



**SAN FRANCISCO STUDIO SCHOOL**  
OF DRAWING, PAINTING, PHOTOGRAPHY AND MIXED MEDIA

**SFSS Certificate Program**

The Certificate Program at the San Francisco Studio School is a full-time, four-semester course of study requiring focus and advancement through the curriculum, the successful completion of midpoint and final reviews of the student's work, and the development of a final paper investigating aspects of the student's primary discipline relevant to his or her work which he/she will present to the entire school as a part of the final presentation of his/her work. A certificate of completion is awarded at the fulfillment of these requirements.

The Certificate Program is not an accredited program. However students may receive credit from other college and university art departments through Independent Study or Directed Study programs depending on the home school's requirements.

Study at the SF Studio School is divided into different "series," a term used to replace the traditional concept of courses in order to emphasize the integrated nature of study at the school. New students are accepted in both fall and spring semesters and work alongside returning students in all series. This provides a mutually beneficial dynamic among students in the development of discourse related to the discussion of content in the various series.

The philosophy of the San Francisco Studio School stresses the student's need to pursue his or her study most seriously and with great commitment. Students who for some reason are not able to maintain reliable attendance or involvement with the series and their content and structure are asked to leave the program in favor of finding more appropriate solutions to their pursuits. Students in the Certificate Program must demonstrate consistency in attendance and full participation over the course of their study at the school; they must attain accomplishment in their primary discipline, which is demonstrated through their final papers and presentations of work, and they must demonstrate an individual commitment to the concept of art for its own sake, through their contribution to meaningful discourse in the school and their sense of priority related to their work. An informal but comprehensive review of the students' work and progress will be conducted after the first two semesters as a midpoint review encouraging reflection at that point on the students' particular concentration for the second part of the program. Final assessment of these criteria is overseen jointly by the Director and the Dean of the school.

The following are general series descriptions. The content of each evolves over the length of the Certificate Program. The student's individual emphasis becomes increasingly focused as he/she progresses through the program from the general to the specific in terms of his/her individual involvements. The last semester is dedicated to concentration on the consolidation of a mature body of work in the student's primary discipline.

## **Painting**

Painting combines discussion and studio work concentrating on theory and praxis related to plastic means, painting genres and the relationship of form and subject matter. Issues confronting the painter today and matters of the freestanding artwork and their pertinence to the individual identity of the participant are explored. The painting series advances semester by semester in terms of broad themes and topics and each individual's work.

## **Drawing**

The objective of this ongoing series is a substantial exploration of spatial occurrences linked to specific involvements of working from observation, perception and reference. These involvements are then linked to the specific and purposeful exploration of the individual participant's evolving understanding of form and subject over ensuing semesters. The drawing series supports both the painting and photography series.

## **Photography Theory**

Photography Theory Seminar explores aspects of theory in photography from writings on or by photographers as well as more general visual theories from related media. The topics range from documentary and street photography to experimental photography. These topics resonate with the work done in other media and inform work underway in other series. Students whose primary discipline is photography undertake a continuous and evolving body of work concentrating on the delineation of a clearly defined approach to the individual's commitment to his/her work.

## **Studio Practices**

Studio Practices is a structured period encouraging experimentation within the student's given concentration. It is multi-disciplinary and includes discussion of theory and technique with an emphasis on studio work during the allotted time. This series further explores the values investigated at the school while encouraging an open approach to each student's work.

## **Visual Art Seminar**

This series investigates a broad but substantial theme each semester thoroughly investigating the inherent need to be an artist as well as aspects of the artist's lifelong practice through the readings, discussion and critique of the student's ongoing work. Topics related to realizing the vitality, lasting quality and spiritual essence inherent in great art as well as issues relevant to in the artist's search and his/her relationship to the artwork itself as creator and/or audience are explored.

## **Critical Studies**

Critical Studies is comprised of scheduled events and seminars with Visiting Faculty to broaden the student's visual and expressive involvements, many of which overlap readings underway in the various series. As part of critical studies, students are also expected to explore the art of local museums and galleries as a part of explicating the topics investigated in critical studies. The lectures, panel discussions and critiques allow for a variety of viewpoints to be considered while remaining relevant to the semester's content and student involvements.