

# LEWIS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Tracy K. Smith, *Chair*  
Marion Friedman Young, *Executive Director*



**Lewis Arts complex**  
Home of Programs in Dance, Theater, Music Theater and Princeton Atelier.



**185 Nassau Street**  
Home of the Program in Visual Arts



**New South**  
Home of the Program in Creative Writing

## MISSION STATEMENT

At the Lewis Center for the Arts, we believe that art arises out of questions. Art, on a campus like Princeton's, is so much more than an "outlet" for expressing what one already knows and feels, or an "escape hatch" for blowing off steam built up by more rigorous kinds of work. Our classes and certificate programs in Dance, Creative Writing, Theater, Music Theater, Visual Arts and in the interdisciplinary Princeton Atelier operate on the principle that rigorous artistic practice is a form of research, innovation, discovery and intervention. Like scholarship of any kind, rigorous artistic practice is a way of interrogating that which is accepted or understood in an attempt to break into the territory of the unknown or under-explored.

Through their individual creative work, Lewis Center students investigate questions about themselves, others, and the events and systems that affect us all—systems like geography, politics, gender, race, the economy, the environment, and of course the wide realm of human choice and activity. This is fundamental to the formation of artists. It is also fundamental to the formation of alert, compassionate, creative, resourceful, and active rather than passive people.

The Lewis Center is committed to being an anti-racist space. We endeavor to frequently reappraise and redouble our efforts toward this goal. Our commitment to diversity and inclusion is not nominal or symbolic, but rather action-based. Our faculty, classes, public programs, co-curricular offerings and our engagement with the community beyond Princeton reflect these values.

**arts** | LEWIS CENTER PRINCETON  
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# WHY STUDY THE ARTS AT PRINCETON?

The Lewis Center for the Arts positions the arts as a cornerstone of academic life at Princeton, offering courses and certificates in Creative Writing, Dance, Music Theater, Theater, and Visual Arts, including Film. The Princeton Atelier hosts one-time and one-of-a-kind interdisciplinary courses. Music courses are offered through the Department of Music, a vital Lewis Center partner.

At the Lewis Center you have the extraordinary opportunity to study and create with some of the best artists and scholars working today, including winners of MacArthur “Genius” Fellowships, Pulitzer Prizes, Tony Awards, Guggenheim Fellowships, National Book Awards, Drama Desk Awards, and Bessie Awards. Cutting-edge emerging artists, diverse resident fellows, and renowned guests offer workshops, master classes, performances, lectures, readings, screenings and exhibitions. Princeton’s distinctive commitment to undergraduate education means that the artists on faculty are abundantly accessible to you in small workshops as teachers and mentors.

**“ MAKING ART ISN’T ONLY ABOUT SELF-EXPRESSION; IT’S A VITAL MEANS OF DISCOVERY, A WAY OF DIVING HEADFIRST INTO THE QUESTIONS CENTRAL TO WHO AND WHAT WE ARE. ”**

– TRACY K. SMITH  
Chair of the Lewis Center for the Arts

Courses focus on art-making and artistic practice, as well as the history, theory and criticism of the artform. More than 150 different courses are offered each year at introductory through advanced levels. Over a quarter of undergraduates enroll in Lewis Center courses each year and are encouraged to explore, take risks, experiment, push boundaries, and work in interdisciplinary ways.

Many aspiring artists choose Princeton over art schools or conservatories in order to fuse creative pursuits with a broader exploration of the world. You can earn a certificate—essentially a minor—while majoring in fields as varied as economics and evolutionary biology, computer science and comparative literature, physics and philosophy. Students can earn a major in Visual Arts through a collaboration with the Department of Art and Archaeology. Independent majors are also possible. Your academic studies will inform your artistic practice and vice versa.

Princeton alumni are everywhere you look in the arts—on screen, stage and page, in galleries and museums, behind the camera and curtain, and in the roles of producer, curator, choreographer, and much more. Many others have brought their rich experiences and valuable skills learned through the arts into a broad range of professions. Join them!

# CREATIVE WRITING

Students in the Program in Creative Writing have an unrivaled opportunity to work intensively in small fiction, poetry, screenwriting, and translation workshop classes with some of the most respected writers working today, including Michael Dickman, Aleksandar Hemon, A.M. Homes, Jhumpa Lahiri, Christina Lazaridi, Yiyun Li, Paul Muldoon, James Richardson, Tracy K. Smith, Kirstin Valdez Quade, Susan Wheeler, and Monica Youn. In recent years visiting faculty have included screenwriter Susanna Styron, novelist and short story writer Daphne Kalotay, novelist and translator Idra Novey, poet Rowan Ricardo Phillips, and UK Poet Laureate Simon Armitage. Certificate students work individually with a member of the faculty to write a novel, a screenplay, or a collection of short stories, poems, or translations as their creative thesis.



“**CREATIVE WRITING IS AN ACT OF WILLFULNESS, A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO RECONCEIVE, TO REARRANGE, TO RECONSTITUTE NOTHING SHORT OF REALITY ITSELF.**

– JHUMPA LAHIRI  
*Director of the Program in Creative Writing*



# MUSIC THEATER

The Program in Music Theater invites aspiring and curious composers, lyricists, librettists, performers, directors, music directors, choreographers, designers, producers, stage managers, dramaturgs, and scholars to earn a certificate. We offer formal classes, workshops, and master classes with renowned scholars and artists for students at all levels, addressing both the scholarship and practice of music theater, from Broadway musicals to opera, from cabaret to new and experimental styles. Senior thesis project opportunities are varied and flexible and encompass any aspect of music theater production and scholarship.

“**WE SEE ALL OF OUR STUDENTS AS ARTIST-SCHOLARS AND SCHOLAR-ARTISTS.**

– STACY WOLF, *Director of the Program in Music Theater*



“**ANSWER QUESTIONS BY MOVING.**

– SUSAN MARSHALL  
*Director of the Program in Dance*



# DANCE

The Program in Dance familiarizes students with creative, performative, and analytical approaches to dance through exposure to professional choreographers, dancers, critics, and scholars. The program provides advanced courses for the pre-professional dancer and introductory courses for students who have never danced. The creation of original work, both choreographic and written, is emphasized alongside rigorous technical training. The program supports multiple performance opportunities each year, ranging from full professional productions with choreography by faculty, guests, and students to site-specific interdisciplinary thesis projects and independent experimental work. Students can choose to earn a program certificate.





**“ A GREAT LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION IS THE BEST POSSIBLE TRAINING FOR A LIFE IN THE THEATER. A CLASS IN THEATER IS A WONDERFUL TRAINING FOR LIFE. ”**

– JANE COX  
Director of the Program in Theater

## THEATER

The Program in Theater offers a rich environment for making and studying theater in the company of world class faculty, working theater artists and fellow students of many different backgrounds. In addition to our course offerings in acting, directing, playwriting, design, dramaturgy, performance history and criticism, we offer workshops, readings and professional mentorship for our student theater makers. Our theater and music theater certificate students generate our season each year; performing, designing, directing, writing, stage managing and producing alongside faculty and guest artists. Our theatrical explorations thrive on the integration of beginning students with experienced students and working artists, and on the range of knowledge that our students and faculty bring to us from their very varied majors and experiences.

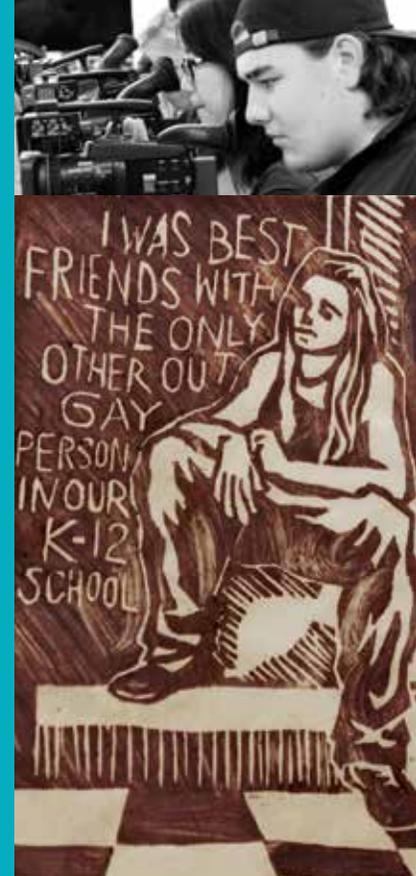


**“ BE PART OF A COURSE THAT WILL HAPPEN ONLY ONCE. ”**

– PAUL MULDOON  
Director of the Princeton Atelier

## VISUAL ARTS & FILM

The Program in Visual Arts offers courses in painting, drawing, graphic design, photography, animation, film/video, and sculpture, and provides students with extensive contact with an accomplished faculty and access to technical, analog, and digital labs including darkrooms, ceramics facilities, welding and mold-making areas, a letterpress studio, film editing bays, and a theater for 35 mm and 16 mm film. Students can earn a certificate or major in the Practice of Art through a collaboration with the Department of Art and Archaeology. Seniors exhibit a body of work or screen a film as their creative thesis and, along with juniors, enjoy 24/7 access to shared and semi-private studios.



**“ ART PROVIDES A SPRINGBOARD TO POKING, PRODDING AND PONDERING OUR ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT OURSELVES AND THE WORLD AROUND US. ”**

– MARTHA FRIEDMAN  
Director of the Program in Visual Arts



## PRINCETON ATELIER

The Princeton Atelier is a unique academic program that brings together professional artists from different disciplines to create new work in the context of a semester-long course. A painter might team with a composer, a choreographer might join with an electrical engineer, a company of theater artists might engage with environmental scientists, or a poet might connect with a videographer. Princeton students have an unrivaled opportunity to be directly involved in these collaborations, either as participants or in “parallel play.” Recent guest artists have included Laurie Anderson, Jason Robert Brown, the improv group Baby Wants Candy, and the Wakka Wakka Puppet Theatre.