

THE COOPER UNION  
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT  
OF SCIENCE AND ART



# School of Art

# Introduction

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Faculty and students in the School of Art engage in regular critiques, discussing and exchanging ideas that connect their practices to broader debates in art, history, and politics. Students do not choose a major in the School of Art; instead they work within an integrated curriculum while in pursuit of their four-year Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Students begin their studies taking a set foundation year of courses. They may then choose to focus on one or more areas of specialization while observing a prerequisite system designed to allow in-depth study in specific disciplines: drawing, film & video, graphic design, painting, performance, photography, printmaking, and sculpture.

This integrated approach to teaching and learning is a core Cooper value. Students are constantly exposed to different perspectives on the role of the artist in the public sphere. Through critiques, developing technical skills, experimentation across a variety of disciplines and mediums, and a strong intellectual grounding in history, theory, and criticism, students graduate from Cooper as well-rounded creative practitioners working to transform society.





## Curriculum

Students begin their studies with the Foundation Program, which consists of a series of prerequisite courses taken during the first year. This introductory year is designed as a basis for the educational program of the School of Art and intended to prepare students for studies in all disciplines offered within the curriculum. Through exposure to a variety of two- and three-dimensional projects, students are given a general introduction to the specifics of visual and spatial phenomena, and to concepts, principles, and techniques of the visual arts.

Following the completion of the Foundation Program, continued study is offered in the disciplines of drawing, film & video, graphic design, painting, performance, photography, printmaking, and sculpture. Elective studio classes and seminars are also offered on a rotating basis. Students may enroll in advanced studio classes multiple times. Instructors and syllabi in these courses will vary. In addition, the content of advanced studio classes changes with the mix of students in each class. Consequently, the development of work varies with the interchange of ideas among these students and their instructors. The School of Art believes that the ability to work with the same instructor in the same discipline multiple times (even as the course content changes) can foster a valuable mentoring relationship between an instructor and an advanced student.



The Student Residence Hall offers apartment-style housing for approximately 170 students during a typical year. Most apartments accommodate four students, comprised of two bedrooms with a shared bathroom and kitchen. The building is staffed by the Residence Hall director and eight resident assistants. There is a 24-hour security system, including guards, closed-circuit cameras, and alarms. Due to space limitations, The Cooper Union is unable to guarantee housing, giving preference to first-year students.

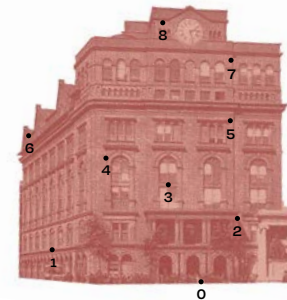
ILLUSTRATIONS: KELSEY MITCHELL '18



### Residence Hall

29 Third Avenue

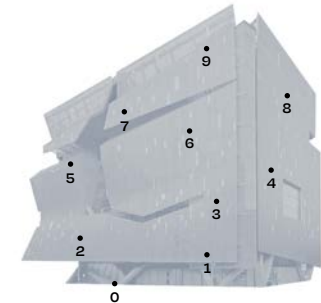
- 3 Student Services, Study Room, Lounge
- 4 Benjamin Menschel Common Room, Laundry
- 5 Apartments (Floors 5–16)



### Foundation Building

7 East 7th Street

- 0 The Great Hall
- 1 Colonnade
- 2 Studios, Art Offices
- 3 Architecture
- 4 Shop, Sculpture, AACE Lab
- 5 Printmaking, Photo Lab
- 6 Painting
- 7 Offices, Architecture
- 8 Peter Cooper Suite



### 41 Cooper Square

- 0 Lubalin Center
- 1 The Hub/Office of Enrollment, Benjamin Menschel Civic Projects Lab, Classrooms
- 2 Dean's Office
- 3 Physics Lab, ChE Labs, Writing Center
- 4 Study Lounge, Chemistry Labs, School Café
- 5 Studios, Classrooms
- 6 EE Labs, Art Classroom
- 7 ME Labs, Maurice Kanbar Center for Biomedical Engineering, Anechoic Chamber
- 8 Computer Studio, Art Studios
- 9 Art Studios, Classrooms



## The Saturday Program

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The Saturday Program offers public high school students the opportunity to take studio art courses taught by undergraduate instructors at The Cooper Union. Since its inception in 1968, the program has continually recruited talented students from historically underserved communities throughout New York City. By creating an opportunity for undergraduates to genuinely teach, the Saturday Program actively supports the creative development of both instructors and high school students. Through a thoughtful and reflective process, this work exists at the nexus of art's praxis and social action.

# Foreign Exchange

Students in good academic standing may participate in exchange programs for one semester during their third year. The School of Art participates in student exchanges with the following schools.

- Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Gerrit Rietveld Academie
- Barcelona, Spain  
Universitat de Barcelona
- Basel, Switzerland  
Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst (HGK)
- Berlin, Germany  
Berlin University of the Arts
- Frankfurt, Germany  
Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste (Städelschule)
- Jerusalem, Israel  
Bezalel Academy of Arts & Design
- Kyoto, Japan  
Kyoto Seika University
- London, England  
Slade School of Fine Art  
Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design
- Malmö, Sweden  
Malmö Art Academy, Lund University
- Paris, France  
École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts
- Prague, The Czech Republic  
Academy of Fine Arts



# Applying

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The Cooper Union admits students based on the merit of their talent and potential. The School of Art offers first-year and transfer students the opportunity to apply early decision or regular decision.

# Application Steps

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- A completed application, the [Common Application](#) (for first-year applicants), the [Cooper Application](#) (for transfer applicants)
- Letters of recommendation (one for first-year applicants, two for transfer applicants)
- Official high school transcript or GED certificate
- Official college transcripts for ALL schools attended, sent directly from the college or university
- English language proficiency test (if applicable)
- \$75 application fee or fee waiver



# Hometest and Portfolio

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The Hometest is designed to help the Admissions Committee better understand each applicant's relationship to visual imagination, concept development, and hands-on making. The Hometest will be viewable to applicants a week after the application closes. Each applicant receives approximately one month to complete and return the test.

- After students have submitted the required application, they will be asked to complete a supplemental Hometest (instructions to appear in the applicant portal once the test is released).
- Students will also be asked to submit a portfolio and sketchbook along with their Hometest.

# Application Deadlines

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Early Decision: **December 1**  
Regular Decision: **January 5**

## Affording Cooper

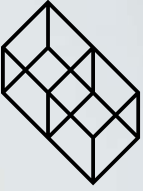
As an all-honors college, every admitted undergraduate student receives a half-tuition scholarship currently valued at \$22,275 per academic year.\* Applicants will automatically be considered for additional merit-based scholarships. To be considered for need-based financial aid, students must submit the [FAFSA](#) (code: 002710).

\*Printed in the summer of 2022.



Photos: Ryan Brenizer, Kathryn Gamble





**The Cooper Union**  
for the Advancement  
of Science and Art

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**Sign up  
for an event  
or tour.**

**Take a  
self-guided  
virtual tour.**