A Brief Statement About the Department of Art

The Art Department of the University of Virginia was formed primarily for the purpose of giving broad instruction in the arts to the average College student, regardless of his major interest, thereby enabling him to understand something of the art of our time and its relation to art of the past. This we are attempting to do by means of lectures, guided reading, exhibitions, and studio training. The studio courses include the study of painting, sculpture, graphic art and drawing.

Neither modern nor traditional work is stressed in the teaching; rather an attempt is made to bring about an understanding of various approaches and to find some common ground for study and comparison of each. Techniques are developed only to the point of clarifying theories, and performance is not stressed beyond the point of gaining knowledge of a practical and useful nature.
Studio courses are open as electives to students whether or not they have had training in art.

Students may major in art and those planning to do so should consult the Art Faculty during the second year in College so that an appropriate program may be worked out for the remaining two years.

Majors are encouraged to explore rather than to confine their efforts to any one studio or medium.

Films of art treasures in this and other countries as well as those dealing entirely with technique are regularly shown in conjunction with classroom work.

Outside the classroom, the student has access to works of art not only in the department’s own exhibition gallery and the University Museum, but also in museums of nearby cities which are frequently visited as part of the program of study.

Through an arrangement with the Alderman Library the Catesby Jones Collection of modern prints and books is available for study. This collection is an outstanding one composed of several hundred items, including color prints, etchings, and lithographs by modern masters.

The Art Department's reference library has a large file of color reproductions, photographs, and reference works, which include those presented to the University by The Carnegie Corporation of New York. The books from this gift are in the Alderman Library and are used extensively by students of the Department.

For complete information ask for the Catalogue of the "College of Arts and Sciences"; address The Art Department, University of Virginia, Cocke Hall, Charlottesville, Virginia.
Students frequently confer with faculty members on matters of writing papers, discussion of their studio work and in preparation of theses.
The studios are well lighted and equipped. Each has a loud speaker over which a planned music program is heard while the student works.
Students are encouraged to experiment with various media and different interpretations of the same subject matter.
The problems of composition and spatial design are studied from natural forms and from objects within the studio.
From time to time students are invited to Faculty members' studios to see work in progress or to witness demonstrations of techniques.

The Art Reference Library has many standard works and recently published books on art and related subjects.
Careful drawing is required of the student as well as experimental studies in various materials related to problems in composition and design.