### Proposed Change to the Art Major

**PRESENT**

The major in Art is designed primarily for those students preparing for graduate study and for those who plan to continue professionally as artists. However, the department welcomes the participation of nonmajors and nondegree students.

**PROPOSED**

The Department of Art offers a BA degree in an interdisciplinary program that emphasizes a critical approach to artistic production. Courses are offered in the following curricular areas: photography, digital, video, two and three-dimensional media (painting, drawing, printmaking, installation) and critical theory. The program is designed primarily for those students preparing for graduate study and for those who plan to continue professionally as artists. However, the Department welcomes the participation of nonmajors and nondegree students.

Students who wish to declare a major in Art must submit a portfolio of work consisting of five slides or digital prints of original work. Students whose portfolios are approved will be admitted to the major. Guidelines for submission are available from the Art Department.

### Justification:

The Art Department is a small department with only 5.5 FTE’s. With the growth of the campus, our number of majors has been steadily climbing. We feel that we have reached the limit of our resources. Our curriculum involves very close supervision of our students’ artistic progress culminating in the Senior Thesis review. Each faculty member mentors students through this review process of the final presentation of the students’ bodies of work via our course entitled Art 195. We simply cannot provide this kind of one on one education to an unlimited number of majors. Unbridled growth does not work in a Fine Arts education.

We are also encountering another problem. We have found that many students transfer from other majors within UCR into our major because they are failing out of their previous major. Many of them have no real interest in the arts and are often under the mistaken impression that an art major will be an easy way to complete graduation. Many of these students do not pass their Preliminary Thesis review. This means that the faculty must put enormous energy into reviewing them again the following quarter. The Preliminary Review must be passed before the Senior Thesis course can be taken.

Many of the Fine Arts departments on other UC campuses have instituted review processes for entering the major. UCLA requires a portfolio review. We would like to do the same.

It is not our intention to exclude Freshmen and Transfer Students from first year inclusion in the major. Most Freshman and Transfers who wish to declare a major in art have already taken art classes either in AP courses in High School or in the institution from which they are transferring. They would, therefore, have the material for a portfolio. Those few that will not have a ready portfolio need no more than a quarter of studio classes in our department to assemble one. Portfolio reviews will be conducted at the beginning of each quarter.

We intend, with this change, to set a minimal standard for acceptance into the Art Department major.

**Effective:** Spring, 2002

**Approved:** CHASS Executive Committee – November 14, 2001

**Approved:** Committee on Educational Policy – November 20, 2001