

## Facilities

The School for the Contemporary Arts occupies an innovative facility designed specifically to support its requirements for teaching, performance and exhibition space. The 120,000 square foot facility includes large-size flexible studios, production and post-production facilities, multi-purpose teaching rooms, and state-of-the-art public venues including the Audain Gallery, Fei and Milton Wong Experimental Theatre, Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema, two equipped black box theatres called Studio D and Studio T, and the Djavad Mowafaghian World Art Centre.

## Admission

Program entry for all levels is by audition, interview or portfolio in spring. **Contact us about student performances, facility tours, or for entry information.** [www.sfu.ca/choosecontemporaryarts](http://www.sfu.ca/choosecontemporaryarts)

## Events

The School produces an average of 100 events a year, from informal presentations to fully produced concerts, performances, screenings, lectures, and exhibitions. Undergraduate students in the SCA receive grants, scholarships and awards across the country and continue to contribute to contemporary art and performance internationally. SCA students also have a high rate of success in acceptance to the most prestigious graduate programs in North America and abroad. **You'll find out about events at SFU Woodward's here:** <http://sfuwoodwards.ca/index.php/events>

## Faculty

Faculty are internationally recognized for research excellence. The majority of the faculty are established working artists, artist-scholars, and scholars. In general the artists are creators—choreographers, composers, filmmakers, lighting designers, visual artists—as well as performers, directors, and dramaturges. Scholarly research centres on cinema and media theory, art history, and visual culture.

## Contact

[www.sfu.ca/sca](http://www.sfu.ca/sca)

### Undergraduate

Phone: 778-782-3363

Fax: 778-782-5907

Email: [ca@sfu.ca](mailto:ca@sfu.ca)



Twitter: @SFUContmryArts

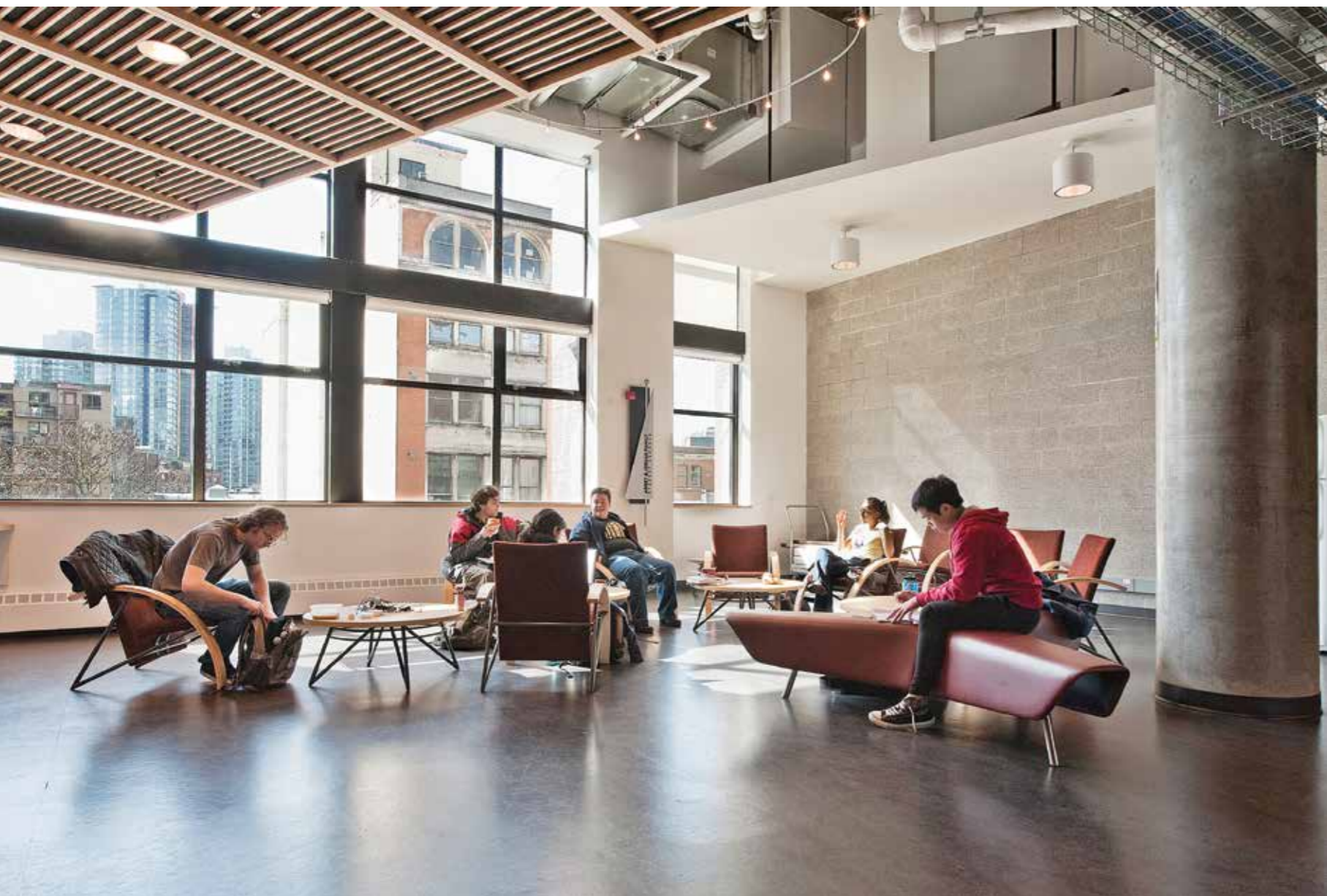
Facebook: SFUContemporaryArts

### Graduate

Phone: 778-782-3724

Fax: 778-782-5907

Email: [ca@sfu.ca](mailto:ca@sfu.ca)



SFU

**SFU's School for the Contemporary Arts is an innovative program within a comprehensive university in a new state-of-the-art facility. We specialize in creating a dynamic learning environment for contemporary art. Our studio classes in dance, film, music, theatre and visual art are taught by practicing artists, while our scholars engage students with the historical, philosophical, and political contexts of the arts. Our goal is to equip students with the skills, the discipline, the flexibility, the creativity, the understanding and the acumen to excel in the arts in Canada and around the world.**

SCA

SCHOOL FOR THE  
CONTEMPORARY  
ARTS

The School for the Contemporary Arts offers all the advantages of a small, intimate art school—lots of attention from your professors, close interaction with fellow students, the familiarity of a small program—with all the advantages of a large university—access to a vast array of courses, faculty engaged in high-level research, excellent and varied facilities, and more.

# EXPLORE

## THE UNEXPECTED



### DANCE

The Dance program offers students the opportunity to study dance technique and composition, choreography and the collaborative process, repertory and performance, and the history and aesthetics of dance. This work is supported by courses in improvisation, experiential anatomy, movement analysis, and the Ghana Field School. Our students are challenged in studio and lecture courses to be versatile and articulate, to engage with new technology, and to understand that the collaborative process is a crucial step towards their development as contemporary artists. These students acquire an ability to engage with contemporary demands through a unique understanding of dance's role in history, as well as its relationship to other art forms.

Our students have the opportunity to produce and perform original works throughout their four years of study. We provide numerous opportunities for performances, from informal concerts arranged and created by the students to highly produced performances with national and international guest artists and faculty. We are committed to continuing to offer these opportunities to our majors and believe that learning how to perform as an individual and as a member of a company is fundamental to their preparation for a professional career.

### FILM

Our Film BFA program offers an exciting creative and aesthetic education along with rigorous technical training, skills development and extensive instruction in cinema studies. Students draw on studio and history courses throughout the School to deepen their understanding of other artistic disciplines—an understanding we consider essential to the creative life of every successful film and media artist. Our aim is to graduate students who will go on to become successful independent filmmakers in all genres.

Film students learn by making their own films and videos in each year of their program, and begin working with 16mm in their first semester. All students work closely with instructors in small classes. Our program is collaborative and cohort-based; this is one of our greatest strengths. Students' success comes from working together with their peers and faculty in the School and with professionals in the wider world. This leads to long-term peer support and partnership after school, a strategy that has produced a large number of prize-winning films by our grads.

Our production program offers students full creative control over their productions using state of the art equipment (Red Scarlet and Epic cameras).

### MUSIC

The BFA Music Major program is renowned for its innovative and experimental approach to music through its focus on composition. Given the program's unique position within an interdisciplinary contemporary art school, our music students have rare and valuable opportunities to collaborate on film, dance, theatre, and visual art projects as part of their core training. Our rigorous curriculum offers a balance between acoustic and electroacoustic music and insight into music past and future, along with occasions for performing both European and non-Western music (through the Javanese gamelan and the Ghana field school).

Because of our unique pedagogy of engaging professional musicians to perform student compositions and our leadership in music technology research, we offer a distinct and valued student experience. The Music area benefits greatly from being part of a vibrant comprehensive university where a student may move easily between departments and faculties. Our students can thus obtain a much wider set of skills than students in an academy and they are encouraged to see their practice and role as artists in a larger context. In addition, they make connections with artists in other disciplines that will benefit them greatly upon graduation.

### THEATRE

The Theatre BFA Program allows students to choose a Performance Stream or a Production and Design Stream.

#### Theatre Performance

The Theatre Performance program at the School for the Contemporary Arts is respected nationally and internationally for our unique emphasis on physical practice, collaborative ensemble techniques, and dramaturgy. Students enter the program through an audition process or through transfer credit from colleges and university programs. Our studio cohort approach emphasizes rigorous artist training in both individual work and ensemble relations. Performance students take studio courses in acting, movement, voice, playmaking, clown, directing, and dramaturgy; academic courses in critical and dramatic literature; and courses outside the discipline with a special emphasis on production and design.

#### Production and Design

The Production and Design stream includes technical production, stage and production management, stage lighting, design for the stage, dramatic literature, playmaking, and introductory courses in acting, dance, visual art, music, and film. The program is structured so that students will accumulate extensive practical, hands-on experience within a variety of production contexts and with a wide range of state-of-the-art technologies and equipment, while collaborating with fellow students from different disciplines across the school, as well as directors, choreographers, and guest artists. Opportunities are present as well for internships with professional groups ranging from ballet and theatre companies, to film production houses.

### VISUAL ART

Students enrolled in Visual Art are immersed in a dynamic and progressive education in contemporary art. The program balances studio-based production with a strong theoretical component. Our method of continuous enquiry connects hands-on production with critical reflection and is recognized for fostering an informed, experimental approach. Contemporary art is a form of material knowledge that produces thought and experience. We are committed to investigating the ways in which art connects to a broad range of social questions and functions. Through exposure to the most challenging and innovative examples of contemporary art, our program encourages students to envision their own artistic practice while exploring a wide variety of media.

Students have opportunities to present work in the Audain Gallery, in our visual art studio at 611 Alexander, and site-specific projects throughout our downtown campus. As well as attending our ongoing series of talks by local and visiting artists, our students benefit from working with international artists participating in the Audain Visiting Artists in Residence Program. In addition to our multidisciplinary approach to studio practice, our students study side by side with students from other disciplinary backgrounds. The presence of students from the MFA in Interdisciplinary Studies further contributes to our close-knit intellectual community that fosters critical thinking and creative growth.

Many of our students are admitted to prestigious national and international graduate programs while significant numbers of graduate students go on to successful careers in the arts or related fields. All students acquire knowledge that forms the basis for life-long learning connected to community networks.

### VISUAL CULTURE & PERFORMANCE STUDIES

(FORMERLY ART AND CULTURE STUDIES)  
The School for the Contemporary Arts offers a distinctive, interdisciplinary Visual Culture and Performance Studies BA. In the first two years, students study the history of visual art, cinema, and the performing arts (dance, music, or theatre), and take two studio art courses. Upper-year seminars include critical theory, historical and thematic topics in visual culture, performance studies, and a popular internship course.

Visual Culture and Performance Studies prepares students for careers in the arts. Our alumni include arts writers, arts administrators, curators, film programmers, and practicing artists. The degree also prepares students for a number of graduate degrees, including a MA at the School for the Contemporary Arts. Our alumni have taken MA and PhD degrees in Art History, Visual Art, Cultural Studies, Performance Studies, Critical and Curatorial Studies, Liberal Studies, Theory, Culture, and Politics, Library Science, and other degrees.

#### MA in Comparative Media Arts

At the forefront of an emergent intermedial approach to the arts, our new MA in Comparative Media Arts offers a comparative approach to visual culture, moving-image media, digital art, and performance studies. Small, focused seminars with faculty of international reputation give students a strong grounding in new developments in these fields. Students also have access to graduate courses across the university. Students have ample opportunities to engage with the creative environment of SFU's School for the Contemporary Arts and with the local arts community. The four-semester program prepares students for careers in the arts and for doctoral studies.

### MFA

Our Interdisciplinary MFA program offers the rare opportunity for artists from a wide variety of disciplinary backgrounds to develop their work in shared studio and theory forums. Both disciplinary and hybrid practices are welcomed. In addition to a strong portfolio and an astute articulation of practice the applicant should communicate their enthusiasm for cross-disciplinary conversations and how their work would benefit from such an environment.

Several kinds of artist thrive in this program: those who have a strong background in a single discipline and value the stimulation of an interdisciplinary environment; those whose studio practice fuses two or more disciplines; and those who want to develop the theoretical or scholarly context of their practice.

The program provides advanced professional training for artists across the fields of music, dance, theatre, film, video and visual art. The focus is on developing the student's individual artistic practice, creativity, interdisciplinary research, technical skill and critical awareness of art's relationship to contemporary society. MFA students pursue a seven-semester program of original research and studio work, culminating in a graduate artistic project. The program is full-time, taking two years plus one semester, and requires students to be in the Vancouver area.

MFA students work closely with faculty members. Our faculty consists of over twenty-five nationally and internationally recognized practitioners of dance, choreography, film, video, screenwriting, music composition, directing, dramaturgy, visual arts, history and theory.