

## **Masters/Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art (MFA) For students entering in 2009**

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Programme length:	21 months
Date of specification:	Sept 2009
Programme Director:	Alun Rowlands
Board of Studies:	Fine Art
Accreditation:	

### **Summary of programme aims**

Through individual and group discussion the programme aims to firstly question those mannerisms of practice accrued prior to coming to Reading. Through critical debate students will be enabled to redefine their practice towards the production of singularity.

### **Transferable skills**

Through the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility, organisational skills will be developed including working to a brief, meeting deadlines, planning, team working, problem solving and career management.

### **Programme content**

Year one of the 21 month programme runs from October to the end of June. During this year students will work in the studios and workshops (FAM1S) where assumptions and achievements in practice will be challenged. Students will write two contextual/self-appraisal essays of not less than 1500 words per term (FAM1C). Year two runs from July to June. Full access to the studios during the summer period prefaces the reconfiguration of a more critically aware and mature body of work. This will be built upon throughout year two (FAM2S) culminating in the Final Exhibition. The six contextual/self-appraisal essays (FAM2C) will complement and support the studio achievements. Throughout the programme students will document their work photographically.

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FAM1S	Studio practice	90	7
FAM1C	Contextual Texts	30	7
FAM2S	Studio and exhibition	150	7
FAM2C	Contextual Texts and professional development	30	7

### **Part-time/Modular arrangements**

There are no part time arrangements for this programme.

### **Progression requirements**

N/A

### **Summary of teaching and assessment**

Through one to one studio tutorials and peer group seminars. Assessment of studio work is by exhibition at year end and of contextual/self appraisal texts.

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

<u>Mark</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
70-100%	Distinction
60-69%	Merit
50-59%	Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40-49%	Work below threshold standard
0-39%	Unsatisfactory Work

*For Masters Degrees*

To pass the degree of MFA students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall. Modules marked below 50 must not exceed 60 credits.\*

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall and no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit.

*For Postgraduate Diplomas*

Students successfully completing FAM1S and FAM1C may be awarded the Diploma in Fine Art.

To pass the Postgraduate Diploma students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall. Modules marked below 50 must not exceed 60 credits.\*

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall and no mark below 40 will be eligible for a merit.

\*The provision to permit a candidate to be passed overall with a profile containing marks below 40 is made subject to the condition that there is evidence that the candidate applied them self to the work of those modules with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

The Marking Criteria and Classification Framework for Taught Postgraduate Programmes which applies across the University, may be found at: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/Exams/>.

You should note that in cases where a student is in debt to the University, no recommended result will be submitted to the senate. When the debt has been paid, a recommendation in respect of the result will be submitted to the Senate. You should note that, if the debt has not been settled within the eighteen months of the decision that there be 'no recommendation', you will no longer be eligible for re-examination.

**Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained a good Honours degree in Fine Art or equivalent qualification, together with a portfolio submission.

Admissions Tutor: Jonathan Dronsfield

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

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses 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 the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and includes the Careers Advisory Service, the Disability Advisory Service, Accommodation Advisory Team, Student Financial Support, Counselling and Study Advisors. Student Services has a Helpdesk available for enquiries made in person or online ([www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk](http://www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk)), or by calling the central enquiry number on (0118) 378 5555. 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 on everything from accommodation to finance. The Carrington Building is open between 8:30 and 17:30 Monday to Thursday (17:00 Friday and during vacation periods). Further information can be found in the Student Diary (given to students at enrolment) or on the Student website ([www.reading.ac.uk/student](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)).

In Fine Art each student is allocated an appropriate working space within the postgraduate spur. There are sculpture and wood workshops and in-house computer facilities. The department is equipped for digital, video, and sound editing. Several bookable spaces are available for installation and time based work. There are directed visits to museums and galleries. Each student is issued with a programme handbook.

### **Career prospects**

Most students continue as professional artists, though others have successfully pursued careers within the Creative Industries.

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

Informal opportunities to spend time abroad occur from time to time as do opportunities to exhibit.

### **Educational aims of the programme**

In order to have been offered a place at Reading the student will already have achieved a high standard of singularity in their personal practice as an artist and our aim is to help to refine this potential, both intellectual and practical so that the student can, with confidence, find their place in the professional world soon after leaving. We will seek to implement these aims by challenging preconceptions, by encouraging the student to speculate in an innovative way and through critical analysis and coherent argument, develop their personal mode of expression.

## Programme Outcomes

### *Knowledge and Understanding*

<p><b>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</b></p> <p>1 relevant practical processes</p> <p>2 the necessary negotiation between intention and realisation of works at a sophisticated level</p> <p>3 the context of contemporary practice</p> <p>4 the difference between the creation and the exhibition of work</p>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>1&amp;2 By one to one studio tutorials and peer group seminars, appropriate processes are negotiated and tested, adopted or abandoned</p> <p>3&amp;4 By attending lectures by visiting artists and engaging with the ensuing debate</p> <p>By self-initiated and directed visits to galleries and exhibitions</p> <p>1,2&amp;3 By periodic self-appraisal essays</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Knowledge is tested through individual displays of studio work and through contextualised self-appraisal essays</p>
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### *Skills and other attributes*

<p><b>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</b></p> <p>1 reappraise the fundamentals of perceived notions of personal practice</p> <p>2 identify and evaluate relevant critical contexts</p> <p>3 consider and site subjective practice within the social and cultural context</p> <p>4 develop a personal vocabulary with which to evaluate own practice</p>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>1&amp;3 Embodied in studio tutorials and challenged in peer seminars</p> <p>2&amp;3 By researching texts, exhibitions and other art manifestations</p> <p>4&amp;3 By periodic written self-appraisal and by oral presentation</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Intellectual skills are tested through individual displays of studio work and through contextual essays</p>
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**C. Practical skills – able to:**

1  
work within practical processes with due regard to health and safety implications

2  
judge appropriate media for the immediate task

3  
draw from working knowledge of a wide range of tools, materials and processes

4  
use IT skills to advantage

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

1,2&3  
Consultation with studio tutors and practical demonstration by technicians. The writing of risk assessment forms for particular projects

2&3  
Will be implicit in personal practice

*Assessment*  
Continuous assessment but also embodied in the formal displays of studio work and within the contextual essays

**D. Transferable skills – able to:**

1  
engage in creative speculation

2  
initiate and work responsibly both alone and as a team

3  
communicate effectively in visual ,spoken and written forms

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

1&3  
Embedded throughout the programme in both studio teaching and contextual seminars

2  
Emphasised at the time of Year 1 and Final presentations/exhibitions

*Assessment*  
Continuous assessment. Marked formally at end of Year 1 and at Finals

**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 processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**