

**Self Evaluation by the Department of Art History –
Responses to the Committee's Recommendations Appearing in the Specific Report**

Committee's recommendations January 2014	University's (U) / Faculty's Dean (F) / Department's (D) Action Plan & Responses (April 2014)	Schedule (Month/Year)
Short term/immediate (within 1 year)		
<u>Organizational Structure</u>		
<p>1. Although the Department is well-integrated in the School of History, it should strengthen its current relationships with other units. Given the current commitment to art therapy, the relationship to the School of Creative Art Therapies should also be more active. In addition, the Department of Archaeology offers resources that can benefit Art History, particularly in the area of art conservation. The Faculty of Humanities in general may be a fruitful source of double majors. To take full advantage of curricular resources across the university, the Department of the History of Art should compile a list of appropriate courses in other departments that might serve students as electives. It should better publicize the Art History major within the Faculty of Humanities.</p>	<p>(D) We will collaborate with the Conservation Track in the Department of Archaeology, and take our Curatorial Studies MA students on a tour of the conservation laboratories. We will consider a common course or jointly invited lectures. The School of History will compile a list of elective courses, in addition to the ones offered through the Mindscapes Program ("Derech Ha'ruach"), which appear in the course catalog. We will look for courses in other departments within the Faculty of Humanities. Per the request of the Dean, we absorbed the MA program in Culture and Film Studies into our department this year (2014). We are working closely together with their program and the students of the three MA programs (Art History, Curatorial Studies and Culture and Film Studies) benefit from this collaboration. Consequently, we now have an additional administrative secretary five days a week.</p>	<p>Next academic year, 2014-15</p>
<p>2. Given the many initiatives, a longer term for the chair should be considered.</p>	<p>(D) The current and future chair work closely together and there will be a proper handover.</p>	
<u>Mission and Goals</u>		
<p>3. The Committee advises the Department to define a more coherent mission, one that seeks to reconcile its faculty's engagement with original research with the diverse pre-professional programs it currently offers.</p>	<p>(D) We shall discuss the matter in our future meetings.</p>	

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Study Programs		
<p>4. The Department and the School of Art should, for administrative purposes, become two entities, with course codes no longer shared. The large number of studio students taking art history classes will then be reflected in the major's statistics.</p>	<p>(D) Firstly, the recommendation is directed to two departments: the Department of Art History and the Department of Fine Arts, the latter being administrated under the School of Arts, its parent unit in the Faculty of Humanities. The decision whether to implement it is up to the University authorities.</p> <p>(U) We will be happy to consider a proposal when submitted.</p>	
<p>5. The Department should take real responsibility for its Psychodali program. It should reconsider the viability of the two year track and reexamine the balance of requirements among disciplines. It should also consider reducing the art history requirements to permit a strengthening of the practice and psychology components and/or developing courses that are truly preparatory for careers in art therapy.</p>	<p>(D) We now allow those students who wish to do so, to take the Psychodali program over three years instead of two, or to drop one required summer course (creative art courses) if the load is too heavy for them. They make up the required credits by taking other courses in psychology and related subjects in the Multi-disciplinary Department.</p> <p>Last year (2012-13) we also added one workshop in art therapy within the frame of our Department, and this year we added a second one. Both workshops are given by an expert who is the head of one of the other art therapy departments in Israel.</p> <p>Moreover, we meet with our Psychodali students each year, and keep close track of their needs and requests.</p> <p>This year we saw a growth in the numbers of Psychodali students, and moreover, ten new students joined the program in the spring semester. Many of our new students come to us after recommendations from their friends enrolled in the Psychodali program. This trend seems to be continuing for next year too.</p> <p>Furthermore, since there are now more institutions in Israel offering an MA in Art Therapy, more Psychodali graduates are now admitted to MA programs.</p>	<p>Already implemented</p>

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Human Resources / Faculty		
<p>6. The Rector should approve the replacement appointment in modern/Contemporary art, not only because of the importance of the field itself but also because of the University-wide demand for the subject.</p>	<p>(D) Last year the University authorities rejected our request for a position in Pre-modern and Modern Art. This year we applied again for both Modern Art and Islamic Art positions and we are currently waiting for a reply. However, we have been informed that there are severe budgetary constraints.</p> <p>(U) The recruitment process at the University is based on the principle of academic excellence. When an appropriate candidate will be found for the Department, we will seriously consider recruiting.</p>	
Students		
<p>7. The Committee encourages the Department to normalize relations with the School of Art. The two areas of concentration have much to offer one another, not least cooperation on preparing students for degrees in art therapy.</p>	<p>(D) Again, the recommendation is directed to two departments: the Department of Art History and the Department of Fine Arts, not to the School of Arts.</p> <p>Our relations with the Department of Fine Arts and School of Art are normalized. Their students continue to take courses in our Department and our Psychodali students have their courses in their studios. Each year we give a summer pro-seminar for the benefit of their students. Our weekly timetable is coordinated in order to allow their students to take as many courses as possible in our Department.</p> <p>The Department of Fine Arts has its own BA program preparing students for an MA in Art Therapy, and therefore collaboration between the two competing units in this regard is limited to courses in the art studios for the Psychodali students in the summer, when the studios are vacant.</p>	Already implemented
<p>8. The Department should review the progress of the MA in curatorship and systematically control the courses being taught in it. It should also undertake a thorough review of the MA in curatorship after four or five years and assess it from all angles, including the success of its students in finding employment and their retrospective opinions about the strengths and weaknesses of the program itself.</p>	<p>(D) We will implement these recommendations. We are currently discussing cooperation with the new curator of the City of Haifa museums. We already know that several of our former students in this relatively new program are working in museums, galleries and art institutions.</p>	Next year

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Research		
9. The Committee emphasizes that the Faculty of Humanities and the office of the rector must enhance research opportunities and support—especially for the junior art historians—in order to ensure the continued high caliber of scholarship being produced at HU.	(U)(F) We will make every effort in spite of the University's difficulties vis-a-vis budgets.	
Infrastructure		
10. The Committee suggests that for the student carrels longer tables be installed in the library to accommodate the use of exceptionally large books and the frequent need for comparing illustrations.	(D) Long tables have been placed at the end of the Media library.	Already implemented
Intermediate term (within 2-3 years)		
Study Programs		
11. Once Psychodali is sufficiently strengthened (the Committee proposes three years), the quota system should be eliminated. In the interim, the number of graduating students to be guaranteed places in HU's School of Creative Art Therapies MA program each year must be set by both the Department and the School and agreed upon in writing. The agreement should also be publicized to students considering enrolling in Psychodali.	(D) Moving to three years instead of two years might weaken Psychodali and diminish its comparative advantage over similar programs within and outside the University. The students themselves support the 2-year schedule, and this is their main reason for choosing Psychodali. Nevertheless, we will allow students who wish to do so to spread their studies over three years. Our Psychodali graduates are now admitted in large numbers to different MA programs in art therapy throughout Israel, including the one in HU.	

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12. There should be a moratorium of up to two years on all new curriculum initiatives while the Department makes the projected new and replacement appointments to support existing and approved programs of study.	(D) We accept this recommendation. The only new initiative we will start next year is directing our regular double-track BA program to a new target audience: tour guides, who may wish to study for a BA in art history especially that of Europe and the Mediterranean, areas in which we already specialize. We joined the Department of Multi-disciplinary Studies and now offer tourist guides the opportunity to study art history in our Department, as well as tourism, culture, religions and the like in their second department. For this purpose we now offer each year one elective seminar that takes place half the year at the University of Haifa and half in a tour guide program abroad (this year it was Toscana). However, this is the same BA program; it just appeals to new markets.	Already implemented
13. The Department should discuss how the period-based curriculum might be affected if the number of tenure- and tenure-track faculty members does not increase; in that case, the plan to hire a modernist and an Islamicist will necessarily mean less representation and research in other fields.	(D) Absurdly, this is a problem we wish we had. At the moment we have no new positions whatsoever, and this has been the case for the last 10 years. (U) Please see response to recommendation number 6.	
14. Given everything the Committee heard about the current strain on faculty time and teaching loads and given the necessary commitment to adjuncts the proposed new MA programs would necessarily entail, the Committee deems it unwise for HU to be launching so many proposals at this stage in the Department's history.	(D) We accept this recommendation.	Already implemented
15. The Department should seek better communication and exchange with the School of Arts, to reduce the growing duplication and to develop mutually beneficial cooperation instead.	(D) Firstly, the recommendation is directed to two departments: the Department of Art History and the Department of Fine Arts, not to the School of Arts. We accept this recommendation. This year MFA students joined our MA seminar on Israeli Art. However, it takes two to tango, and there seems to be little collaboration between the two units as a whole. (U)(F) We will work to increase cooperation between the School of Creative Arts and the department. It is important to remember that the school was only established two years ago and that it takes time until this time of cooperation is set in place.	

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16. Funds should be identified and set aside for MA thesis research travel. Even small sums would produce stronger MA work and increase the engagement of students with the wider discipline.	(D) We already implement it, financing it from our the fees paid by students who audit courses.	Already implemented
<u>Human Resources / Faculty</u>		
17. As further retirements occur, the Department, Dean, and Art History faculty should take seriously the stated commitment to non-western art by making appointments in Islamic and then Far Eastern, African, or Pre-Columbian art, even if doing so requires reducing a traditional area. Such fields will certainly appeal to HU's diverse constituencies and also provide intellectual benefits for the students and faculty.	(D) Again, right now this is not an option since we currently have not been authorized to appoint a Modern Art position, our more vital need. Another drawback is the lack of scholars and students in Israel specializing in non-Western and non-Mediterranean art. We will keep on looking for candidates in these areas and try to convince the University of the urgency of our needs. (U) Please see response to recommendation number 6.	
18. The University recognizes the Department's importance and willingness to build programs that draw students by reducing the teaching load.	(U) The teaching load is mandated to the University.	

Department's list of comments on and corrections to the Committee's report

General notes made by the committee January 2014	Department's responses (April 2014)
"Formerly, it (the Department of Art History) moved from the School of Arts (Fine Arts, Music, Theater) to the School of History (General History, Middle East History, Israel Studies, Jewish History) within the Faculty". (p. 5)	We did not move from one school to another. First, there was one department with two sectors, Fine Arts and Art History. In practice, Art History and Creative Arts separated some 10 years ago. The School of Arts was established only two years ago. We chose to remain in the School of History because our discipline focuses on theory and research and not on practical art.
"Art History courses are still officially under the rubric of the School of Arts". (p. 5)	This is incorrect. Officially, the Department of Art History and the Department of Fine Arts are still the same department with two sectors (and that is the reason why students are prevented from taking a double major in the two departments); but the course system and numbering is totally separate. Also, please replace School of Art with Department of Fine Arts.
"As a result, the Department is unable to tap a significant and available source of growth, namely double majors with the School of Arts". (p. 5)	Please replace School of Art with Department of Fine Arts.
"...the Mission Statement affirms the fundamentally Eurocentric nature of most of the degree programs, supplemented by a course in Islamic art." (p. 6)	Normally, each year students take 4 credits with an option for an additional 4 credits in Islamic Art (introduction and pro-seminar/or advanced courses); and many more credits in local Near Eastern or Israeli, non-European art (Ancient Jewish Art; Mosaics; Israeli Photography; Israeli Art; Israeli and Palestinian Architecture).
"... the School of Arts has recently begun to teach contemporary art and also has its own program in art therapy (arguably a more defensible place for this field to be taught)". (p. 9)	Please replace School of Art with Department of Fine Arts.
(Recommendation) "The Department and the School of Art should, for administrative purposes, become two entities, with course codes no longer shared. The large number of studio students taking art history classes will then be reflected in the major's statistics". (p. 9, p. 17)	Please replace School of Art with Department of Fine Arts.
(Recommendation) "The Department should seek better communication and exchange with the School of Arts, to reduce the growing duplication and to develop mutually beneficial cooperation instead". (p. 10, p. 18)	Please replace School of Art with Department of Fine Arts.

General notes made by the committee January 2014	Department's responses (April 2014)
<p>(Recommendation) "The Committee encourages the Department to normalize relations with the School of Art. The two areas of concentration have much to offer one another, not least cooperation on preparing students for degrees in art therapy". (p. 13, p. 17)</p>	<p>Please replace School of Art with Department of Fine Arts.</p>
<p>"Material from the University's own collection of antiquities is on view, along with such special shows as the current archaeological exhibition curated by the Department chair" (p. 16)</p>	<p>The chair did not curate exhibitions at the Hecht museum.</p>