

What is BLOCK?

- BLOCK is a one-year program (fall and spring semester) at the Glassell Studio School. Class meets all day Friday, with seminar in the morning (9:45–11:45 a.m.) and critique in the afternoon (12:45–5:00 p.m.). The program is for advanced students who have a studio practice. We aim to build a strong peer community and work toward significant development in your work.

What is the time frame for BLOCK?

- BLOCK runs on the academic calendar, fall semester through spring semester (mid-August–early May).

Who teaches BLOCK?

- Francesca Fuchs, artist and department head of painting at the Glassell Studio School, is the program leader. She organizes and teaches the critique component. Laura Hughes, PhD, teaches the seminar component. She works at the intersection of literary theory and gender studies, is the co-owner of a community bookstore and art space in Houston, and is a Glassell instructor.
- Francesca and Laura coordinate the program to make it work as a seamless unit.

How does the BLOCK seminar work?

- The seminar is comprised of readings, discussions, and professionalization practices. It requires advance preparation and some assigned written responses. The program is focused on building a peer community. Laura selects readings that widen your understanding of critical thinking around art and community. There will also be a number of field trips and excursions. The field trip schedule will be distributed at the start of the semester when possible. Students may be asked to allow extra time for field trips outside of class time.

How does the BLOCK critique work?

- Francesca will have critique discussions with students three to four times a semester and curate a selection of artists, curators, and critics for all other critique visits, one or two of which may be remote.
- The afternoon begins with a 25-minute group discussion/roundtable with the visitor and then breaks into individual one-on-one meetings. Students will write a response after each visit to track comments and thoughts. BLOCK students stay at Glassell the entire afternoon of class to facilitate peer discussions.
- All seminar and critique information is gathered on Google Classroom.

How many students are in BLOCK?

- There are 12 students in the BLOCK program. The percentage of first- to second-year students varies from year to year.

I hear you can do the program for a second year? How does that work?

- You are welcome to reapply to BLOCK for a second year. Reentry is not guaranteed, but general preference is given to returning students. Students must demonstrate a commitment to a second year and a drive toward further developing their work through seminar and critique.

Do I get a dedicated studio?

- Although BLOCK students do not get dedicated studios, they may use any of Glassell's studios in their areas of demonstrated proficiency. The classrooms may also be used outside of posted class times and within regular Glassell Studio School building hours. BLOCK is predicated on your having a studio practice and making work throughout the semester.

What about parking?

- You will get a parking pass that gives access to the parking garage for the full academic school year.

Is there a BLOCK exhibition?

- Yes. There is an exhibition each fall in the Levant Gallery following the end of the full BLOCK year.

What happens after BLOCK?

- Former BLOCK participants have pursued gallery representation, opened arts nonprofits, made public installation art, and won major grants. They generally stay in close touch with their peer community. At times they also continue their journey at Glassell.

Can I reapply if I don't get in?

- Yes, we encourage students to reapply. Each year there are far more applications than spots available. Rejections occur due to space limitations and are not necessarily reflections on a student's work. We would love to continue to work with you in other Glassell classes. We recommend specifically Advanced Studio Critique or Content & Context with Core as preparatory classes for a BLOCK reapplication.

Who are typical visitors?

- BLOCK visitors have included: Rabea Ballin, Andy Campbell, JooYoung Choi, Jamal Cyrus, Alison de Lima Greene, Robert Hodge, Frauke Josenhans, Rebecca Matalon, Anna Mayer, Patricia Restrepo, Kenneth Tam, and Roberto Tejada.

How do I contact you if I have more questions?

- The BLOCK program information page is: mfah.org/block.
- You can also contact BLOCK program leader Francesca Fuchs at ffuchs@mfah.org.

BLOCK program applications are accepted through SlideRoom only. The link is available at mfah.org/block.

Submission of 10 Images, Video, or Audio:

- We encourage applications from all areas.
- You can upload 10 pieces of visual information: make sure the image quality is good and that an outsider can understand what they are looking at. Our best suggestion would be to submit three groups of three from different bodies of work rather than having everything be the same or taking a scattershot approach. We do not need to see how good you were in beginning drawing; we want to see your vision.

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL TEXT DOCUMENTS IN A PDF with YOUR NAME and CONTACT INFORMATION, INCLUDING:

- **A one-page statement of intent:**
 - We suggest a three-paragraph response answering these questions: (1) What is your work about? (2) What point are you at in your work, and where do you want to get to? What are your big questions, and how will BLOCK help you with them? (3) Anything else you want to share? What is influencing you in your work? What are you reading, looking at, etc.?
- **A one-page resume/CV (list):**
 - Please list all of your education in art and beyond, at Glassell and elsewhere. If you have been in shows please list them newest to oldest under solo or group exhibitions. Do not worry if you do not have any exhibitions for your resume yet.
 - Example listing:
2023 *Green*, Glassell Kinder Morgan Exhibition, Kinder Morgan Building, Houston, TX
- **A one-paragraph brief biography:**
 - Our suggestion: think of this as eight sentences. Tell us about yourself and about all the different lives you have lived.
 - Generally a bio is written in the third person, but we are happy for you to submit this in the first person.
- **An image list:**
 - Image dimensions are listed as height x width x depth in inches or feet depending on scale. Please do not put “mixed media,” but list out the materials you are using (unless it is 50 items long, then focus on the top 10).
- **When is the deadline?**
 - Please check the submission deadline on the main page at mfah.org/block.
- **Where is the SlideRoom application?**
 - The SlideRoom link is available and active at mfah.org/block from early March to the submission deadline in April.
- **Who are the jurors?**
 - The jury is comprised of Francesca Fuchs, Laura Hughes, and the Glassell Studio School dean or director.
- **When do I hear if I got in?**
 - We hope to notify applicants by the end of the spring semester.
- **Why does the application cost \$12?**
 - This is an administrative fee charged by Slideroom.com and paid by applicants directly. This is not a fee from Glassell.
- **What does the BLOCK program cost?**
 - \$2,200 per semester; \$4,400 for the year. BLOCK students commit to the year, and then enroll and pay for each semester during the school’s posted registration periods.

Thank you for understanding that staff cannot respond to email or telephone inquiries regarding the status of individual applications.