



Create Your Future

**Alberta
University
of the
Arts**

Find your place in the world

Now, more than ever, the world needs change – from passionate minds who dare to dream and think beyond the status quo.

At Alberta University of the Arts located in Calgary, Alberta, you'll explore your creative potential, hone your skills and push boundaries. Pursuing purpose and excellence will make you a catalyst for change, transforming your ideas into tangible realities and reimagining the world.

For almost 100 years, AUArts has played an important role in Canada's visual culture. We are the only art, craft and design university in Alberta and the Prairies and one of four in Canada. Come through our doors to be inspired by others – and discover the incredible potential within you.

Alberta University of the Arts rests on the traditional Treaty 7 Territories of the Blackfoot people and in the spirit of our collective effort to promote reconciliation, we acknowledge the traditional territories and oral and visual practices of the Blackfoot Confederacy, which includes Siksika, Piikani and Kainai, the Tsuut'ina, the Stoney Nakoda First Nations (Bears paw, Chiniki and Goodstoney), Métis Nation Region III, and all those who make their homes in the Treaty 7 Region of Southern Alberta.

Find us at [AUArts.ca](https://auarts.ca)

**Why
AUArts?**



First Year Studies

Your first year at AUArts exposes you to an exciting range of studio and critical studies courses. Through these courses, you'll build a strong foundational knowledge of art, craft and design.

You'll take **two** Drawing courses, plus any **four** studio courses in Ceramics, Fibre, Glass, Jewellery and Metals, Media Arts, Painting, Photography, Print Media, Sculpture and Visual Communication Design.

You'll also take **two** writing courses and **two** art history courses to help you broaden your cultural understanding in Critical and Creative Studies.

Learn more at [AUArts.ca](https://auarts.ca)



Choose your own adventure

~~After the first year, you can declare a Bachelor of Fine Arts major or apply into the Bachelor of Design program. AUArts also offers various minor programs and a Master of Fine Arts degree.~~

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

After First Year Studies, choose from **nine** areas of **concentration** – Ceramics, Drawing, Fibre, Glass, Jewellery and Metals, Media Arts, Painting, Print Media or Sculpture.

Bachelor of Design (BDes)

Once admitted to the BDes program, you can choose from majors in Advertising and Graphic Design, Character Design and Illustration or **Photography**.

Minors

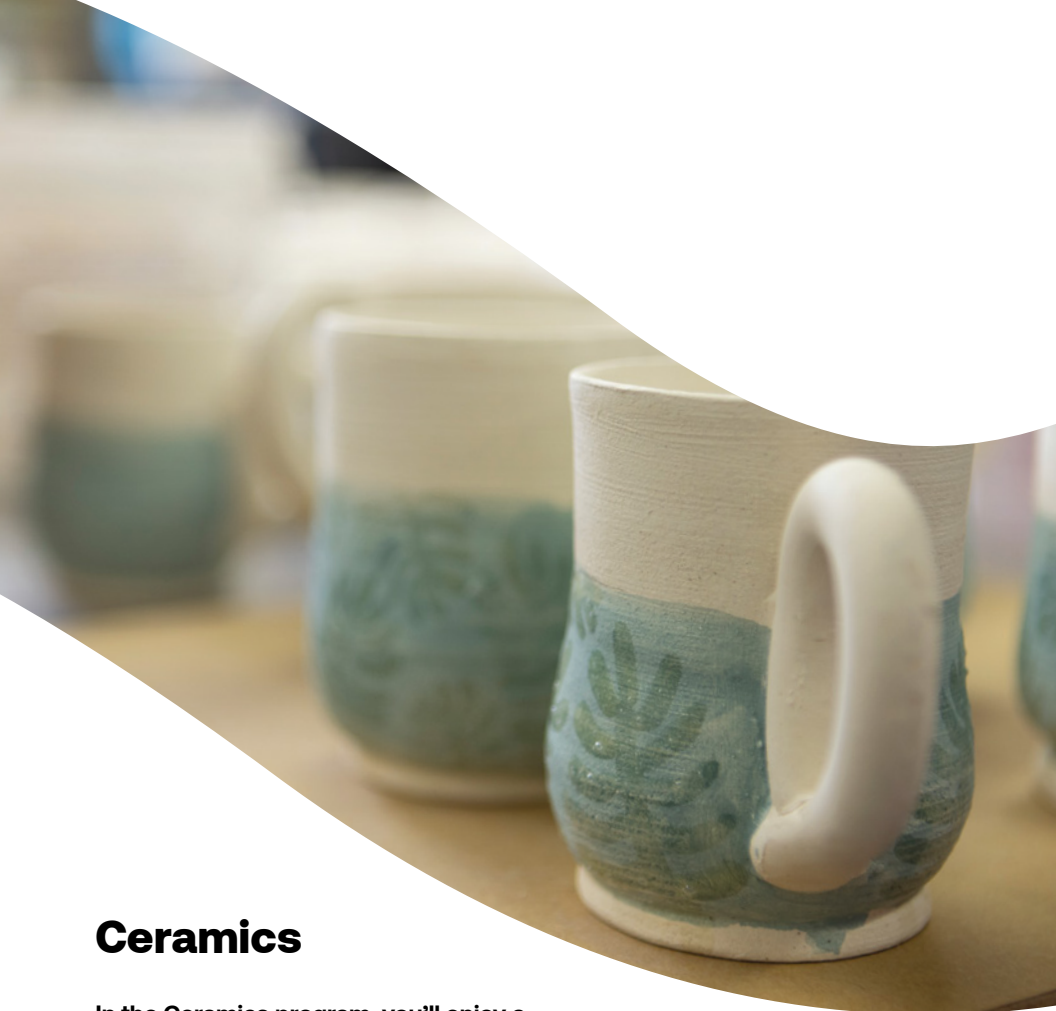
Animation and Object Design and Fabrication are popular minors. See page 20 for more information.

Master of Fine Arts (MFA)

See page 21.

Learn more at [AUArts.ca](https://auarts.ca)





Ceramics

In the Ceramics program, you'll enjoy a thorough immersion in the theoretical and practical discipline and develop a diverse approach to making vessel, sculptural and experimental ceramics.

Explore the role of function, sculptural approaches, emerging technologies, historical precedents and contemporary practice within a comprehensive, studio-based program of study. You'll develop an understanding of the materials through courses focused on particular methods of making. These include working on the wheel, using various hand-building techniques, mold making and casting.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Drawing

Drawing is a dynamic and open program of research, critique and intensive studio and post-studio exploration tailored to each student's unique voice.

Explore various media and forms using interdisciplinary concepts and approaches as you develop and express your creative identity and philosophy.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Fibre

The Fibre program provides intensive studio-based material research opportunities via discipline-specific and experimental, cross-disciplinary approaches.

You might focus on surface design, mixed media and/or weaving in producing original creative work. Gain an understanding of your work and its position relative to other disciplines, historical precedent and contemporary material culture.

Learn more at [AUArts.ca](https://auarts.ca)



Lucas Andersen, Too Hot

Glass

Alberta University of the Arts offers the only glass **program** of its kind in western Canada.

Combine analytical thinking skills relevant to contemporary glass practice with an understanding of material and technical processes to express your own relationship to contemporary art and culture, the international glass movement and craft ideals as you develop a sustained, innovative studio glass practice.

Learn more at [AUArts.ca](https://auarts.ca)



Jewellery and Metals

Jewellery and Metals offers a multi-disciplinary **degree** that balances creative problem-solving, technical proficiency and entrepreneurship skills with context, currency, history and criticality.

Hone your design and drawing abilities and your critical thinking and research skills as you learn gemstone setting, casting, chasing, tool making, molding, anodizing and techniques for one-of-a-kind production work.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Media Arts

Media Arts explore expression through devices and technologies such as sensors, circuits, mechanical devices, video, film, sound, performance art and multimedia.

As you learn to use these technologies to serve your developing artistic vision, you can choose to focus on time-based art or interactivity.

Minors offered:

- Media Arts
- Object Design and Fabrication

Learn more at AUArts.ca





Painting

Graduates of the Painting major achieve an understanding of historical and contemporary painting practices and get familiar with various techniques, skills and processes to make informed choices relevant to individual studio art practice.

By exploring various media, materials and modes of critical inquiry, you'll develop an understanding of critical language and vocabulary relevant to artistic research.

Learn more at [AUArts.ca](https://auarts.ca)

William Armstrong, *Convergence*

Print Media

While printmaking's origins lie in etching, silkscreen, lithography and woodblock, you'll experiment with various media, including photography, digital technology, artist's books, print portfolios and multimedia while learning communal studio practices.

Gain strong critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills using wide-ranging and in-depth research, producing work that synthesizes concept, technique and craft.

Learn more at [AUArts.ca](https://auarts.ca)





Matthew O'Reilly, *Triumph of Armeson*
Photo: Chelsea Yang-Smith

Sculpture

Sculpture ~~majors~~ use a range of critical and contextual perspectives to initiate and complete a self-directed personal body of work and identify and comprehend the histories, theories and practices that comprise the discipline of sculpture.

Explore artistic practices ranging from traditional figure modeling to contemporary installation and performance art, kinetic and interactive objects and digital media.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Rajvi Mehta, *Tipsy Tales*

Advertising and Graphic Design

The Visual Communication Design program offers two study streams grounded in industry-relevant drawing and visualization skills.

Students in Advertising and Graphic Design learn to understand and engage audiences, research and form creative strategies and craft powerful, influential messages.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Character Design and Illustration

The Visual Communication Design program offers two study streams grounded in industry-relevant drawing and visualization skills.

Students in Character Design and Illustration depict real and imagined worlds and people through visual storytelling to inform and entertain, learning to develop characters, content, concept art and compelling narratives.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Chantel Giles, *The Red Mitten*

Photography

Graduates of the Photography major will be visually literate, culturally aware critical thinkers and creative problem solvers adept at using photographic methods and techniques for advertising, artistic and editorial purposes.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Winner Aigbogun, *This is Us*



Your creative path

Minors

A minor is a group of courses in a particular discipline that complements your main program area. You may complete a maximum of one minor program before graduating from your major degree program.

Animation focuses on conceptualizing and creating digital and analog forms of expression in graphically created motion artworks.

Comics are the study of narration through images in sequence, typically but not always in combination with words.

Object Design and Fabrication deepens student learning in object design and fabrication history, theory and context, as well as invention literacy and fabrication methodologies.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Minor programs include:

- Animation
- Ceramics
- Comics
- Fibre
- Glass
- Illustration
- Jewellery and Metals
- Media Arts
- Object Design and Fabrication
- Print Media

Master of Fine Art in Craft Media

The MFA in Craft Media centres craft as a medium for conceptual exploration and critical dialogue through embodied material practices. You'll be challenged to approach form, function, labour, skill, modes of production, materiality, modes of communication and other theoretical investigations in a collaborative, cross-disciplinary, studio-based program that creatively evaluates and pushes the boundaries of contemporary craft.

The core of the program is practice-led, independent research. Students may concentrate on a specific discipline: Ceramics, Fibre, Glass or Jewellery and Metals, or augment their primary craft discipline to build an interdisciplinary or hybrid program of study. Students may initiate mentorships with faculty from AUArts' other program areas during their research, such as Print Media, Drawing, Media Arts and Design.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Bobby Yuan Yin, *Emptiness of Wares*

Critical & Creative Studies

The School of Critical and Creative Studies (SCCS) teaches historical, critical and methodological perspectives on studying art, craft and design.

Every degree at AUArts incorporates courses in Critical and Creative Studies. Students will learn historical and contemporary critical contexts to build an informed and critical practice.

Subject areas include

- Art History and Visual Culture
- English Literature and Creative Writing
- Humanities and Cultural Studies
- Material Culture and Social Science
- Professional Practices

**Learn more
at [AUArts.ca](https://auarts.ca)**



Artstream and Pre-College program

Artstream is a university transition program for adults providing a bridge to art, craft and design applicants with accepted portfolios who do not meet AUArts' academic or English proficiency requirements.

Great for: Adults who want to pursue their creative dreams but don't quite have the marks yet.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Pre-College offers valuable experience in the studio, building your portfolio, working with like-minded artists and earning credits toward your post-secondary education.

Great for: Students ages 16 and older who want to build a strong portfolio, earn credits and experience a slice of university life in a four-week intensive summer program.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



International Students

We've welcomed international students from around the globe, including (but not limited to) Australia, China, Colombia, Germany, Hong Kong, Iceland, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, UAE and the United States.

We can help you find the resources you need for immigration, study permits and general academic support. AUArts graduates are also eligible for post-graduate work permits.

International student requirements:

- International applicants are evaluated based on the equivalency of an Alberta high school diploma and a minimum of 60% in the final year of study. All final transcripts must be forwarded directly from the applicants' educational institution to AUArts Admissions Office by August 1. Notarized English translations must accompany all transcripts issued in a language other than English.
- English language proficiency
- Portfolio of visual artworks
- Statement of intent

Learn more at AUArts.ca



The Lodgepole Center

Guided by the Elder Council, the Lodgepole Center is an on-campus gathering place where you can access Indigenous cultural resources, ceremony, programs and supports.

It's a dedicated and inclusive space where all members of AUArts can reflect, recharge and renew. The Lodgepole Center has become a popular meeting spot, showcasing the University's commitment to Indigenous culture, teachings, art, craft and design.

The Lodgepole Center works with Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, the Aahwaatkamooksi Peer Mentorship Program, faculty, staff, community organizations, corporate partners and other post-secondary institutions to provide supports, programming, workshops and opportunities at AUArts. The Lodgepole Center also has a student gallery showcasing artworks from Indigenous students at AUArts.

Learn more at [AUArts.ca](https://auarts.ca)



Stephanie One Spot, Planet X22

Continuing Education and Professional Development

Deepen your artistic passion with personal interest courses that hone your technical skills and unleash your creative potential. Our continuing education offerings are for anyone dedicated to self-improvement, professional development and life-long learning.

Micro-credentials – Learn practical, real-world skills and amplify your career at your own pace. Micro-credentials help you gain hands-on, industry-relevant skills that strengthen your resume in ten weeks or less.

Certificates – Elevate your career journey in the creative technology section with our industry-focused certificate programs. Enjoy flexible evening and weekend courses while you explore limitless roles and possibilities.

Learn more at [AUArts.ca](https://auarts.ca)





**How to
get here**

Funding your education

University education is an investment in your future. AUArts expects that its students plan and budget for university expenses (tuition, fees, supplies, living expenses, etc.) using available resources, including personal savings, family and student loan programs as needed.

Student awards

AUArts connects students with over \$400,000 in scholarships, awards, bursaries, fellowships and prizes each year and provides access to community and government award opportunities.

Entrance awards

AUArts offers over \$70,000 in entrance awards each year to eligible new students starting a degree program at AUArts. Entrance scholarships don't require a separate application as long as you apply by February 1.

Student loans

Find information on student loans and other forms of funding on our website.

Learn more at [AUArts.ca](https://auarts.ca)



Why AUArts?

At a glance

Nearly a century of history, dedicated to art, craft and design. In 2026, AUArts will be 100!

12+

galleries on campus

125+

gallery openings on campus per year

1:14

average faculty to student ratio

18

average student class size

11

Governor General Award-winning faculty and alumni

9%

of our student population are international students, travelling from more than 22 different countries

45+

travel and exchange opportunities

5%

of students self-identify as Indigenous

11%

of students self-identify as 2SLGBTQIA+

Calgary is ranked the **2nd** most liveable city in North America according to *The Economist* (2023) and ranked **#7** in the world!



Life at AUArts

Art, craft and design is everywhere at AUArts

Our world-class gallery spaces infuse the campus with the work of professional artists, craftspersons and designers – provoking thought, inspiring discussion and welcoming the greater community.

Illingworth Kerr Gallery

Visit this world-class exhibition space and flexible platform for critical enquiry and theoretical debate on visual culture. As an interface between AUArts and the broader community, IKG is vital to the city's cultural ecology, hosting local, regional and international artists working in a variety of disciplines.

The big picture

Campus life is also about being a part of something bigger. It's about joining a global conversation about art, craft and design and its impact on the world. With visiting creatives, travel programs for students, and a rich and active research culture, AUArts is a hub of arts and culture events all year round.

Amenities

Along with amazing galleries and world-class studio space, you'll find a library dedicated to art, craft and design, a cafeteria and easy access to and from other parts of the city via public transit (a CTrain station is adjacent to campus). And did we mention we're just a few minutes' walk from Calgary's vibrant neighbourhood Kensington and less than an hour from the mountains?

Housing

We also have access to the neighbouring Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) campus, with a designated student residence floor for our university.

Students' Association

The AUArts Students' Association provides various services and programming, including the public-facing Show + Sale market, a not-for-profit-market led by AUArts students. They host year-round student programming in the Marion Nicoll Gallery and offer multiple student groups, clubs and student supports including health and dental benefits.

**Learn more
at [AUArts.ca](https://auarts.ca)**



Campus services

Whether you want a hand with planning your degree, academic support or just need someone to talk with, we're here to help.

Accessibility Services

Academic accommodations/modifications for students with permanent injury, illness or disabilities are available to mitigate barriers to academic success.

For students who self-identify as neurodivergent, Student Services provides support for time management, accessibility tools, coaching and more.

Academic advising and support

Get help choosing the right program and develop a plan to achieve your academic goals. Improve your writing skills, learn better study habits, find a tutor, connect with a study group and more.

Health and wellness

Counselling services are available on campus free of charge. The Students' Association offers health and dental coverage.

International student support

Students have access to a dedicated staff member to support their needs once they have arrived on campus.

Learn more at AUArts.ca



Life in Calgary

Calgary offers the best of all worlds – a vibrant, cosmopolitan urban centre, a safe and friendly atmosphere, and outstanding potential for adventure in the natural areas of the nearby Canadian Rockies.

Calgary is the sunniest city in Canada and ranked the 7th most liveable city in the world.

Culturally and artistically diverse, the city enjoys numerous festivals ranging from the well-established to the many new and growing influences in arts, theatre and music. Calgary's Arts Commons and Contemporary Calgary showcase local, national and international artists as part of the dynamic and growing arts scene in Calgary's downtown core.

And if you need a little room to explore, Calgary's 300 km (about 186.41 mi) of urban pathways and ample green space give you lots of freedom to bike, hike, rollerblade or wander. You can also enjoy access to the Bow and Elbow rivers.

96%* of Calgarians believe creativity is an important part of a thriving community

76%* of Calgarians believe Calgary has a thriving creative community

*CreativeCITY: Prosperity through the Creative Economy Community Engagement Summary



Where will you go?

Our graduates become illustrators, animators, cartoonists, painters, sculptors, art directors, creative directors, graphic designers, art therapists, photographers, art historians, multimedia designers, exhibiting artists, industrial designers, curators, arts managers and more.

Whatever path you choose, you (like our alumni) will become an important contributor to culture, society and international economies.

30%

of our alumni create their own successful businesses

\$1.55

billion is contributed annually to the Canadian economy by creative industries.

Fine Arts Photographer and Film Visual Effects Manager

William Bartlett

*Bachelor of Fine Arts,
Media Arts & Digital Technologies*



Miniature Artist

Tom Brown

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Drawing



Ceramics and Fibre Artist

Lael Chmelyk

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Ceramics



Illustrator and Concept Artist

Micaela Dawn

*Bachelor of Design,
Visual Communication Design*



Sculptor and Multimedia Artist

Jeff de Boer

Diploma, Jewellery and Metals



Interdisciplinary Artist

Haley Eyre

Bachelor of Design, Photography



Indigenous Fine Artist and Illustrator

Azby Whitecalf

*Bachelor of Design,
Visual Communication Design*



Non-binary Author, Visual Artist, Queer Historian

Ryan Danny Owen

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Drawing



Author, Illustrator, Muralist

Kat Simmers

*Bachelor of Design,
Visual Communication Design*



Photographer

Rocio Graham

Bachelor of Design, Photography



Creators of Murals, Experiences, Artisan Goods

The WKNDRs

*Bachelor of Design,
Visual Communication Design*

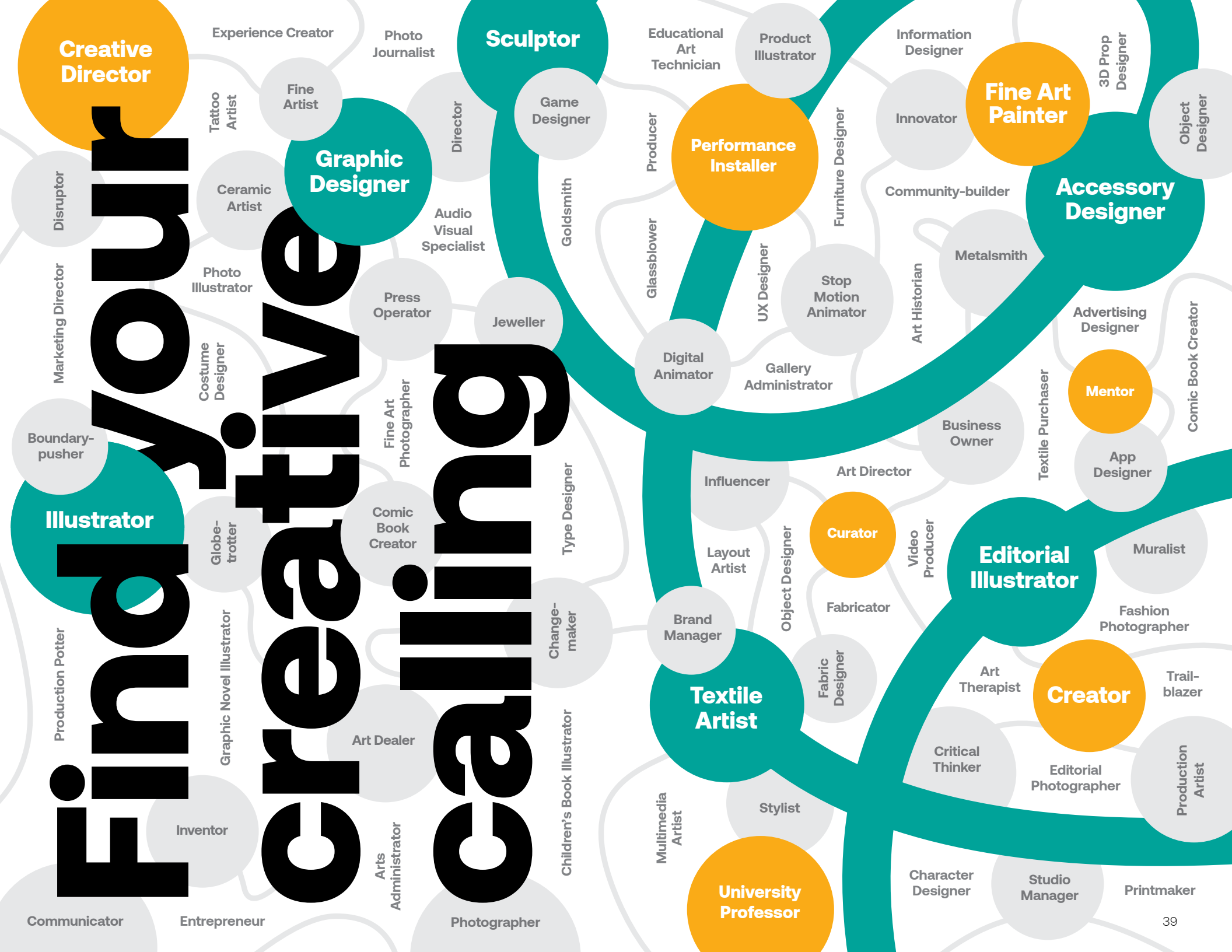


Professional Glassblower

Leah Kudel

Bachelor Fine Arts, Glass







Find your people





**Find
more
here**



The background of the entire page is decorated with thick, vibrant red wavy lines that flow across the frame in various directions, creating a dynamic and artistic feel.

Find us

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