

**BA Fine Art**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2012/3**

**UCAS code: W101**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Art and Design
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	16/May/2014
Programme Director:	Prof Susanne Clausen
Programme Advisor:	Prof Alun Rowlands
Board of Studies:	Art
Accreditation:	The University of Reading

**Summary of programme aims**

- To provide a framework, both practical and intellectual, for the development of an independent Art practice with particular reference to students who have completed a Foundation Course in Art & Design
- To provide in each student a critical awareness and understanding of contemporary art and its contexts
- To develop students' informed interest in the subject, enhance creativity and independence of thought through the provision of a supportive learning environment which fosters collaborative and independent learning
- To produce graduates with potential and abilities for continued professional practice, creative and intellectual development.

**Transferable skills**

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, use of IT and problem solving and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

In Art there is an emphasis on self-initiated practice encompassing the acquisition and development of specific skills, methods and approaches attuned to professional practice. The importance placed on independent study demands that students become confident and self motivated in establishing working methods that expand through the technical resources of the department and wider university. 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. In addition, students have the opportunity to work collaboratively through practice, staging internal and external exhibitions, events and projects.

**Programme content**

The following profile states which modules must be taken including the compulsory modules together with optional modules for Part 1. Part 1 students must choose which additional modules they wish to take from within the department and the faculty to make 120 credits in Part 1. The number of credits for each module is shown after its title.

Part 1 introduces the range of contemporary art practice and art theory, also a guided introduction to the development of an independent practice across specific methods, approaches and media. Part 2 provides students with the opportunity to identify and investigate particular interests and concerns through practical engagement in their own studio spaces and to relate their studio work to relevant contemporary contexts through the study visits, seminars and lecture programmes. Part 2 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 3 encourages the focused development of an independent practice and its documentation in relation to contemporary art and art theory.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FA1SA	Fine Art Studio	80	4
FA1ATA	Contemporary Art and Theory	20	4

One optional module from:

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
FA1CMA	Critical Collaborative Methods	20	4

Or a 20 credit, level 4 module from elsewhere in the University.

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

*Compulsory modules*

FA2SA	Fine Art Studie including CMS	80	5
FA2TEXA	Image Action Text	20	5

Mod Code	Mod Title	Credits	Level
F2ATA	Contemporary Art Theory	20	5

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

*Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FA3HSA	Fine Art Studio	100	6
FA3DISA	Art dissertation	20	6

### **Progression requirements**

Students must achieve a threshold performance in Part 1. To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2, students must obtain:

- (i) an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at C level or above;
- (ii) a mark of at least 40% in module FA1SA
- (iii) a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2;
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.

### **Assessment and classification**

The University's honours classification scheme is:

Mark	interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/exa-class.aspx>.

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is

### **Three-year programmes**

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

In Fine Art, at Part 1, teaching is by workshops, tutorials and lectures. At Parts 2 and 3 teaching is by individual tutorials, workshops, seminars and lectures. Technical assistance and instruction occurs throughout the year and at the student's request. Directed visits to museums and galleries take place throughout the programme. In Part 1 and 2 modules are assessed by coursework. In Part 1 and 2 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 alongside self assessment. The Part Assessment occurs at the end of the module, the results contributing to the Final Degree classification. At Part 3 assessment is by examination in the form of an exhibition and documentation. In all studio modules assessment is by coursework selected and presented by the student. Seminars, Contemporary Art Theory and Art Dissertation are assessed by coursework. Full details are given in module descriptions.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but you should note that weighting for Part 2 and Part 3 is:

Part 2 30% (FA2SA Fine Art Studio 2 20%, FA2HRSA Contextual Seminar 10%) and Part 3 70% (60% FA3HSA Fine Art Studio 3, 10% FA3DISA Art Dissertation).

### **Admission requirements**

Applications are sought from students who have completed a Foundation Course in Art and Design or its equivalent, in addition to GCE Advanced levels or appropriate alternative qualifications. All home students are interviewed with their portfolio of practical work. Applications from mature and international students are welcome. We recommend you contact our Admissions Tutor or Departmental Officer to discuss your individual circumstances and/or arrange a visit to the department.

UCAS Tariff: Minimum 205 points to include Pass or above at Art Foundation plus A levels or equivalent

**Admissions Tutor:** Tina O'Connell

### **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 Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), In-session 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, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. 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)

In Art there is an extensive provision of studio space alongside resources for exhibition and presentations. Students are allocated studio space with twenty-four access the privilege of Part 3 students through access card entry. There is access to studio workshop for construction; two darkrooms for photography and two digital workshops including facilities for film and video editing, imaging, sound and website building. The department runs inductions and workshops covering core skills, embedded with health and safety as good practice. There are several 'bookable spaces' available for installation, time based work, testing modes of display and curation. Students can avail themselves of the opportunity to curate or collaborate on projects within the department gallery through proposal submission. From Part 1 onwards students elect studio tutors within the compulsory modules and support for students in their studies is provided through the Personal Tutorial system. New students

are provided with a copy of their Programme Handbook (available online via blackboard) that covers resources available, programme specific matters and examinations. Academic feedback and guidance is given through oral and written feedback, and supported through individual tutorials, workshops and group seminars. In addition there are directed study visits to museums and galleries. The Library houses key journals and publications alongside electronic databases. Specialist subject librarians are available to advise and guide students to library resources.

Throughout the programme there are opportunities for work-based learning, placements and internships. The department promotes prospective external exhibitions and projects that enable experience of working with outside arts organisations. In addition, there are opportunities to gain experience working with staff on practice-based research projects and exhibitions.

### **Career prospects**

Graduates of BA Fine Art are equipped to sustain their practice as artists, curators and writers. In addition recent graduates have found employment in museum and gallery education, art therapy, journalism and publishing, post-production, theatre and television. The programme is excellent preparation for further study at postgraduate level. Graduates have found that the specific and transferable skills developed by the programme enable them to enter professions across the cultural field.

### **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**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

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

1. independent and self directed work through the management of a creative practice
2. contemporary art theory and recent art history's relationship to the development of critical art practice
3. collaborative and individual production of exhibitions, their modes of display and curation
4. reflexive skills to research, analyse and evaluate material, both written and visual
5. professional practice and transferable skills.

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

All students are inducted and introduced to approaches and methods of independent practice. Teaching is directed through project based workshops, tutorials and studio seminars addressing the principles of practice developing understanding across media (1). Students are encouraged to work in a range of studio disciplines focusing their intentions as the programme develops. The compulsory studio modules develop the emphasis towards a self-initiated programme of work that is tested, staged and documented throughout the year. Students work closely with their elected studio tutor, in individual and group tutorials. These taught sessions develop critical evaluation of practice and foster reflective skills towards exhibition and documentation (4).

Modes of collaboration, both in practice and through exhibition, are introduced in Part 1 and fostered through the optional module 'Critical Collaborative Methods' delivered through lectures and seminars that introduce curating and exhibition practice (3). The compulsory module 'Image Action Text' develops through lectures, seminars and workshops, critical contexts for the dissemination of practice (4 + 5).

Contemporary Art Theory lectures introduce key terminology, theory and historical precedents (2).

Through the taught component students are exposed to the language, vocabulary and debates in contemporary art. Museum and gallery study visits are integral part of the programme, placing study within a wider cultural field. Visiting lectures provide a context within which student knowledge and understanding of professional practice is extended (5).

#### *Assessment*

Knowledge and understanding are assessed by studio presentations, essays, coursework and dissertation. In studio modules there is formative and self assessment with written feedback at an interim point in the year. Summative assessment at the end of the Part is through presentation and documentation.

### **Skills and other attributes**

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

1. critical judgement in the selection of work for exhibition, and its relationship to the broader field of cultural production
2. engage in creative and speculative propositions, with the ability to find creative solutions
3. the ability to apply appropriate critical knowledge and understanding of professional practice and its contexts
4. identify key theories of contemporary practice, and to test and critically evaluate through written, oral and material resources
5. planning, organising and presenting an independent enquiry both individually and within a collaborative environment.

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

Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above, particularly through lectures, seminars, tutorials and feedback on the development of individual programmes of work (2).

Intellectual attributes are extended in dialogue and discussion demanded by individual and group tutorials, and seminars which are features of all module teaching. These skills are particularly addressed in Contemporary Art & Theory modules, with individual essay tutorials supporting critical writing (4). The lecture modules culminate in one-to-one supervision of individual research interests for the Art Dissertation (2 & 4).

Command of methods and processes appropriate to practice are assisted through specific workshops available to support studio skills. Group tutorials in Part 1 are studio specific, while Part 2 tutorials establish the specificity of individual practice. Planned and organised staging through exhibition, collaborative ventures and events (internal and external) test iterations of practice (5). In Part 3 in tandem with focused dissertation research, students manifest their critical practice through exhibition and documentation (1).

#### *Assessment*

Intellectual skills are assessed in all parts of the programme through coursework. Coursework in modules is both formatively and summatively assessed with written feedback at the appropriate stages. Critical judgement and selection form part of the studio assessment, in particular the final exhibition.

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

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

- 1 employ the methods and approaches within practice-based enquiry
- 2 develop conceptual and practical skills appropriate to specific practice
- 3 research and develop reflective documentation skills
- 4 identify creative applications for sustaining practice and developing professional practice
- 5 understand the issues surrounding display and presentation of practice through the ability to stage exhibitions and events.

The teaching of practical skills is embedded into the structure, content and delivery of the programme. In Part 1 and 2 there is a focus on specific studio disciplines through inductions, workshops, technical demonstrations and tutorials (1). Further optional instruction is available with one-to-one support for skills diversification (2).

The seminar module Critical Collaborative Methods promotes diverse skills from exhibition making, collaboration and technical skills (4). Image Action Text module wraps theoretical concerns with practical skills with a particular focus on distributed forms that include websites, online publications, digital video, sound and image (5).

Visiting Lectures support teaching and learning through professional practice (4 + 5). The reflective documentation which forms part of all studio modules is taught through tutorials and workshops (3).

#### *Assessment*

Subject specific and practical skills and the ability to assimilate knowledge appropriately are demonstrated in work submitted for assessment. Formative assessment throughout the year of presentations of studio work and contextual essays.

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

- 1 sustain independent work and study with initiative and to deadlines
- 2 discuss work and ideas in a well-informed and reasoned presentation
- 3 initiate and work responsibly both individually and in collaboration with others
4. utilise a range of digital and technological processes for the production of work and ideas
- 5 write and plan proposals and applications in support of professional practice
- 6 identify and develop careers in the visual arts and other related cultural fields

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

The emphasis placed on self-initiated programmes of work centred on the studio enables students to develop specific techniques, skills, processes and working methods as required by their individual programme of work (1).

The ethos of collaboration within the department, is explicitly taught within seminar modules, and fostered through external exhibition opportunities (3 + 4).

Careers is introduced formally at the beginning of beginning of programme, and assessed as part of the studio module (5+6). Further professional practice is embedded in programme through tutorials and visiting lectures.

#### *Assessment*

Transferable skills are integrated features which contribute to the quality of all coursework. The formal assessment of studio work, essays, seminar presentations, dissertation and reflective documentation covers 1-6.

**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.**