

FINE ART

Student profile

Marie Florido, from Hertfordshire
BA (Hons) Fine Art



I feel comfortable saying 'I'm an artist'

I did a GNVQ in Art and Design 10 years ago and then went into Costume Design, but I found it quite restrictive. I feel like this course has reconnected me with who I am.

NUCA has such a good reputation and the tutors are brilliant. No one tells you what to do, but they help you find your direction and offer possible solutions. Also the course has connected me with a body of people who are creative and artistic.

I joined the course wanting to prove myself as a painter, but now I do no painting at all. I've discovered performance art and mixed media. I'd always been a technophobe but now I love being able to use the digital suite and create a film in Final Cut Pro.

I'm currently participating in a live art performance at the British Museum as well as working on my final degree show proposal. Then I may study an MA, do a PGCE or become a practising artist.

See a film about Marie at: www.nuca.ac.uk/itunes

Fine Art

ABOUT THE COURSE

The BA (Hons) Fine Art course provides you with a broad range of learning experiences, stimulating the development of your technical, creative, research, analytical and communication skills as well as the practical aspects of installing exhibitions and engaging with your audience.

You work within a personal studio space where most of your teaching will take place. Tutorials, group critiques, seminars and open-studio sessions encourage you to negotiate your own particular approach to fine art through three areas of practice: painting, sculpture and print/new media.

This multidisciplinary approach introduces you to a range of subject techniques as you explore your creative direction. These include drawing, painting, performance, object making, photography, installation, etching, screenprint, wood construction, metalwork, modelling, carving, mould making, casting, sound and video.

The academic staff – all practising artists – offer historical and contemporary support concerning fine art, from which you develop an understanding of the context within which you work. These are augmented by guest lectures delivered by major artists, critics and theorists of national and international standing, including Julian Stallabrass, Hamish Fulton, Ryan Mosley and Doug Fishbone.

Speakers are also invited for lectures and seminars covering business and professional skills to round out your education and prepare you for entering the real-world art industry. These are supported by extensive student shows and opportunities to create and exhibit.

HOW THE COURSE IS TAUGHT

Year One

Taking drawing and visual research as its starting point, Year One focuses on your acquisition of technical skills and understanding of methodologies and conceptual framework. Workshop inductions enable you to hone the technical side of your practice while critiques, lectures, seminars and tutorials identify ongoing areas of interest and establish a personalised approach to fine art practice. A challenging, critical environment is provided to encourage you to question the functions and institutions associated with fine art practice, establishing the foundation for your own personal enquiry through individual investigation and research. You have the option of participating in a study visit – previous destinations have included Paris, Amsterdam, Venice and Berlin.

Year Two

Year Two stimulates your transition from student to artist, culminating in a group exhibition in the public domain. Your professionalism grows as you develop a deeper appreciation of the context of your work and are exposed to the relationship

between your work and your audience. You develop your ability to talk about the content of your work and how you position it in relation to contemporary and historical practices through student-led seminars and session groups. You are considered for opportunities to curate the Student Gallery or participate in overseas exchanges.

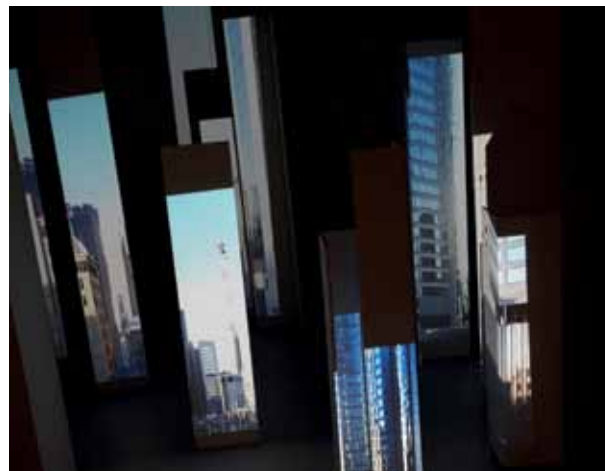
Year Three

As you prepare for the final exhibition of your work you focus on maturing your ideas through further studio practice and producing a significant body of research and writing. The course reaches completion with the BA Degree Show, which is held on campus and attended by curators, collectors, art buyers, business owners and the public. This is a major event where you will have the opportunity to showcase your work in a professional environment, promote yourself and start your career.



This page, from top:
Sculpture studio, NUCA's foundry
in the metal workshop.

Opposite page, clockwise from top:
*A Glow of Quiet Strength Humming
to Itself* by Natasha Caleia Ramos;
Sculpture by Matthew Gee;
Installation by Rachael Hill.



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RESOURCES

Each Fine Art student is provided with their own personal studio space in the St Georges Building, in which the majority of teaching and group consultation takes place. In addition you can book the student gallery/ projection space, the installation space or the flexi space for a variety of projects and activities. The range of technical areas across the campus provide dedicated workshop space for wood, metal (including a foundry), casting, etching, screenprint, relief print, digital print, photography, video, sound and painting, all equipped with industry-standard equipment and software. Ongoing full-time support is available in all workshop spaces including ongoing tutorials.

YOUR FUTURE

Through live projects, exhibition participation, lectures/seminars by creative industry specialists and use of professional formats such as Academic Poster Presentations, this course provides a platform for you to launch yourself into the art world, pursuing either artistic practice or further study.

Graduates have gone on to show at art events around the world, recently including Zoo Art Fair (London), Liverpool Biennial and British Shorts Film Festival (Berlin),

and secure residencies such as the Salem Art Works residencies (New York). Those choosing to take up employment have taken up posts in galleries, schools and colleges, studios and workshops, publishing and arts administration.

The course has developed strong links with leading galleries including MOT International and Gasworks Gallery (London), firstsite (Colchester) and Wysing Arts (Cambridge). A highly beneficial relationship with Outpost Gallery (an internationally recognised artist-run space) sees many graduates take up space in its studio complex, with 10 in 2010 continuing their practice at Outpost.

NUCA's MA Fine Art and MA Curation courses provide a natural route into continued academic development.

COURSE INFORMATION

This course is available at BA (Hons) Degree.

UCAS Code: N39

Course Code: W612

Contact: fineart@nuca.ac.uk

For further information visit:

www.nuca.ac.uk/bafineart

Alumnus profile

Lee Marshall
Practising Artist in London
Graduating Year: 2008



NUCA gave my career a strong start

My time at NUCA allowed me to develop confidence in discussing and presenting my work as well as building a network of people who have helped me to start my career as a practising artist.

My work deals with painting as an illusionary space, constructing forms and scenarios within this virtual arena in order to investigate the contradictions inherent within this mode of practice.

While studying I was selected to show in Amsterdam as part of the Hans Brinker painting prize and in my final year was included in a group show at Voewood House in north Norfolk. After graduating I had a solo show at Outpost Gallery in Norwich, through which I was given the opportunity to show at the Zoo Art Fair in London as well as being part of a group show at Wysing Arts Centre near Cambridge. I have also been involved in several artist-initiated group shows.

View Lee's work at: www.nuca.ac.uk/alumni