

**BA Art and History of Art  
For students entering Part 1 in 2008/9**

**UCAS code: VW31**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Art and Design, History of Art
Faculty:	Arts and Humanities Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	18/Apr/2011
Programme Director:	Mr Alun Rowlands
Programme Advisor:	Dr Jonathan Dronsfield Dr Sue Malvern
Board of Studies:	Art
Accreditation:	University of Reading

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme aims to give a thorough and broad based training in Art and the History of Art, and gives students opportunity to explore areas of overlap between Art and History of Art. In Art, the course is arranged to provide a basis for practice as an artist. Students are encouraged to develop a habit of study embracing all the technical resources of the Department which will lead them to take an increasing level of responsibility for their individual programme.

The History of Art syllabus aims to provide a framework for examining changing categories of art, architecture and visual artefacts in different places and times. It will develop advanced skills in analysing visual culture and embed the examination of its production and reception within diverse cultural and social contexts. It will foster a critical understanding of the relationship between contemporary conceptions of art, architecture, visual artefacts and culture, and those held elsewhere in other periods, promoting a conception of history of art as a dynamic discipline encompassing divergent, sometimes conflicting, approaches and views.

**Transferable skills**

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

Within the Art programme students will develop visual awareness and dexterity. They will extend their abilities in visual, oral and written communication including the use of presentational aids. Students will learn to set their own goals, identify and independently pursue their aims. Students will develop research skills including the ability to locate and assemble visual and written material, they will engage in evaluative analysis of visual and critical sources. They will acquire basic knowledge of a range of materials, tools, machinery and technological skills. Students will extend their experience of working to a brief, meeting deadlines, planning, team working, problem solving and career management.

In the History of Art and Architecture programme, students will develop advanced skills in visual analysis, learning how to recognize visual sources and communicate their qualities in oral and written forms. They will be able to articulate and substantiate independent points of view, based on evaluating evidence and using reasoned arguments. They will learn how to organize their own work schedule, to become self-motivating and to take independent initiatives to develop their studies. They will understand ways of improving learning and performance, by identifying personal strengths and weaknesses, be skilled at time management, and have developed strategies

**Programme content**

The profile which follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory part), together with one or more lists of modules from which the student must make a selection (the option modules). Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each Part. The number of modules credit for and the level of each module is shown in brackets after its title.

Each Part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be made up from any optional modules and/or from modules elsewhere in the University.

In Art, Part 1 introduces the range of contemporary art practice and a guided introduction to the development of a personal practice across media.

Part 2 provides students with the opportunity to identify and investigate particular (individual) interests and concerns through practical engagement in their own studio spaces and to relate their studio work to relevant contemporary issues through the study visits, seminars and lecture programmes.

Of the 120 credits in Part 2, five are taken up by Career Management Skills.

Part 2I provides the opportunity to build on the intellectual and technical skills of the second year through increasingly independent development of work in the studio and through an exploration of the discourse surrounding contemporary art and art theory.

Part 3H encourages the focused development of an individual body of work in the studio and the location of studio practice in relation to contemporary art and art theory.

Part 1 History of Art and Architecture provides different introductions to aspects of the study of history of art and architecture. A compulsory core module introduces students to art historical skills, categories and methods. Other optional modules allow students to orientate themselves in different ways in relationship to the subject through the study and critique of a canon of western art, or in terms of art as part of the history of visual artefacts and their makers. In Part 2, through a compulsory core module, students engage with material on the historiography of history of art and its objects of study, directly extending the work of Part 1. Optional modules in selected periods, approaches and distinctive media each provide a focus on broad aspects of visual culture. Of the 120 credits in Part 2, 5 are taken up by Career Management Skills. In Part 2I, students select one optional module, involving more intensive and specialised study, and introducing areas of innovation and scholarship both within the discipline and in its interdisciplinary aspects. A compulsory module held at a study centre abroad allows works of art and architecture to be studied at first hand and as part of a specific cultural and social formation.

Independent research is pursued through a dissertation on a topic chosen in consultation with a dissertation supervisor, and carried out in Part 3H.

### **Part 1 (three terms)**

#### *Compulsory modules*

FA1MP	Part 1 Compulsory Module Multimedia & Painting	40	C
HA1AB	History of Art and Architecture Workshop	20	C

#### *Optional modules: 20 credits from:*

FA1CS	Contextual Lecture	20	C
FA1SP	Skills & Processes	20	C

Any other 20-credit module available in the Faculty 20 C

#### *Optional modules*

At least 20 credits to be made up from the following:

HA1AA	Art's Histories: a survey	20	C
HA1AC	Makers and making: artist, architects and their practice	20	C

### **Part 2 (three terms)**

#### *Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FA2S2	Part 2 Studio including Career Management Skills	40	I
FA2AT	Contemporary Art and Theory	20	I
HA2DD	Distance and difference: perspectives on art, architecture and visual	20	I
HA2ST	Study Trip Abroad	20	I

#### *Optional module: 20 credits*

A complete list of options is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook

## **Year abroad/Year away/Additional year (three terms)**

### *Compulsory modules*

FA2IAT	Contemporary Art and Theory	20	I
FA2IS2	Part 2I Studio	40	I
FA2ITEX	Image Action Text	20	I

### In History of Art

#### *Optional modules: 40 credits*

A complete list of options is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook

## **Part 3 (three terms)**

### *Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
HA3DI	Dissertation	40	H
FA3HS2	Studio (joint honours)	80	H

## **Progression requirements**

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students must:

- obtain a mark of at least 40% in FA1MP;
- achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;
- achieve not less than 30% in any module, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

## **Part 2/2I**

Whether a student can progress to Art and History of Art at Part 2 or 2I from an earlier stage depends primarily on their performance in the Art and History of Art module examinations in the previous Part.

In Art candidates must:

Obtain a mark of at least 40% in FA2S2/FA2IS2.

In History of Art it is sufficient to:

- Obtain an overall average of at least 40% in the modules examined.
- Achieve not less than 30% in any modules except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

## **Summary of Teaching and Assessment**

In Art, at Part 1 teaching is by workshops, tutorials, seminars, lectures and visits to museums and galleries. At Parts 2, 2I and 3H teaching is by tutorials, seminars and lectures. Technical assistance and instruction occurs appropriately at the students request. Directed visits to museums and galleries take place throughout the programme.

In Part 1 Compulsory module FA1MP, formative assessment takes place at presentations of work when students receive diagnostic verbal feedback.

Part 1 optional modules are assessed by coursework.

In Parts 2 and 2I studio modules there are two types of assessment, an Interim and a Part assessment. Interim Assessments are formative and take place mid-module where a diagnostic mark is achieved. The Part Assessment occurs at the end of the module, the results contributing to the Final Degree classification. At Part 3H assessment is by examination in the form of an exhibition.

In all studio modules assessment is by coursework selected and presented by the student.

Seminars and Lectures are assessed by coursework. Full details are given in module descriptions.

In the History of Art, at Part 1 teaching is by lectures and seminars.

Assessment is by a mixture of coursework and timed examination.

At Parts 2 and 2I, teaching is principally by seminar.

assessment is by a mixture of coursework and timed examination.

The dissertation is supervised in a series of tutorials with an individual supervisor and is assessed only as coursework.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but you should note that weightings in Art for Part 2, Part 2I and Part 3H for classification purposes are:-

Part 2 10% (Studio), Part 2I 20% (10% Studio, 10% Seminar), Part 3H 70% studio.

The Part 2I assessment takes place during the summer term.

Due consideration will be given to the timing of and expectations at this assessment point in respect to the students commitment to final examinations in the other subject.

### **Admission requirements**

Applications from mature and international students are welcome.

We recommend you contact our Admissions Tutor or departmental secretary to discuss your individual circumstances and/or arrange a visit to the department.

All home students are interviewed with their portfolio of practical work.

Standard offer:

UCAS tariff Minimum 280 points for 3 A levels, 280 points for 3 A levels plus 1 AS level

Subjects normally grade B or above will be required in an Art or Art History A level.

International Baccalaureate 30 points

Irish Highers BBBBC

**Admissions Tutor:** Tina O'Connell/ Alun Rowlands

### **Support for students and their learning**

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Student Employment, Experience and Careers Centre (SEEC), In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see [www.reading.ac.uk/student](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)

Support for students in their studies is provided through the University's iLearn academic record. There are Programme Advisers to offer advice on the choice of modules within the programme. In Art at Part 1 a studio space is shared. In Parts 2, 2I and 3H individual studio space is provided for every student. In addition, several bookable spaces are available for installation and time based work. There are construction workshops and facilities for video and digital editing. There are directed visits to museums and galleries.

Within the History of Art, additional support is provided through a subject-specific reading room containing essential course texts, reference works, some current periodicals and photocopying facilities. There is also a slide library containing slides from all periods of art and architecture history which students will consult as part of their studies. It includes resources in video tapes and computers and in digital imaging and e-learning such as BlackBoard. First hand study of works of art is provided through particular classes taught in museums, art galleries or on architectural visits and by a period of study at a centre abroad as well as through the department's own collections, mainly of drawings. Each student is assigned a Course Adviser, normally their personal tutor, to advise on their choice of modules within the programme, supported by a comprehensive Programme Handbook issued to each student individually which includes extensive advice on study skills. Support for students in their studies is provided through the University's iLearn academic record.

### **Career prospects**

In addition to working as artists, graduates with an Art component to their degree, have found employment in theatre, television, community services, art therapy, art writing, journalism, publishing, post production, curating, gallery and museum administration, and even popular music. A number of students proceed to postgraduate study, or teacher training.

A number of specialised careers are open to History of Art graduates, such as jobs in Museums, auction houses, and increasingly the heritage and leisure industries. Their visual skills also make them attractive to the advertising industry. In addition the skills which History of Art graduates acquire, such as analytical abilities, problem solving, research skills, independence and adaptability, mean they are sought after for jobs in a wide range of fields, including publishing, teaching, social work, accountancy, personnel, banking and commerce, retailing, marketing, IT, civil service and local government. A number of students go on to post-graduate study in History of Art, both at MA and PhD level, both at Reading and elsewhere.

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

There are opportunities to study abroad including North America under the student exchange scheme at Rutgers University, Ottawa University and Monash Australia also an Erasmus exchange with L'Ecole des Beaux Arts, Dijon. Individual student interest in work experience and public exhibition of work is supported through staff advice and contacts.

### **Programme Outcomes**

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

##### **A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

##### **In Art**

1. relevant practical processes
2. the technical language of the subject
3. the necessary negotiation between intention and realisation of works of art
4. key issues and artists, movements and current urgencies relevant to their own practice

##### **In History of Art**

1. a broad range of art, architecture and visual culture from the Middle Ages to the present day both in the West and in comparison to selected cultures in other times and places.
2. specialist knowledge of certain chosen periods and issues in art history.
3. key issues and current priorities in art and architectural history including conflicting interpretations and specific methods of analysis germane to the historiography of the subject.
4. advanced abilities to interpret visual artefacts, their function and meaning.
5. technical language of the subject.

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

##### **Art**

I and 2 -In Part 1 all students engage in both painting and sculpture / media. There are optional introductory modules in skills and processes and lectures which introduce students to processes and vocabulary of the subject. Work is directed through tutorials and group tutorials. Specialist knowledge and deeper understanding is fostered in Part 2, 2I, and 3H where studio teaching and oral feedback is through tutorials, studio seminars, presentations and technical demonstration and exemplified in seminars, lectures and talks by visiting artists. 3.- is exemplified in talks by visiting artists and through lectures. It is developed in students own practice through tutorials and studio seminars. 4.- is of particular focus in seminars and lectures fostered through guided selection of subject for research and independent study.

##### **History of Art**

Basic knowledge is provided through formal lectures in Part 1, supported by set tasks for practising the elementary analysis of visual artefacts. Feedback is initially through tutorials, seminars and through formative assessed work where assessment is for guidance only and does not contribute to the final mark. Specialist knowledge and deeper understanding is fostered in the guided selection of period options at Part 2, where the teaching is seminar and discussion based. Feedback is provided through written responses to seminar participation and in formative assessed work. In later parts of the programme, and beginning at Part 2, students will take increasing responsibility for their own learning, fostered through the guided selection of increasingly specialised options and independent study, including a dissertation. Feedback is provided through tutorials and written reports on seminar presentations.

##### *Assessment*

## Art

At Part 1 knowledge is examined through a display of studio-work with an accompanying statement /notebook and in lectures through coursework. In parts 2 and 2I knowledge is tested through individual displays of studio work together with a written statement and dialogue with tutors. Seminars and lectures are assessed through coursework.

## History of Art

Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and unseen formal examinations. A dissertation and oral presentation also contribute.

## Skills and other attributes

### B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:

#### **In Art**

analyse the visual world  
engage in creative and speculative propositions  
initiate, evaluate and progress intentions  
convey ideas through visual and written means and resources  
plan, organise and present an independent enquiry.

#### **In History of Art**

analyse and interpret visual artefacts  
use visual resources as evidence  
plan, organise and write a coherent argument  
transfer appropriate skills and methods from one topic within the subject to another  
plan, organise and conduct an independent enquiry.

### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

#### Art

1. - Is exemplified through lectures, seminars, tutorials and studio seminars throughout the programme and the Part 2 study visits. 2. - Lectures and seminars explore examples of creative and speculative thought, this is also an intrinsic part of all tutorials and studio seminars. 3.- Tutorials in Parts 1 and 2 focus on the initiation and progression of work, in Parts 2I and 3H the emphasis is upon the evaluation and progression of intentions. Lectures by visiting artists exemplify differing approaches. 4.- Tutorials and studio seminars explore the clarity of ideas in students' work throughout the programme.

Documentary presentations of work in Part 3H extend abilities in oral presentation and the use of presentational aids. Written skills are developed through studio statements, seminars and lectures, including use of the internet and the library. 5.- Is emphasised throughout the programme in tutorials and particularly in Part 3H through the final exhibition.

#### History of Art

How to analyse and interpret visual artefacts is constantly exemplified in formal lectures and in seminars from the start of Part 1. Lectures and seminars will also demonstrate how to use visual evidence in the construction of arguments and students will develop advanced skills in this through seminar presentations and coursework tasks. Such skills are additionally fostered through opportunities to study visual artefacts at first hand including in the compulsory module involving study abroad. The ability to transfer knowledge from one area of the programme to another is evidence of high level performance. The ability to organise and structure arguments is emphasised throughout but particularly in compulsory modules and through modules in independent study and the dissertation.

#### Assessment

#### Art

1, 2, 3 and 4 are constantly assessed in all parts of

the programme through coursework, 5.- is particularly emphasised in Part 3H through the Final exhibition.

#### History of Art

1-3 are constantly assessed in all parts of the programme including coursework and unseen examinations which also include compulsory questions analysing visual artefacts. 4 and 5 are particularly assessed in compulsory modules in independent study and the dissertation.

### C. Practical skills - *able to:*

#### In Art

Learn and work within practical processes with due regard to health and safety implications

Judge appropriate media and materials for the task and develop skills through practice and research

Have basic knowledge relating to a range of tools, materials, processes and common IT skills.

Identify and locate relevant resources e.g. galleries, texts, internet sites.

#### In History of Art

identify, locate and record visual sources.

memorise and be able to recall key features of different visual resources.

identify, find and organise written sources.

identify appropriate resources including the internet for the study of works of art

### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

#### Art

1.- Is introduced through technical demonstration and tutorials in Part 1 then developed through increasingly independent work in the rest of the programme. 2.- Through technical demonstration, tutorials, studio seminars, lectures by visiting artists and first hand study of works of art and the Part 2 study visits. 3.- Through induction to workshops in Part 1 and technical demonstration throughout the programme. IT skills developed through technical demonstration, seminars and lectures and in the Part 3H documentary presentation. 4.- Through tutorials, Part 2 study visits, seminars and lectures.

#### History of Art

Identifying visual artefacts and sources is taught from Part 1, including assessed tasks which test the student's ability to find and select appropriate visual evidence for analysis and comparison. Such skills are additionally fostered in Part 2 where greater emphasis is placed on increasingly complex and sophisticated analyses, including the ability to recall and use visual and other data from often disparate and widely separated sources and locations. 3 and 4 are taught throughout the course but particularly emphasised in the independent study tasks in Part 2 and dissertation in Part 3.

#### Assessment

#### Art

Basic knowledge relating to a range of tools, materials and processes is explicitly assessed in Part 1 'Skills and Processes', 1-3 are assessed constantly throughout the programme through presentation of studio work. IT skills are not explicitly assessed but are necessary for the successful completion of the course particularly in seminars, lectures and career management.

#### History of Art

1-3 are assessed in all coursework, including oral presentations, and written examinations and 4 is assessed in independent study tasks independent study tasks

### D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

#### In Art

Work with visual awareness and dexterity.

### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

#### Art

1 and 5 are embedded throughout the programme,

Engage in creative and speculative propositions.  
Initiate, evaluate and progress work independently  
Give oral and visual presentations.  
Use a range of tools and machinery  
Use IT (word processing and the internet).  
Work as a part of a team.  
Manage time effectively and meet deadlines  
Plan their career.

#### **In History of Art**

use IT (word processing, and the internet)  
evaluate evidence and use reasoned arguments.  
describe evidence from visual sources in oral and  
written forms  
give oral presentations  
work as part of a team  
use library and internet resources  
manage their time  
plan their career.

introduced through both compulsory and optional  
modules in Part 1 then extended through tutorials,  
studio seminars and technical demonstration in Parts  
2, 2I, and 3H. 2. and 3.- Embedded throughout the  
course through tutorials, seminars and lectures and  
in the documentary presentation as students take  
increasing responsibility for their own learning. 4. -  
Embedded throughout the programme, of particular  
focus in Part 2 and Part 3 presentations, in Part 3H  
documentary presentations and Final exhibition,  
exemplified through lectures and visiting lecturers.  
6. - Use of word processing and the internet is  
embedded in seminars and lectures. 7. - Plays a key  
role in Part 2 in the curatorial projects and on study  
visits and in Part 3H in planning and preparation for  
final exhibitions. 8.- Time management is essential  
for the effective completion of the programme. 9. -  
Career planning is introduced in Part 2, emphasised  
in Part 2I and of particular focus in Part 3H.

#### **History of Art**

The use of IT is embedded throughout the  
programme. 2 and 3 are essential to success in all  
parts of the programme. 4 and 5 are increasingly  
emphasised in Part 2 and play a key role in Part 3,  
and 5 is a key skill in the compulsory module Study  
Trip Abroad. Career planning is emphasised in Part  
2. Library and internet skills are required in the  
independent study module in Part 2 and the  
dissertation in level 3. Time management is  
essential for the effective completion of the  
programme.

#### *Assessment*

##### **Art**

1-3 are assessed throughout in coursework. 4.-  
Visual presentations are assessed throughout the  
programme, oral presentations are assessed in Parts  
2 and 2I, documentary presentations in Part 3H are  
not explicitly assessed. 5.- Assessed in Part 1  
optional module Skills and Processes, in Parts 2, 2I,  
and 3H this is not assessed directly but effective use  
of appropriate equipment will enhance performance.  
6, 7 and 8 are not assessed directly but their  
effective use will enhance performance.9.- Is  
assessed in Part 2.

##### **History of Art**

2 and 3 are assessed throughout in coursework and  
examinations. 4 is assessed in Part 3 and 6 in Part 2  
and 3. The other skills are not assessed directly but  
their effective use will enhance performance in later  
modules.

**Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**