



## MFA DESIGN CRITICISM DEPARTMENT FACT SHEET

The MFA in Design Criticism trains students to research, analyze and evaluate design and its social and environmental implications. The two-year, 64-credit curriculum emphasizes the skills and knowledge relevant to those who wish to write about design on a full-time, professional basis; or pursue alternative critical practices, such as curating, publishing or teaching. Drawing on the broadest possible definition of design, the curriculum includes graphic, Web and product design as well as fashion, urban planning and network systems.

The focus of the first year of study is threefold: on design as subject matter, on criticism as a literary genre and on the range of tools with which to practice design criticism. The second year offers the opportunity for specialization both in subject matter and format. Students participate in medium-specific workshops devoted to topics such as producing a radio program or documentary, curating an exhibition, or editing a magazine or blog. They then research and develop a thesis project that must include a substantial written component, and which may be realized in any format.

### 2009 – 2010 student population

26 matriculated students

### Department chair

Alice Twemlow, design writer and former program director, AIGA

### Some notable faculty members

Kurt Andersen, co-creator and host, *Studio 360*; Paola Antonelli, curator, Department of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Michael Bierut, partner, Pentagram; Ralph Caplan, writer, design consultant and author, *By Design*; Russell Flinchum, archivist, The Century Association Archives Foundation, New York; Janet Froelich, creative director, *The New York Times Magazine* and *T: The New York Times Style Magazine*; Emily Gordon, managing editor, *PRINT* magazine; Alexandra Lange, contributing editor, *New York* magazine; Julie Lasky, editor-in-chief, *I.D.*; Elaine Louie, assistant to the editor, House and Home, *The New York Times*; and Phil Patton, contributing editor, *Departures*, *Esquire*, and *I.D.* and an automotive design writer for *The New York Times*.

### Annual public conference

The program culminates in an annual public conference, conceived and organized by graduating students, in which they present papers based on their theses alongside professional design critics.

For further information, please visit our Web site at <http://dcrit.sva.edu/>.