

BA(Hons) FINE ART

“The opportunity to pursue your chosen specialism or to operate within the broad spectrum of contemporary fine art practice.”

Carl Rowe
COURSE LEADER

ABOUT THE COURSE

BA(Hons) Fine Art has several key fundamentals. We want to develop in you an awareness and appreciation of fine art in its broadest contemporary context.

Alongside this we aim to give you the formative skills of fabrication and creation that will allow you to explore your own ideas. As you develop your body of work your confidence and individualism will flourish. Upon graduation you will be a proficient practitioner ready to pursue fine art in a professional or postgraduate environment.

The course is structured around three studio areas: Painting, Print & New Media, and Sculpture. The range of subjects within these areas is vast and includes painting, performance, object making, photography, installation, etching, intaglio processes, photographic processes, wood construction, metalwork, modelling, carving, mould making, casting, drawing, sound, video and Photoshop.

You will acquire skills based in many of these fields and throughout the course you'll be encouraged to use methodology appropriate to the concepts you are developing and the media you are working with.

The interplay between subject areas is flexible, allowing you to customise your techniques. A programme of Critical Studies and professional awareness workshops supplement studio practice. Significantly all course staff, whether permanent or visiting, are themselves practicing artists. They are augmented by an active lecture programme involving major artists, critics and theorists of national and international standing.

In recent years we have welcomed, amongst others, Richard Billingham, Jemima Stelhi, Grayson Perry, Tomoko Takahashi, Marcus Harvey, Anya Gallachio, Gillian Carnegie, Catherine Yass, Peter Suchin, Boo Ritson, Juan Bolivar and Alex Hartley.



LEVEL ONE

In your first term your focus will be on drawing and visual research. You'll be inspired and invigorated by a lively blend of critiques, lectures, seminars and individual tutorials.

Blocks of study within two of the three studio areas will help you identify your ongoing areas of interest. In your second term you will specialise in one of these areas, continuing to learn and develop through a programme of workshops, demonstrations and open-ended projects. At all times individual investigation and research is encouraged.

You may participate in an optional study visit. Recent destinations include Paris, Amsterdam, Venice and Berlin.

LEVEL TWO

In Level Two you will develop a deeper appreciation of the content and context of your work and will be exposed to the reactions and interpretations of others as the relationship between work and audience is introduced.

You will gain an insight into how your work, and that of your contemporaries, is perceived and interpreted. You'll be encouraged to lead your own seminars and session groups. Your peers, across all studio areas, will present their ideas and passions with plenty of scope for provocative debate.

Level Two culminates in a group exhibition in the public domain. This is complemented by a range of Critical Studies workshops.

Lectures on professional practice will help prepare you for the transition from student to artist. You may also choose to get involved in curating the Student Gallery or have the opportunity to participate in overseas exchanges in Europe or the USA.

LEVEL THREE

In Level Three you will complete your Critical Studies dissertation and have time to mature your ideas through further studio practice. With renewed insight and risk-taking you may decide to explore new avenues or revisit earlier research methods as a means of re-exploring your preoccupations.

With your ideas fully developed you will be asked to pull everything you have learned together. Using your unique voice and original style you will produce a final body of work for assessment and exhibition to the public.

Attended by curators, collectors, art buyers, business and the public, this showcase event is a major opportunity to display your work in a professional environment.

WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL

Our knowledgeable and talented Fine Art staff are all practicing artists and regularly exhibit in prestigious galleries around the globe. Frequently they receive fellowships, commissions, residencies and awards.

Recent graduates display a raft of achievements, from exhibiting work at home and abroad, to working as curators, technicians, teachers and lecturers. Some even open their own galleries. Others have won internationally renowned prizes such as the Becks Futures Award.

You may prefer to undertake further study. Our students are regularly offered postgraduate places at renowned institutions such as the Slade School and the Royal College of Art. Alternatively you may choose to progress to a range of our own MA courses, subject to the fulfilment of entry criteria.

You will be encouraged to show your work across a range of national and international galleries and may receive commissions from UK companies. NUCA operates an 'art for hire' scheme allowing you to hire out or sell your work.

About You and Your Portfolio

A panel of staff and students from the course will assess you. You'll be asked to exhibit a portfolio as evidence of your potential and relevance to the course. In particular we look for knowledge of contemporary fine art, independent thinking, drawing skills, an open-minded approach to materials and methods, personally generated projects and evidence of a preparatory approach as your ideas evolve.

Qualifications

For details of entry qualifications please refer to page 94.

The Small Print

UCAS Code: N39
Course Code: Route A: W101

For further information please email:
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