



RIT

College of
Art and Design

School of Art



Your style. Your voice. Your art.

Your Journey

At RIT, your education will begin with making experiences that explore 2D and 3D forms, then expand with the room and opportunity for you to develop your own style and aesthetic.

As practicing artists and active exhibitors, our faculty know what it means to navigate today's art world and the importance of authenticity. They are well represented among national and international organizations, publications, and galleries. Each day they share their talents in our studios and classrooms because they are passionate about teaching the next generation of artists.

That includes you.

So whether it's in our illustration, medical illustration, or studio arts program, you'll grow as an artist in a place equipped to help you succeed.

Networking that Works

We are incredibly proud of our Visiting Artist Series. With over 15 visiting artists every year, our students are privileged to participate in a range of guest lectures and demonstrations. Having constant exposure to independent artists and a range of industry representatives bolsters our students' opportunities for internships, apprenticeships, and placements after graduation.

So it is no surprise that our graduates thrive in a range of creative industries and as dynamic, independent artists.



Illustration

RIT's illustration major supports the creative development of our students and prepares them for numerous careers within the visual communications field.

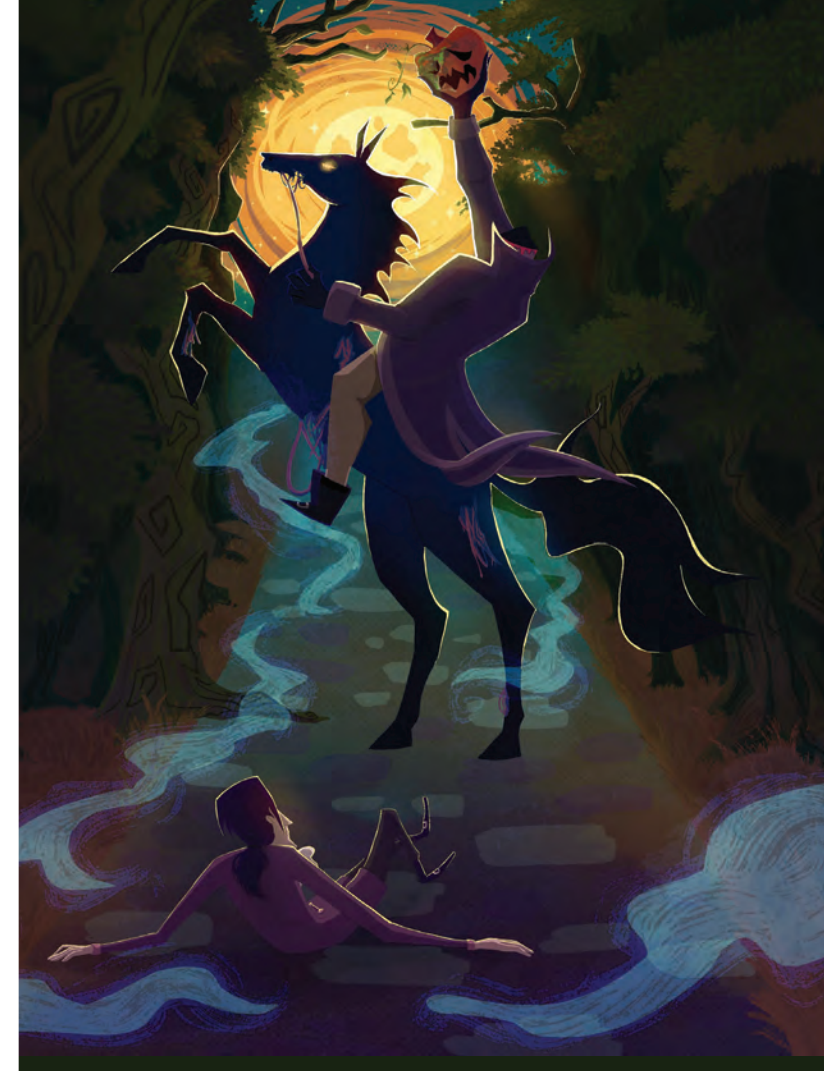
With a firm foothold in both digital and traditional studio approaches, our students develop technical competence and learn how to execute workflows for both traditional and digital illustration. Assignments cover editorial, character development, backgrounds, journalism, world-building, advertising, and caricature illustration, while also covering topics related to marketing and business. Ultimately, the range of projects hones each student's unique style while developing a diversified skill set.

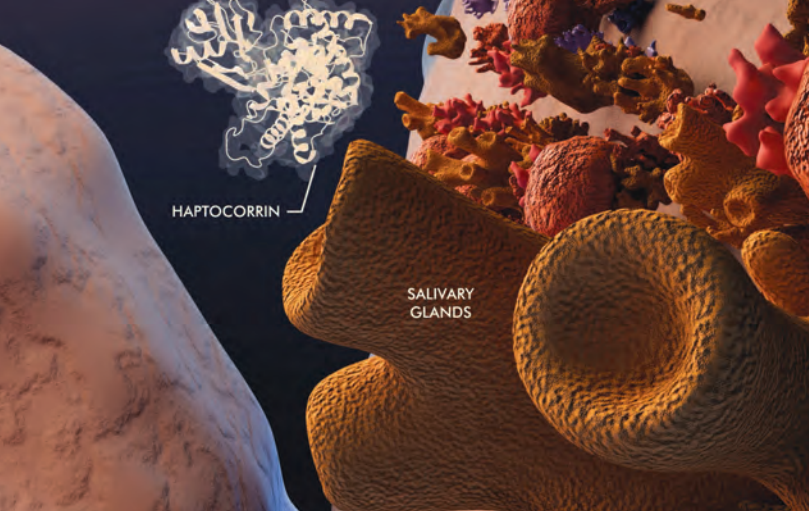
Draw upon your ideas and tools to elicit emotions and messages—and put pixels, paints, and pencils into practice.

projects hones each student's unique style while developing a diversified skill set.

In addition, faculty frequently facilitate classroom projects that partner with industry and organizations in Rochester and beyond, leading to work that mirrors professional timelines and studio environments. Recent partners have included American Greetings, Disney, The Fillmore in San Francisco, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Society of Illustrators. Ultimately, the quality of work produced in the program has led to annual recognition and participation of RIT illustration students in the prestigious Society of Illustrators' annual Student Scholarship Competition. Recent awardees have received significant cash prizes.

Upon graduation, our students are situated to pursue studio-based positions, take on client and contract work, or freelance. In industry, alumni regularly move among advertising, publishing, entertainment, and marketing projects. Graduates of RIT's illustration program include political cartoonists for *The New York Times*, a Caldecott Medal recipient, and the design director of Adidas.





Medical Illustration

Perfect for students with a passion for art and science, RIT's medical illustration program partners scientific knowledge with artistic technique, all with the intention to educate and inform. Building on a foundation of drawing and design, students aren't simply recording what they see in the human body or the natural world. Rather, they are making deliberate, artistic choices to distill complex scientific ideas into more digestible ones. Much like the human heart is compared to a pump, our students are continually working to find visual analogies to explain medical concepts.

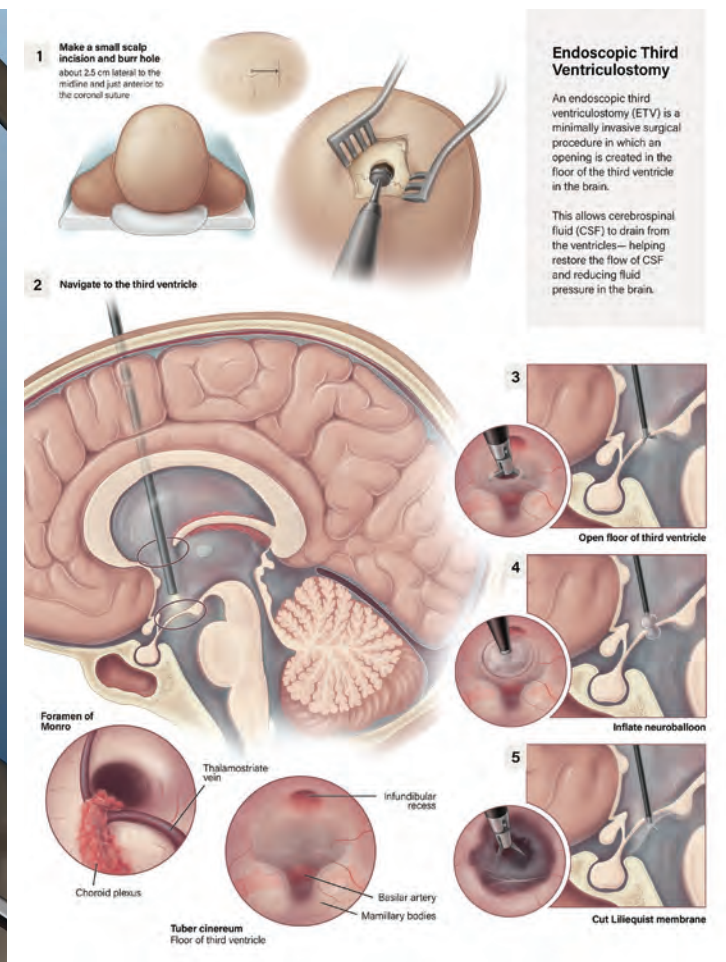
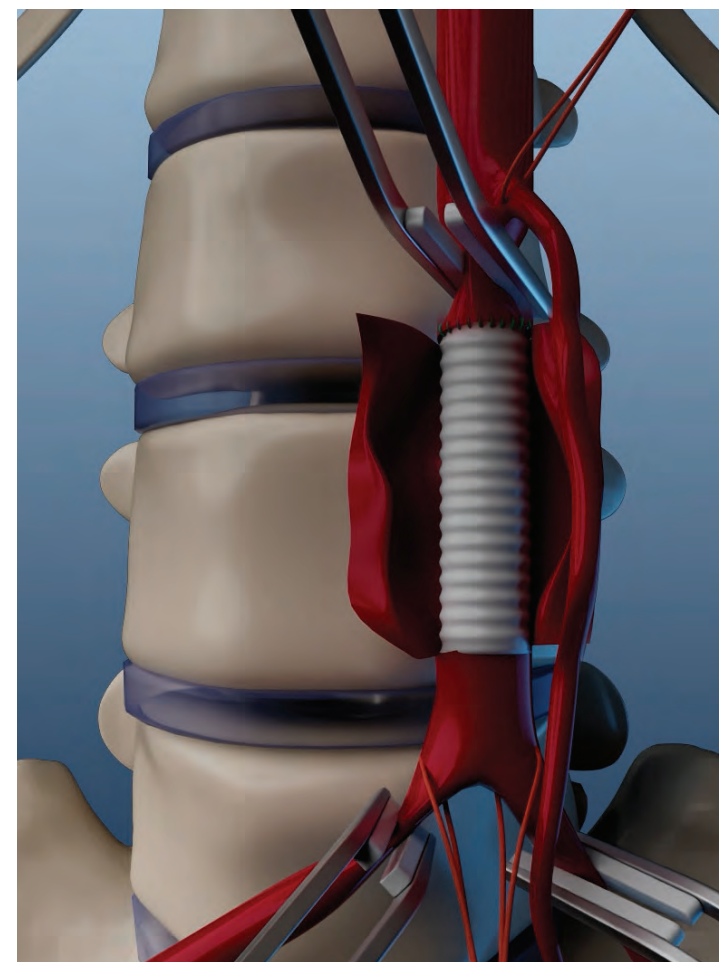
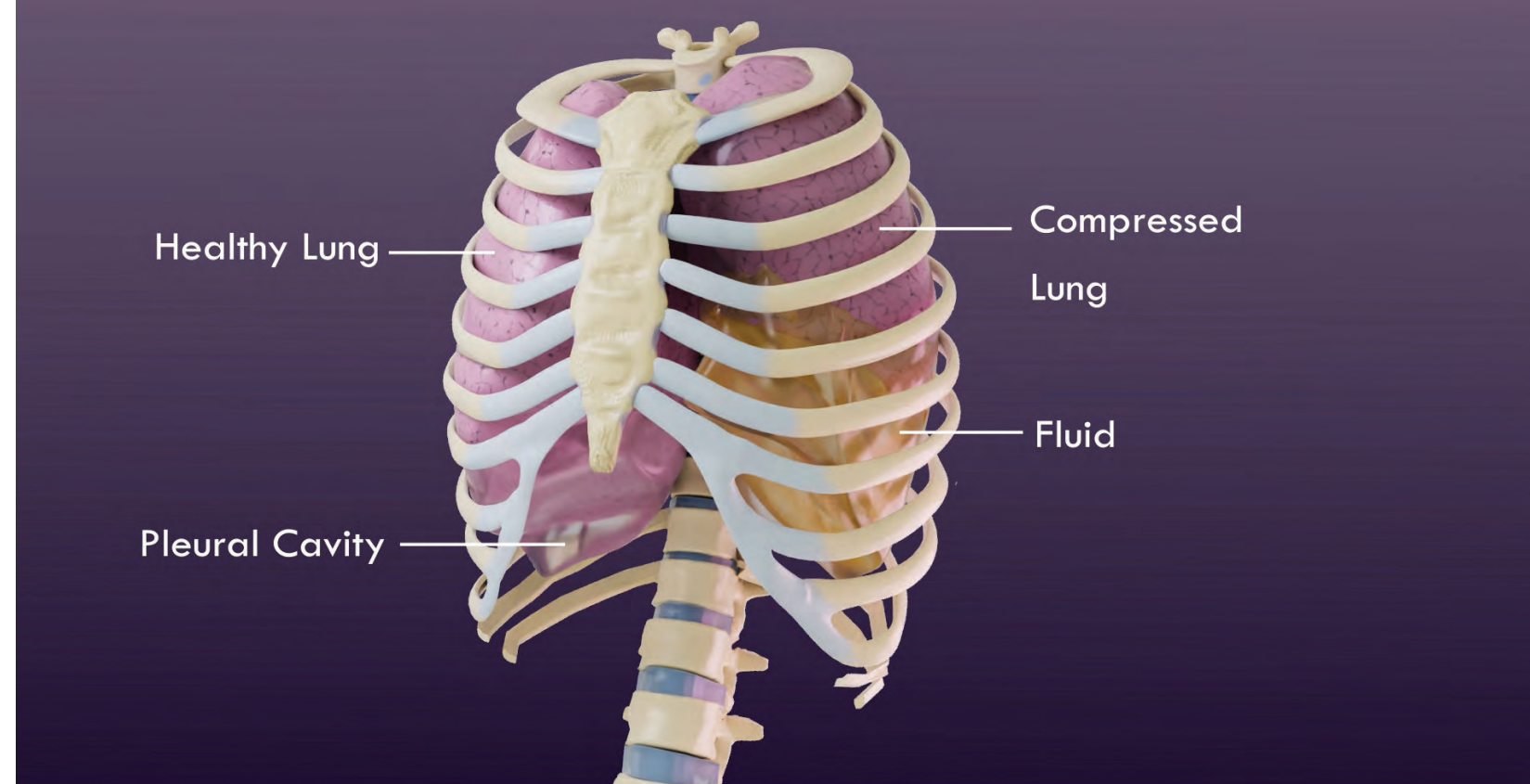
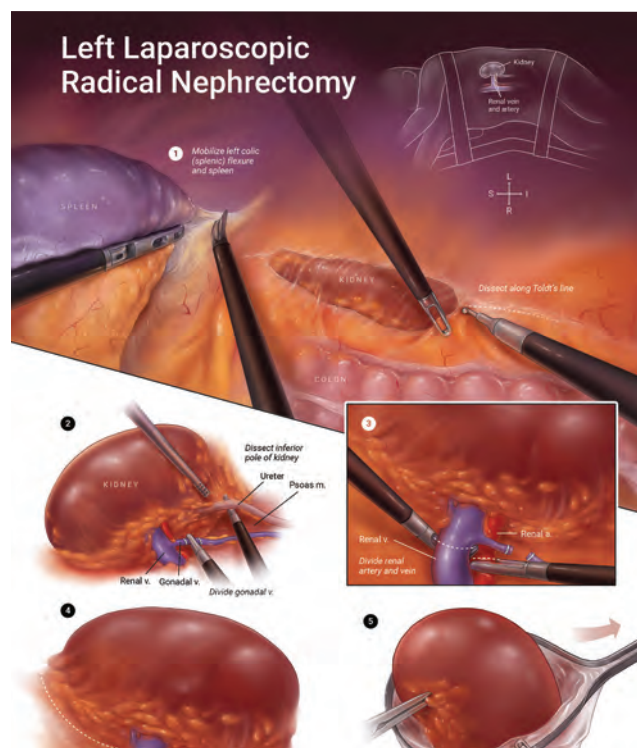
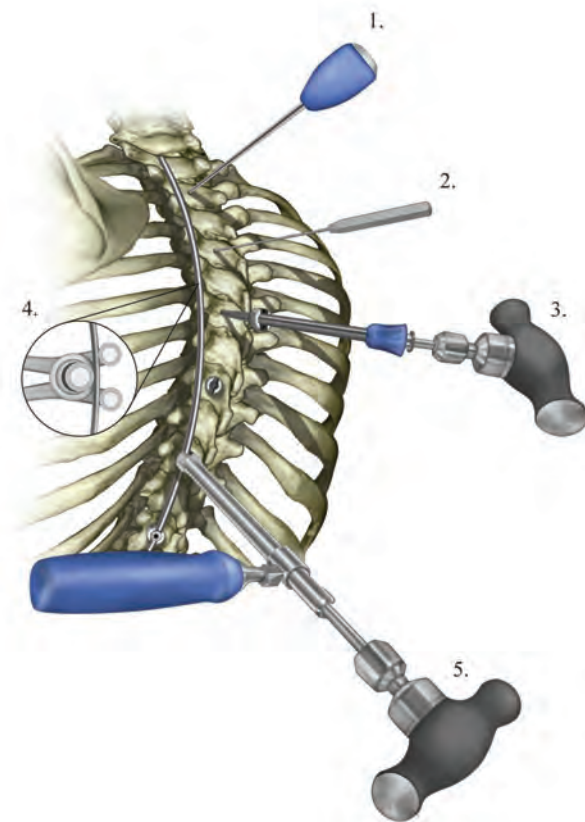
Partnering scientific knowledge and artistic technique with the intent to educate and inform.

You already see examples of medical illustrations when you look at your science textbooks, museum drawings, and even posters and diagrams at your doctor's office. As partners to health professionals, the work of medical illustrators can supplement health care decisions, often bringing visual clarity to patients assessing treatment options. Medical illustrators also aid in creating educational tools for physicians and surgeons as they learn to master new approaches and techniques. Beyond health care, medical illustrators are able to enhance and elevate scientific knowledge. Equipped with the ability to conceptualize what can — and cannot — be seen, they add visibility and visual representation to research at the macro and micro levels.

After completing human biology, anatomy, physiology, and human gross anatomy classes, RIT medical illustration students have the opportunity to observe surgeries at Rochester General Hospital while enrolled in a surgical illustration course. This class is an anomaly for student artists. While most students only have access to cadaver labs or photographs to create their work, this course gives students an opportunity to draw from living, organic tissue and view the real color palettes of the human body.

RIT's program and technical prowess empower students to build digital 3D models, animations, and even videos of their work, in addition to instructional illustrations, infographics, interactive computer simulations, ads, and more. Alumni pursue careers in research, health care, publishing, medical-legal, pharmaceutical, and advertising industries. They also become veterinary and scientific illustrators.

Left, from top: Rioka Hayama, Raven Rivenburgh, Allison Young
Right: Abby Nautel (top), Christina Becher (middle), Julia Rosander (bottom-left), Allison Young (bottom-right)





Studio Arts

The School of Art offers a BFA degree in studio arts with focused options in ceramics, furniture design, glass, metals and jewelry design, painting, printmaking, and sculpture and expanded forms. The major starts with a foundation that provides an essential base for whichever option you choose.

Each of our options gives you access to a studio-intensive environment with plenty of time, space, and faculty support to develop as a professional artist. RIT's studios and material spaces for undergraduates remain unmatched by our peer institutions.

Acquire the conceptual and technical skills to succeed as a studio artist.

The close alignment and shared facilities among the seven options allows for interdisciplinary courses and the exploration of options outside of a chosen area. Ceramics students can delve into glass, and painting students can explore metalsmithing; all while honing technical expertise in technique and material studies. This crossover broadens their scope, enabling the creation of beautifully complex and sophisticated work.

The studio arts program exposes our students to a wide scope of visual arts, building out-of-classroom experiences that forge connections and networks. A robust rotation of visiting artists and scholars enrich classes with guest lectures, demonstrations, and critiques. Trips to museums and attendance at professional conferences are commonplace. Ultimately, our students are actively engaged in and outside of the program.

During their senior year, students exhibit a final body of work in one of the college's galleries. Guidance and experiential projects focus on presentation of work, self-promotion, and business practices to help our students thrive as creative professionals after graduation.

Upon completion of the program, students have many choices. Some continue their education at the graduate level while others start independent studios and exhibit their work. Many alumni find employment in the fields of art therapy, art criticism, art restoration, gallery and museum management, set and display design, education, marketing and advertising, and in auction houses for their knowledge of contemporary and historical art and material culture.

Photography by Zelig Goodman-Hoffman and Elizabeth Lamark



Ceramics

*Top Row: Mikey Gambino
Middle Row: Marian Draper
Bottom Row: Emma Herz Thakur,
Emma Herz Thakur, Jacob Dambra*

The ceramics option provides a dynamic environment where intellectual discourse and craftsmanship thrive. As a vessel-oriented program with room for explorations in sculpture and wearable art, the curriculum supports a range of fundamental topics within ceramics, such as pottery, mold-making, glazing, firing, and material science. The ceramics option is home to a digital ceramic printer and collaborates frequently with high-tech forming processes, including computer-aided drawing and 3D printing for mold-making and form exploration.

Recent ceramics alumni have earned some prestigious honors. Mikey Gambino '23, whose work is featured above, was named a Windgate-Lamar Fellow, receiving a \$15,000 grant to fund his studio ceramic practice. Gambino and Marian Draper '22 also earned Christina Brinkman Awards. In addition, Emma Herz Thakur '24 received a Fulbright Scholarship to further her ceramic research and practice in France.





Work by Evan Owens (left) & Myles Vasta (middle, right)

Furniture Design

The furniture design option engages our students in the pursuit of their creative interests while providing a comprehensive technical background in contemporary woodworking. The program begins with a firm foundation in the use and maintenance of hand tools, proceeding on to more advanced tools and topics in construction and design. The option is housed across multiple studios that include a tool room, bench room, machine shop, and a computer numerical control (CNC) machine room.

Thorough understanding of traditional processes combined with contemporary technology allows students to focus on the function of the objects they design in addition to developing a unique aesthetic in their work.

Glass

Through a rigorous and diversified approach, the glass option cultivates artists who are as versatile in their making as they are in their thinking. Studio instruction in glassblowing, flame-working, hot and kiln casting, cold-working, kiln-forming, glass imaging processes, and three-dimensional digital technologies help inform each student's creative potential with glass. An emphasis on research, idea development, material exploration, execution, and presentation equip our students with the skills needed to succeed as professionals.

Three students from RIT's glass option have received the prestigious Windgate-Lamar Fellowship. The Center for Craft honored Spider Martins (2024), Ethan Townsend (2020), and Eric Meeker (2018) as part of its emerging artist fellowship program. Each artist received \$15,000 — one of the largest awards offered to undergraduate students in the country.

Work by Rachel Shames (left) & Peter Ruhren (right)



Clockwise, from top left: Sierra Apicella, Kate Seckar, Sierra Apicella, Charlotte Partin, Ruichu Yu

Metals and Jewelry Design

This option provides a stimulating space for students to learn metalsmithing and design techniques. With a focus on aesthetics, the function of forms on the body, and material and process mastery, self-discovery is at the heart of student assignments, projects, and group discussions.

Facilities include casting and enameling areas, annealing and cleaning spaces, a polishing and finishing room, spinning/etching areas, forging, welding, and a machine room.

Utilizing the comprehensive selection of tools and technology, our students develop and hone signature styles that launch their careers in contemporary craft, luxury jewelry, and fine-arts markets. Dozens of alumni have landed jobs at jewelry giants like Tiffany & Co. for their innovative designs and technical prowess.



Painting

Students selecting this option engage in contemporary visual art practice through a personal exploration of painting techniques. The comprehensive curriculum covers traditional methodologies as well as contemporary visual art practices, covering mediums ranging from watercolor to oil to gouache. Rigorous studio practice and critical discourse encourage the development of a strong personal language that allows for effective individual expression.

Supported by renovated studios with personal workspaces devoted to students in the option, classes also produce work en plein air. Our painters ultimately produce a body of artwork from personally-driven research relating to contemporary themes such as identity, the body, memory, place, language, science, pop culture, and spirituality. Graduates balance authenticity in art while being mindful of business and entrepreneurial practices that foster profitable careers.

Work by Dylan Kelly (top, bottom-left & Kyrene Haynes (bottom-right)

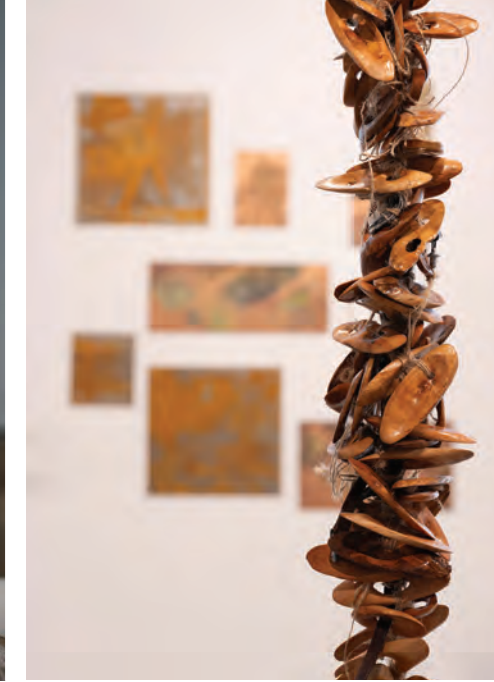


Printmaking

Organized to offer a flexible experience, this option targets the development of problem-solving and skill-building within the context of printmaking. Explorations and experimentation in lithography, screen-printing, relief, and etching allow for students' unique perspectives to resonate in a series of work.

The printmaking studio is equipped with a wide variety of tools and materials to facilitate non-toxic processes. RIT houses three Takach etching presses, a black light exposure unit for screen-printing, a fluorescent light exposure unit for photopolymer plates, vertical etching tanks, pressure-washing sinks for screen-printing work, and a darkroom and computer lab for printing film positives. Bookbinding and letterpress equipment is also available. The Cary Collection is also an important resource to study historical methods and processes to unite with contemporary technology and concepts.

Work by Ella Napierowski (top) & Madeleine Saint Pe (bottom)



Clockwise, from top left: Grace Jiesong, Parker Dubiel, Grace Jiesong, Parker Dubiel

Sculpture and Expanded Forms

Engage space and explore three-dimensional art-making by pairing traditional techniques with new technologies and contemporary approaches in this option. If your creativity aligns with creating sculptural objects, performance art, installations, computer art, and/or multimedia displays, and going beyond the visual to sometimes employ all five senses, then this is the field of study for you.

The variety of materials, ideas, and practices available to students includes stone-carving, woodworking, foundry and metal casting, welding and metal fabrication, modeling and mold-making, and digital fabrication in both our Fab Lab and the SHED.

The sophisticated body of work produced by students features stand-alone pieces, installations, experimental, and site-specific works of art. Students and alumni are active in the international sculpture community, engaging in national conferences, residencies, and events such as Build Fest held at the historic site of Woodstock.

Photography by Elizabeth Lamark





Drawing Classroom



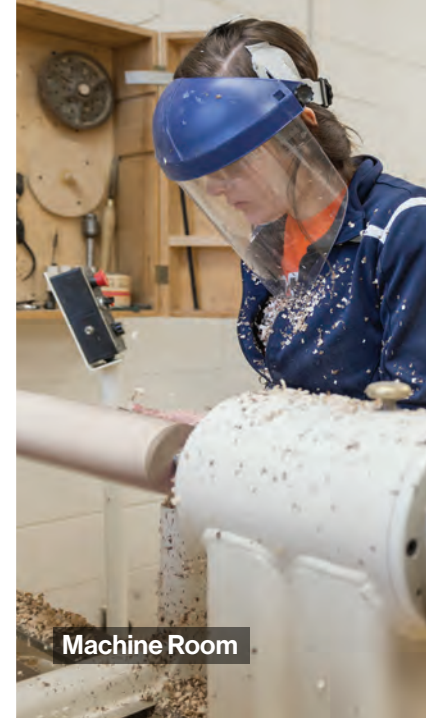
Illustration Studio



Painting Studios



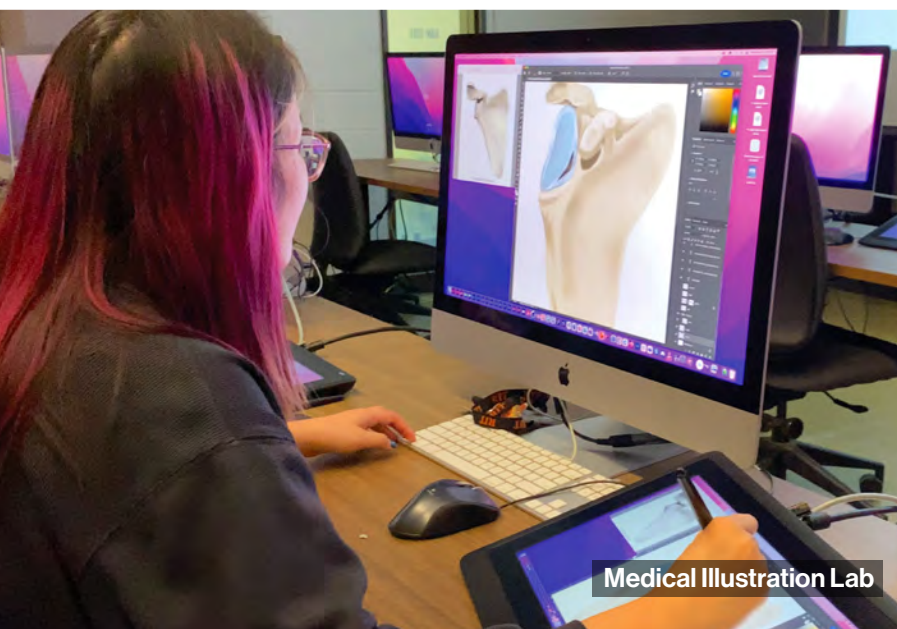
Hot Shop



Machine Room



Printmaking Studio



Medical Illustration Lab



Metals and Jewelry Design Studios

The Space to Create

There's no shortage of inspiration when it comes to our facilities in the School of Art. Our illustration and medical illustration students have their pick of spacious drawing studios and flexible, comfortable work areas as well as computer labs equipped with the latest in drawing and design hardware and software. Having our traditional and digital spaces side-by-side echoes our curriculum, which has students exploring and creating in a wide range of media.

And there is certainly no shortage of facilities for our students pursuing studio-based arts and American crafts disciplines. These working spaces are equally

You'll have access to nearly 70,000 square feet of studio, lab, and creative space.

top notch, covering floors of our buildings with kiln rooms, 3D printing labs, cold and hot shops, welding facilities, bench rooms, furniture workshops, and more.

All of these resources are supported by incredibly talented, full-time

technical experts staffing our spaces to support you in your work.

Photography provided by Elizabeth Lamark, A. Sue Weisler, Jesse Wolfe & Ben Braun



Ceramics Studio



Foundry



Bevier Gallery



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Cover work by Raven Rivenburgh (front)
Cover photography by Dan Hughes (back)

The RIT Nondiscrimination notice can be found here: rit.edu/nondiscrimination