LOW RESIDENCY
MFA IN ILLUSTRATION

EARN AN MFA IN ILLUSTRATION WHILE MAINTAINING YOUR CAREER

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD
HARTFORD ART SCHOOL
This prestigious program is the only low residency MFA in the country that is dedicated exclusively to illustration. Whether you’re looking to pursue a career in education, revitalize your creativity, or reinvent your portfolio, you can earn an MFA in illustration while maintaining your career and commitments at home. You’ll be surrounded by fellow students who are, themselves, highly motivated, established illustrators, illustrator/graphic designers, and illustration educators from across the country.

Through challenging work and exceptional student/faculty relationships, you are guided in advancing your distinct, creative voice while refining and building upon your skills and techniques. You are exposed to current professionals and practices, allowing you to nurture your creative intellect and strengthen your business, promotional, and marketing knowledge.

Our program couples intensive on-campus sessions in the summer with traveling spring and fall contact periods. During the summer, you work in class and are provided focused interaction with faculty and thesis advisors. The fall and spring contact periods take place off campus at the city hubs of illustration, which have included San Francisco, Pasadena, New York City, and other recognized destinations.

This program was founded by the late Murray Tinkelman, award-winning illustrator, educator, and illustration historian.

C.F. (Chris) Payne has been one of the country’s most prominent illustrators for more than 30 years. He has been recognized with two of the Society of Illustrators highest honors—The Distinguished Educator in The Arts Award in 2012, and the Hamilton King Award in 1995. Payne’s work has received numerous gold and silver medal awards from the Society of Illustrators of New York and Los Angeles, Communication Arts, Print, How: The Society of Publication Designers, and the National Cartoonists Society. His clients include Time Magazine, the U.S. Postal Service, Rolling Stone, GQ, Sports Illustrated, Esquire, MAD Magazine, Campbell’s Soup, Super Bowl, and World Series programs, Wall Street Journal, Cincinnati Reds, Boys’ Life, The New Yorker, and regular features for Reader’s Digest. He has illustrated 20 children’s books, including those by celebrity authors John Lithgow, Steve Brodner, Joe Cardelino, José Cruz, Peter deSeve, Rudy Gutierrez, Chuck Pyle, Yuko Shimizu, Victo Nagai, Dan Santat, Marla Frazee, Andrew Miller, Gemma Correll.

Prior to his appointment as program director in May 2016, Payne served as Illustration Department co-chair at the Columbus College of Art and Design where he was recognized as a “Professor of Distinction”. He was a founding board member of the ICON Illustration Conference, served as vice president of the Cincinnati Art Directors Club, and chaired both the Society of Illustrators 38th Annual Competition and the Society of Illustrators Museum Committee.

Payne began teaching in Murray Tinkelman’s low-residency programs at Syracuse University in 1991 and the University of Hartford in 2006, and is committed to honoring and upholding the high standard of excellence that the late Murray and Carol Tinkelman established with the program at the University of Hartford.

MEET OUR PROGRAM DIRECTOR, C.F. PAYNE

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Our low residency program takes two years (summer, fall, spring) and two weeks (final third summer) to complete. You convene with other students at our campus in West Hartford, Conn., for two weeks in July for three consecutive summers. Program faculty include professionals from across the country.

Between the intensive two-week studio and lecture-packed summer residencies, we meet in selected cities for one week in both October and March to interact with leading illustrators, illustration entrepreneurs, agents, and licensing experts. This completes the 10 weeks of contact time in the program. We tap into what is happening right now among the best in the illustration field in cities such as Columbus, Ohio; New York City, NY; Pasadena/Los Angeles, Calif.; and San Francisco, Calif.

THESIS ADVISORS

Doug Andersen, illustrator and illustration faculty, Hartford Art School
Bill Thomson, illustrator and illustration faculty, Hartford Art School

RECENT HARTFORD SUMMER RESIDENCY FACULTY

Robert Hunt, Lauren Mills, Gary Kelley, Daniel Pelavin, Nancy Stahl, Chris Georgenes, Lisa Cyr, Jeff Seaver, Chris Spillen, Von Glitschka, Jacqueline Decker, Alice “Bunny” Carter, Dennis Nolan, Jeff Mak

RECENT GUEST SPEAKERS AT HARTFORD

Kiruok Craft, Vincent DiFata, Etienne Delessert, Istvan Banyai, Alison Bambat, Randy Enos, Bud Cook, Elwood Smith, Gary Lippincott, Kelly Murphy, R. Kukuo Johnson, James Gurney

MUSEUM VISITS DURING THE HARTFORD RESIDENCY


RECENT GUEST SPEAKERS AT OUR FALL AND SPRING SESSIONS

Steve Brodner, Joe Cardelino, José Cruz, Peter deSeve, Craig Frazier, Rudy Gutierrez, Chuck Pyle, Yuko Shimizu, Victo Nagai, Dan Santat, Marla Frazee, Andrew Miller, Gemma Correll

STUDIO VISITS

Disney Animation Studios, DreamWorks Animation Studios, Jane and Alice Carter’s Illustration Collection, Nickelodeon Studios, Society of Illustrators, Illustration House, Ted and Betsy Lewin’s Studio, Mazza Children’s Book Museum, Billy Ireland Cartoon Museum, Norton Simon Museum, Sony Entertainment

Hartford Art School is accredited by NASAD
University of Hartford is accredited by NEASC
APPLICATION PROCESS & PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS

- Contact Shayna Piascik, program manager, at spiascik@hartford.edu to submit your initial inquiry. Please include a link to your online portfolio/website or an attachment containing at least 10 of your best commissioned and reproduced illustrations as your portfolio.
- There will be a follow-up phone interview with C.F. Payne, Program Director.
- Upon the acceptance of your portfolio, complete the online application and submit your $50 application fee at hartford.edu/grad-apply.
- Please request that one official copy of your transcript from any college and/or postsecondary institution you attended be forwarded to:
  
  Center for Graduate and Adult Academic Services
  University of Hartford
  200 Bloomfield Avenue
  West Hartford, CT 06117-1599
  
  - Submit a letter of intent (within the online application). In no more than 500 words, this statement should address your influences, interests, brief life history, current direction, and reasons for applying to a graduate program at this time.
- Request one letter of recommendation attesting to your ability and competence from a person practicing or teaching in the field in which the application is made.
- Upload your portfolio (PDF format) to the application portal hartford.edu/grad-apply.
- Following your acceptance into the program, you will need to submit a non-refundable $300 deposit to hold your spot within the cohort beginning that summer. Visit hartford.edu/depositgrad. Your deposit will be credited to your account and applied toward future tuition.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

- TOEFL—Official score to be submitted. The University of Hartford test code number is 3436. Visit TOEFL at ets.org. Minimum score: 550 paper-based or 79 internet-based. The Pearson Test of English (PTE) minimum score is a 58. Visit the PTE at pearsonpte.com. The IELTS is also accepted with a minimum score of 6.5 or higher.
- International transcripts must be evaluated through a NACES-member evaluation service: naces.org/members.html
- Guarantor’s Statement—As part of the application, international students must provide a bank statement to ensure adequacy of funds. This statement is also used to issue an I-20 form to students. The Guarantor’s Statement is necessary for obtaining a visa. The cost for international students to study and live at the University of Hartford can be found at hartford.edu/graduate/int.aspx

DEADLINES & DATES

Admission into the MFA Illustration program occurs on a rolling basis. Applications will be considered until the year’s cohort of 20 for the start of the summer semester is full.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Some partial tuition scholarships are available for entering candidates. The awarding of scholarships is determined by the Illustration Committee and is based purely on the merit of professional work. Portfolios are reviewed prior to May 1 and students are notified of awards by June 1.

GRADUATE PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWSHIPS

The goal of this merit-based program is to recruit the very best applicants to the University’s graduate programs. The award defrays 25 percent of the student’s annual tuition, up to $5,000, for each of the first two years after matriculation and is paid directly to the student’s Bursar’s account. No extensions of the award beyond two years are possible. Nominations are made by the director. Recipients are not required to provide any services to the University in exchange for the award.

FINANCIAL AID

Students enrolled in the program are considered full time and may be eligible for federal and supplemental loan programs. For more information, call 800.947.4303, email finaid@hartford.edu, or visit admission.hartford.edu/finaid

CANDIDACY

All Master of Fine Arts in Illustration candidates are required to maintain continuous enrollment in the program and a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a scale of 4.0