Proposal to change the names of the Department of the History of Art (St. George) and the Tri-Campus Graduate Department of Art

January 2019

Summary
The Department of the History of Art and Graduate Department of Art propose to change their names to the Department of Art History and the Graduate Department of Art History, respectively, effective July 1, 2019. At the graduate level, the name change is intended to better reflect the research and teaching undertaken within the unit; at the undergraduate level, the name change is desired to align the name of the department with the graduate unit and with existing undergraduate programs at UTM and UTSC.

The Department of the History of Art offers a Specialist, Major and Minor in History of Art. The Graduate Department of Art offers an MA and PhD in History of Art. As a separate minor modification proposal, the names of these programs will change from “History of Art” to “Art History”, effective September 1, 2019 (see Appendix A for a summary of the proposed changes).

This proposal first outlines the rationale and consultation undertaken for changing the name of the tri-campus graduate department, followed by the St. George undergraduate department.

Graduate Department
The Tri-campus Graduate Department of Art proposes to change its name to the Graduate Department of Art History. We also propose to change the names of our graduate degree programs from “History of Art” to “Art History” through a separate minor modification. The idea behind this name change is to better represent the research and teaching conducted within the unit. Our current name ‘Art’ is a holdover from when our unit included both art historians and art practitioners. However, faculty in these areas had their appointments transferred to the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design in 2014. In 2015 the Department of Art changed its name to the Department of the History of Art. At that time there was support for the change to the name of the department on the St. George campus, but student and faculty opinions regarding the name of the tri-campus graduate department varied, reflecting the nature of tri-campus graduate activities. As a result it was agreed that no changes would be made to the name of the tri-campus Graduate Department of Art at this time. Now, four years later, and with the passage of time, it has become quite apparent that ‘Art’ does produce some confusion, with students and colleagues alike believing it signifies a studio component in our unit. We propose the change to ‘Art History’ as a more accurate description of our research and teaching activities, and to avoid such misunderstandings.

Graduate faculty members have been consulted, with extensive discussion at Tri-campus meetings on 25th September and 27th November 2018. One possibility raised at these meetings is the option of adding a further description, for a name such as ‘Art History and Visual Culture’. The addition could serve to better describe the activities of a handful of faculty members. But then so would
‘Architecture’ (we have a number of architectural historians), or indeed ‘Archaeology’ (some
departments, like Princeton, are ‘Art and Archaeology’; Columbia is ‘Art History and
Archaeology’). We have opted to not add an ‘and’ and to use the shorter form ‘Art History’ – it is
simpler while also being sufficiently ecumenical.

Our graduate students have been consulted, through the Graduate Union of the Students of Art
(GUSTA). They produced a report on their poll. GUSTA also met with the Chair to talk through the
options. Both History of Art and Art History seemed to have some currency; but importantly most
saw that ‘Art’ was not a suitable label.

One reason for choosing Art History over History of Art is that the Department of Visual Studies
(DVS) at UTM has a program in ‘Art History’; and the Department of Arts, Culture and Media
(ACM) at UTSC has a program in ‘Art History and Visual Culture’. The Chairs of UTM DVS and
UTSC ACM have been consulted. These are the departments, along with UTSG, from which our
Graduate Faculty are drawn (6 from UTM DVS; 2 from UTSC; 14 from UTSG). Use of the term
‘Art History’ for our graduate department is thus more in keeping with existing undergraduate
programs.

The Dean of the Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design (DFALD) has also been
consulted, and confirmed that DFALD is in agreement with the name change. Consultation with the
Tri-Campus Deans Committee took place on January 31, 2019; this committee expressed their
support for the proposal.

Undergraduate Department
With the above in mind, we also propose to revise the name of the undergraduate department at
UTSG, which is currently ‘History of Art’. We propose that this too should become ‘Art History’,
and that our undergraduate degree programs should be renamed accordingly. We note that the name
‘History of Art’ is a relatively recent change in itself, dating back to 2015 and prompted by the
transfer of the studio program, Visual Studies, to the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture,
Landscape, and Design, as of July 1, 2013. With the departure of the studio program, the name
“Art” no longer accurately reflected the nature of the research and teaching undertaken in the
department, and the name History of Art was chosen. However, the differences between “History of
Art” and “Art History” as departmental names are relatively minor. Hence, given the benefits of
aligning our UTSG department name with that of the Graduate Department, UTSG faculty offered
strong support for this new name (at a UTSG faculty meeting, November 20th 2018). We have
consulted with the President of our undergraduate society (HASA), and the society has no objection
to the change. We would then have the same name ‘Art History’ for UTSG and the Graduate
Department, bringing us in line with the vast majority of other FAS departments.
## APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

### Departments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tri-Campus Graduate</th>
<th>Current Name</th>
<th>Proposed Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Art</td>
<td>Department of Art History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate Units</th>
<th>Current Name</th>
<th>Proposed Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UTM</td>
<td>Department of Visual Studies</td>
<td>Department of Visual Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTSC</td>
<td>Department of Arts, Culture and Media</td>
<td>Department of Arts, Culture and Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTSG</td>
<td>Department of the History of Art</td>
<td>Department of Art History</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Programs (UTSG)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate</th>
<th>Current Name</th>
<th>Proposed Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MA, PhD</td>
<td>History of Art</td>
<td>Art History</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Current Name</th>
<th>Proposed Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specialist, Major</td>
<td>History of Art</td>
<td>Art History</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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