

## Visual Arts Overview

The goal of the Visual Arts Department is to create a supportive and challenging arts environment for students, allowing them to experience first-hand the discipline, knowledge, and seriousness that can lead them to a career in the visual arts. Artist-teachers and visiting artists serve as mentors to the student artist, introducing them to art history, contemporary art and the principles of artistic form.

In two- and three-dimensional studio classes, NOCCA visual art students are encouraged to concentrate on technical proficiency, creative problem solving and self-discovery. This focused exploration increases confidence and allows students to stay open to new possibilities and to become increasingly self-directed.

Students are encouraged to investigate and create art that responds to issues they feel strongly about and, in the process, develop their own artistic vision and voice.

Weekly student led critiques give students the skills and vocabulary to intelligently discuss their work. Within the thoughtful inquiry of a group discussion with trusted mentors and peers, students learn to refine both the technical and conceptual basis of their work, to make considered choices and to articulate their ideas. This is how they develop their aptitude for art analysis and hone their ability to more accurately assess their own work and the work of others. With the knowledge they gain at NOCCA, students leave with a portfolio that reflects work that is technically sound and that expresses their personal point-of-view.

**Overview of Printmaking Program at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA)**  
The printmaking program introduces students to the various printmaking techniques: relief, intaglio, color reduction printing and screenprinting. These processes provide students with an opportunity to build their knowledge of the print media, moving from simpler to more complex techniques.

**Intro** students create black and white linoleum cut prints with a focus on learning how to develop a preliminary drawing, transferring the drawing to their blocks, developing cutting techniques that translate the tonal drawing into line and proper printing techniques.

**Level I** students are introduced to the intaglio process including line etching, aquatint and chine colle. Working on copper plates they use non-toxic techniques to build and print their plates.

**Level II** students expand on their knowledge of color and color theory by tackling the challenging color reduction relief printing process. Students develop their print by first creating a preliminary drawing, then developing their color plan using stencil techniques and a sequence of transparent layers. They learn how to use a pin registration system to ensure proper alignment in the finished print.

Having mastered the various print processes over the course of the previous three years and with the additional knowledge of screenprinting and access to a laser engraver, **Level III** students are

encouraged to apply their technical knowledge to more conceptually complex work. Using aspects inherent in the print process—the creation of multiples and the use of layers and transparency—students are encouraged to create larger scale or installation-based work that enriches and expands on concepts that are already present in their portfolio. Level III students are welcome to work in any print media that best conveys their concept and vision.

Students at all levels in printmaking are introduced to historical and contemporary art examples that provide context and appreciation of how printmaking fits into the larger art world.