

Department of Art History and Archaeology
Statement on Graduate Student Strike
Columbia University
December 1, 2021

The Department of Art History and Archaeology acknowledges the right of our graduate student colleagues to strike and supports their efforts to achieve a fair labor contract with the University. We equally acknowledge that some students have chosen to exercise the right not to join the strike. We respect each individual's decision.

The Department is cognizant that graduate student labor is essential to the educational mission of which we are all part. We share our graduate students' commitment to seeking a more equitable, democratic, and flourishing environment for education and research at Columbia. We earnestly hope for a swift conclusion to the strike in the interests of the collegial and collaborative environment that we seek for students, faculty, and staff alike.

We wish to underscore our firm commitment not to retaliate in any way against those who have chosen to strike. And we urge the University to agree to a just and fair contract so that these dedicated teachers can return to work with dignity and security as soon as possible and reaffirm our commitment to undergraduate education.