color darkrooms
- + 20-plus individual lighting studios
- + Free access to virtually every film and digital camera on the market
- + Professional video equipment, including cinema cameras, gimbals, and more
- + Sound equipment and a dedicated, broadcast-quality recording studio





Graduate Lab and Annex



“RIT’s faculty consistently creates an environment where I am both supported and challenged. This balance has allowed me to better understand my practice and develop as an artist.”

JUSTIN AUNGST '23 MFA

FACULTY

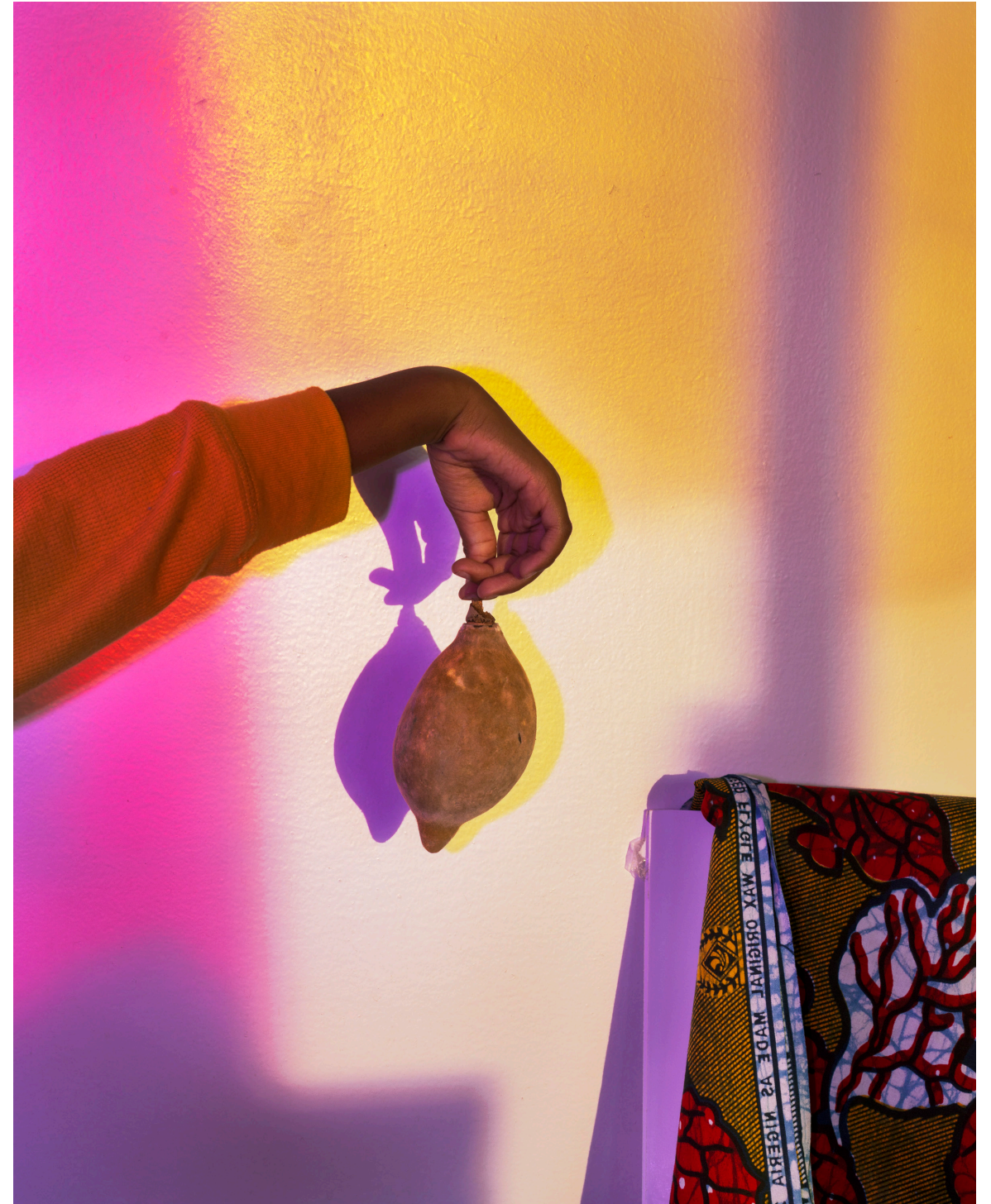
The School of Photographic Arts and Sciences (SPAS) consists of more than two dozen full-time faculty. Seven full-time faculty members from the school lead the MFA program and its curriculum.

MFA faculty are active artists, researchers, historians, curators, and educators who have received many accolades for their contributions to fine art photography, imaging, and video.

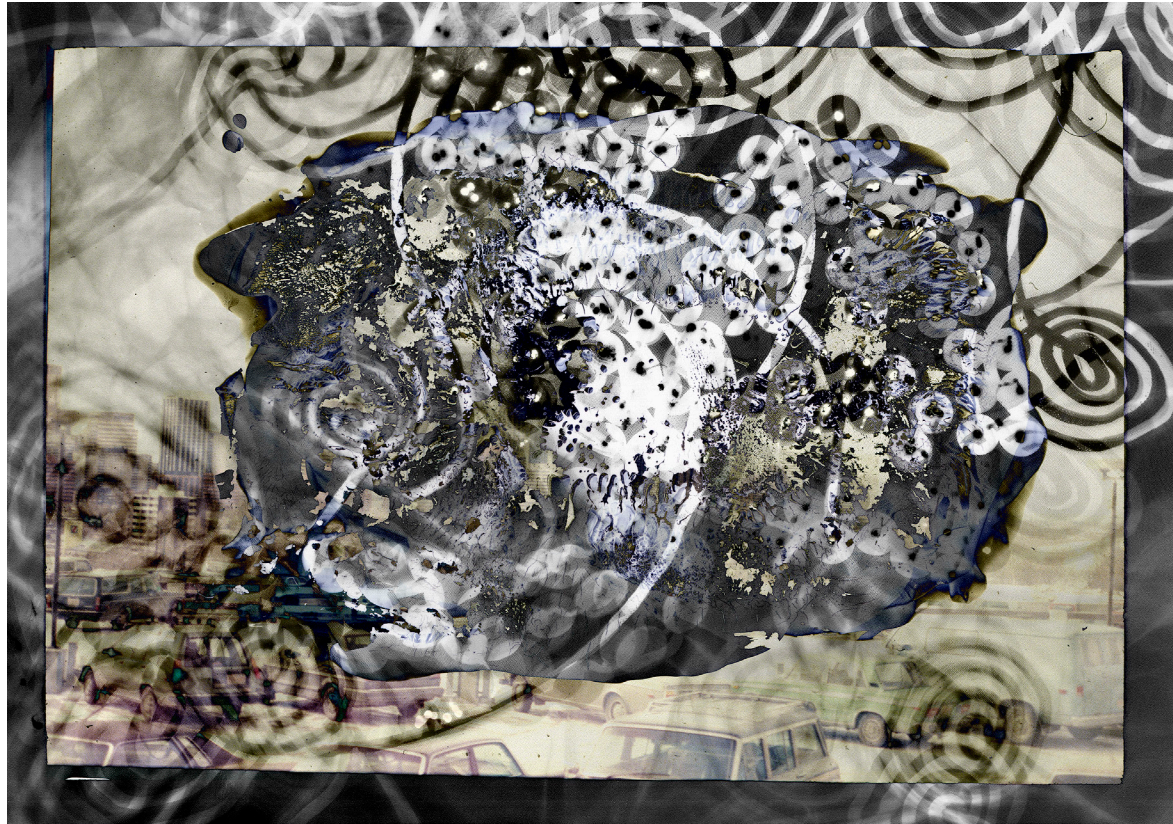
RIT faculty lecture, publish and exhibit internationally, and their work has been supported and recognized by the following organizations: The Museum of Modern Art, The Guggenheim Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, Pollock Krasner Fellowship, Fulbright Scholar Program, National Endowment for the Arts, Magnum Photos, and Light Work.



Joshua Thorson, video projections for Tony Award-winning adaptation of Rodger and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* on Broadway, 2023.



Juan Orrantia, *Baobab study (P's hand and wax print at sunset)* from *Like Stains of Red Dirt*, Dalpine, 2020.



Carole Woodlock, *Ramble & Roam*, Ink & photogram celluloid collage, digital c-print, 2023.



Dan Larkin, *Watermelon Slices*, 2007.



Catherine Zuromskis, Left to Right: *The Factory* (Madrid, Spain: La Fabrica, 2012); *Snapshot Photography: The Lives of Images* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2013); *A Concise Companion to Visual Culture*, co-edited with A. Joan Saab and Aubrey Anable (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell, 2021).



Ahndraya Parlato, from, *Who Is Changed and Who Is Dead*, Mack Books, 2021.



Gregory Halpern, from, ZYZX, Mack Books, 2016. Recently acquired by the Museum of Modern Art for their permanent collection.



FACILITIES

MFA students share the Harris Annex, a brand-new 2,700-square-foot studio workspace that houses most of our graduate studios, a shared workspace, and a dedicated computer lab with scanners and printers. Graduate students also have a private darkroom for analog color, and black-and-white processing, an alternative processes darkroom for working in historical techniques, and additional spaces for experimental installation or performance.

RIT's facilities and equipment cage are unparalleled resources for creating and presenting photography, imaging, and moving media. These unique resources include five digital labs with scanners and large-format printers, editing suites for still and moving images, private color darkrooms and an analog color processor, private black and white darkrooms, myriad

formats for image capture, printing for virtually any traditional, alternative, or digital processes, extensive lighting equipment, and a suite of lighting studios.

Additionally, the RIT's College of Art and Design houses the Imaging Systems Lab (ISL), a professional-level photographic lab that offers color film development at cost, as well as printing options on virtually any of the latest substrates available. Graduate students may pursue hybrid forms with access to the College's printmaking spaces, glass studios, woodshops, and other art-making facilities.

Imaging Systems Lab (ISL)



William Harris Gallery



Chen Wang '17 MFA, Installation



SCHOLARSHIPS & ASSISTANTSHIPS

All accepted applicants are awarded a university scholarship. The level of scholarship support is based on the merit of application materials. The MFA program also grants graduate assistantships to all accepted applicants.

Assistantships may take various forms, including team teaching, faculty research assistant, gallery management and staff, assistant to the photo librarian, and print archivist, among others. Upon acceptance into the MFA program, applicants are notified by the MFA Director as to the level of

support for both the university scholarship and the graduate assistantship. Both scholarship and assistantship are renewable in the second year of graduate study.

VISITING ARTISTS

Each year, RIT hosts an array of renowned visiting artists, lectures, master classes, and portfolio reviews. The School's Charles Arnold Lecture Series annually features five visiting artists who work with students in the classroom and provide one-on-one portfolio reviews. Most of these events give priority access to graduate students. Recent visiting artists and speakers include Odette England, Bryan Graf, Ron Jude, Aspen Mays, Mark McKnight, Mimi Plumb, Kristine Potter, Paul Mpagi Sepuya, and Vasantha Yoganathan.

Concurrent with these events, the school's William Harris Gallery, Bevier Gallery, and City Art Space support contemporary visual artists

by maintaining a calendar of exhibitions, public lectures, and receptions throughout the year. All three galleries present work from the college's nine MFA programs.

The College of Art and Design also offers an extensive schedule of activities and events related to design, film, art, and photography, and there is a wide array of regional cultural institutions, including the George Eastman Museum and Visual Studies Workshop.

To learn more about the school's visiting artist events, the Charles Arnold Lecture Series, and galleries, visit: rit.edu/events to rit.edu/photo

ALUMNI

RIT's MFA program was established in 1969 as one of the first fine art photography graduate programs in the United States. Its roster of alumni is both extensive and rich in honors.

Hailing from more than 17 countries, graduates from this program are internationally exhibiting artists, educators, curators, and writers actively contributing to the creative field in diverse ways.



Jamey Stillings '82 MFA, *Amanecer Solar CAP photovoltaic plant, near Copiapó, Chile, 2017*. This 100-megawatt photovoltaic plant supplies power to the nearby Cerro Negro Norte iron ore mine.



Jessica Todd Harper '01 MFA, *Self Portrait with Marshall*, 2009, from *The Home Stage*, published 2014. Damiani.



Sandi Haber Fifield '81 MFA, from *As Birdsongs Emerge*, unique collaged archival pigment prints, 2020.



Pavel Romaniko '09 MFA. *Untitled (Accident)*, archival pigment print, 2016.



Colette Fu '03 MFA, *Wa Hair Swinging Dance*, archival inkjet pop-up book, 2016.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Barbara Bosworth is a photographer whose large-format images explore both overt and subtle relationships between humans and the rest of the natural world. Whether chronicling the efforts of hunters or bird banders or evoking the seasonal changes that transform mountains and meadows, Bosworth's caring attention to the world around her results in images that similarly inspire viewers to look closely.

Bosworth grew up in Novelty, Ohio. She currently lives in Massachusetts, where she is a professor emeritus of photography at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston. Over her long career, Bosworth has photographed in both black and white and color. Her single images display a generous attention to small facts, while her large-scale triptychs reveal a panoramic awareness, one that lets viewers glimpse relationships between frames across a wide field. While all of Bosworth's projects remind viewers not only that we shape the rest of nature but that it also shapes us.

Bosworth's work has been widely exhibited, notably in recent retrospectives at the Denver Art Museum in Colorado, Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C., and the Phoenix Art Museum in Arizona. Her publications include, *The Heavens* (Radius Books, 2018), *The Meadow* (Radius Books, 2015), *Natural Histories* (Radius Books, 2013), *Trees: National Champions* (MIT Press; Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, 2005) and *Chasing the Light* (Nightwood Press, 2002).

Granville Carroll is a visual artist, educator at Arizona State University, and Afrofuturist working with digital technology, poetry, and alternative processes to reshape the world. Carroll's artwork explores photographic representation and vision to understand the process of existence and interpretation. Simultaneously, he explores and expands ideas around racial blackness to encompass spatial blackness, temporal blackness, and spiritual blackness. Carroll highlights the imaginative qualities of the human mind through world building and storytelling to discover new futures and states of being. At the core of his practice is the investigation into metaphysics and the ontology of self and the universe.

Carroll is currently based out of Phoenix, Arizona. Carroll has been named Top 50 Critical Mass 2022 (Photolucida), a 2022 NYSCA/NYFA Fellow, 2022 JGS Photography Fellow, 2021 Silver List artist, Project Space AIR (Visual Studies Workshop), and a 2020 Top 200 Critical Mass Finalist. Carroll earned a BFA in photography from Arizona State

University in 2018 and an MFA in photography and related media from Rochester Institute of Technology in 2020. His work has been shown in the United States and internationally. Most recently his work has appeared in Winchester, MA for the Photoville Fence Exhibition, CAV Gallery in NM, Danforth Art Museum in MA, and the Pool Art Center in MO. His work has been widely published, most recently through PhotoLounge, Fraction Magazine, What Will You Remember, Brink Literary Journal, Lenscratch, Humble Arts Foundation, and Black Is Magazine.



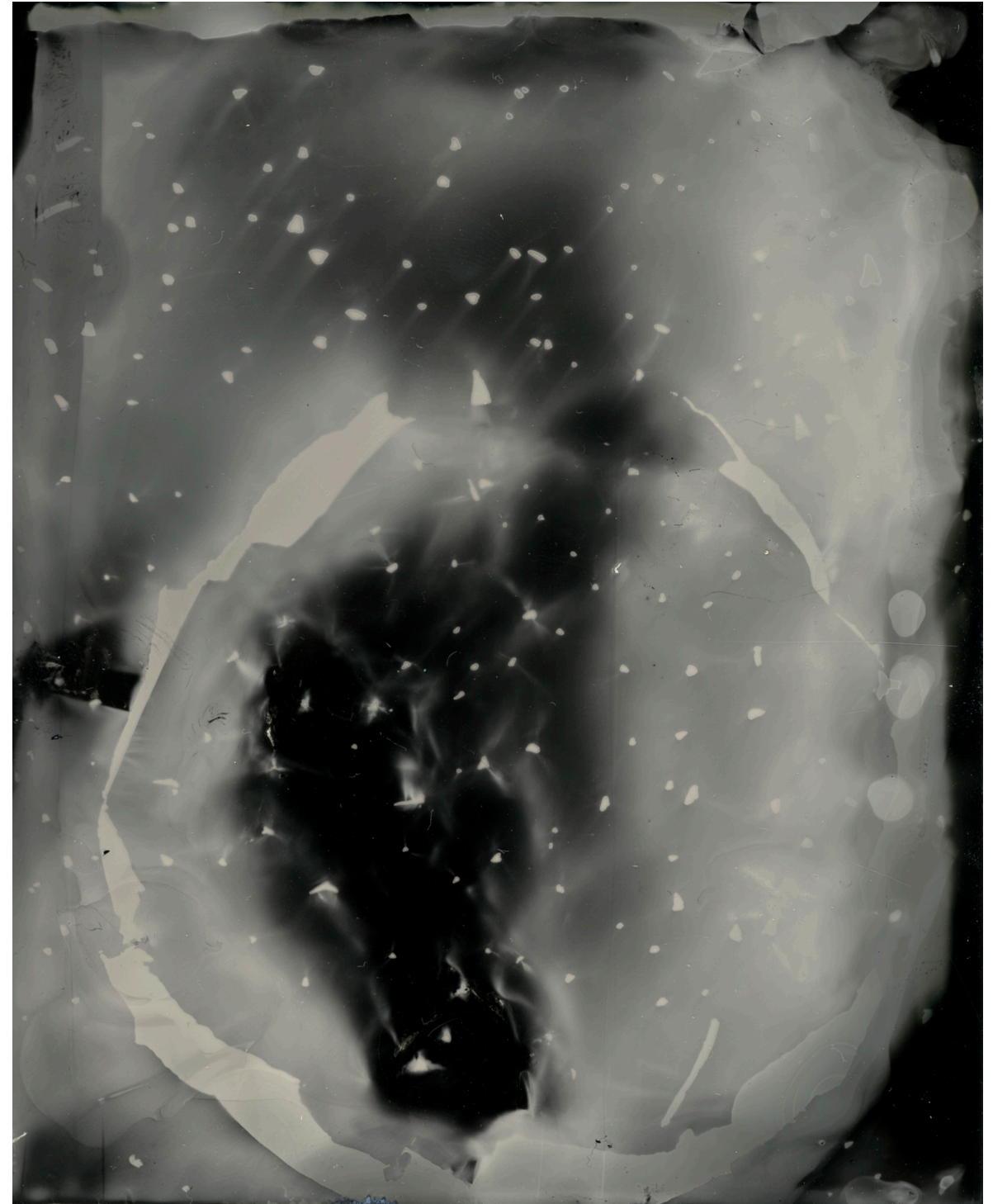
Barbara Bosworth '84 MFA, 1:30-4:30am, moon rising, Antelope Lake, 2011.



Barbara Bosworth '84 MFA, Hounds at the tree, Lochsa River valley, 1992.

“Grad school was a great experience,
but it was difficult. It was challenging.
Artistically it was challenging.
As an individual it really pushes you to grow
and think about what’s really important
to you, and what is your voice.”

GRANVILLE CARROLL '20 MFA



Granville Carroll '20 MFA, *Cosmotypes*, 2019.

THESIS DEFENSE & EXHIBITION

MFA students are required to write a thesis paper, the preparation and creation of which is addressed in the second-year curriculum.

The Thesis Defense is a public presentation by the student that addresses their thesis project and exhibition in a digital presentation. The written thesis and public presentation prepare students to write about and present their work as professional artists.

MFA students exhibit their final projects in a group thesis exhibition, which showcases a finished selection of each student's thesis work and with the exception of the pandemic students historically exhibit in either City Art Space or Harris Gallery. Students collaboratively plan, design and curate the final thesis exhibition in conjunction with faculty.



Jia Wang '16 MFA, Installation



Left Above: At home with legendary photojournalist Susan Meiselas. Meiselas is a Guggenheim Fellow and a member of Magnum Photos.

Left Below: A tour of the Wolfgang Tillmans show at the Museum of Modern Art with Clément Chéroux, the Joel and Anne Ehrenkranz Chief Curator of Photography at MoMA.

NEW YORK CITY ANNUAL TRIP

Every year, the MFA program runs a class that gives students the unique opportunity to participate in an intensive week together in New York City. Students meet with experts in the photography world, including photographers, gallerists, curators, magazine and book editors, book designers, agents, and RIT alumni. The class aims to demystify “the art world” and obtain practical, real-world advice from successful people in the field.





Gregory Halpern and Ahndraya Parlato, from, *East of the Sun, West of the Moon*, Etudes Books, 2014.

ROCHESTER

Rochester, N.Y., is a historical and contemporary center of imaging that features a variety of renowned art institutions, such as the George Eastman Museum, Visual Studies Workshop, the Memorial Art Gallery, Susan B. Anthony Museum and House, Rochester Contemporary Art Center, and Writers and Books. The city is centrally located an hour and a half from Buffalo and Syracuse, N.Y., homes to CEPA Gallery, Albright

Knox Museum, and Lightwork, three hours from Toronto, Canada, and five hours from New York City. Home to seven colleges and universities, graduate students take advantage of the location and affordability of this mid-sized city with its diverse arts, educational and cultural landscape.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The selection process for the Photography and Related Media MFA is competitive.

A portfolio of 20 images/videos is required for application. This provides faculty with a strong sense of a prospective student's level of visual sophistication and the ability to think and produce work of technical, conceptual, and aesthetic merit. It is preferable to submit a portfolio showing only one or two bodies of developed artwork.

In addition to a portfolio, the application requires a statement of intent and an artist statement. The statement of intent should detail the applicant's personal and artistic attributes to graduate study and address your expectations of an MFA program and professional goals. The artist statement should explain the intention and inspiration behind the body of work submitted in the portfolio.

For international students, a minimum TOEFL score of 90 is required for admission. Applicants may be asked to interview in person or via Zoom for final admittance.

While our application deadline is rolling, applications submitted by January 15 will be prioritized. There is no spring admission into the program.

Complete details for the application process can be found on the Admission page: rit.edu/admissions/apply



Willie Osterman, *MFA Picnic*, 2021.

During the fall semester, we host a daylong Open House event with tours and an informational meeting with the MFA Director and current graduate students.

Alternatively, contact spastours@rit.edu to set up an appointment and to tour the facilities with a graduate student.

For questions about the application process, please contact Graduate Admissions, at gradinfo@rit.edu or feel free to reach out to the MFA program faculty.

A special thank you to Elizabeth Lamark, University photographer, for her photographs of the College and featured facilities images.

Cover design: Bryan Graf and Samantha Haedrich, Unique photogram

The National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) and Middle State College board accredit the MFA program.

Address

70 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623

Contact

Phone: 585.475.2411
Email : gradinfo@rit.edu

Visit Us Online

rit.edu/study/photography-and-related-media-mfa

