

BA Art and History of Art
For students entering Part 1 in 2015/6

UCAS code: VW31

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Art & Design, History of Art
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	03/Jun/2016
Programme Director:	Dr Rachel Garfield
Programme Advisor:	Prof Susanne Clausen
Board of Studies:	Art
Accreditation:	University of Reading

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to develop students' individual creative enquiry informed by an understanding of art history, theory and contemporary practice. The programme is structured to enable students to develop critical practice in a supportive environment that enables the intellectual and technical production of art. It aims to provide the space to explore creative enquiry, written modes of research, reflection and professional practice skills that form the basis for students' future careers. The historical and theoretical syllabus aims to provide a framework for examining visual culture and the changing categories of art, in different places and times. It will foster a critical understanding of the relationship between contemporary conceptions of art, 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. The combined programme aims to provide students with understanding and significance of the discourses of art, as well as understanding how to locate their own work within the wider cultural field.

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 BA Art and History of Art there is an emphasis on independent 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 and reflective analysis of visual and critical sources. The combined programme allows students to develop advanced skills in visual analysis, learning how to recognize 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 by identifying personal strengths and weaknesses, be skilled at time management, and have developed strategies for working with a team and alongside their peers. The programme will include opportunities to develop skills at making oral presentations, to use visual sources in support of an argument and to deploy IT, with a particular emphasis on visual images.

A key focus of the studio modules is the development of digital skills in the production and documentation of image, object, text, and environments. Students' digital literacy and knowledge of applications adds to their practical and academic skills, necessary to work in a professional environment or to undertake further study. In addition, students have the opportunity to work collaboratively, staging internal and external exhibitions, events and projects where they acquire curatorial, promotional, and entrepreneurial event management skills.

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 Art introduces students to a range of current art practices and discourses through a series of practice-based projects across a range of approaches, methods and media. The lecture and seminar modules provide different introductions to the study of history of art, its histories and theories. Optional modules allow students to orientate themselves in different ways in relationship to the subject - through the study and critique of a canon of art, or in terms of art as part of the history of visual culture and their producers. Part 2 provides students with the opportunity to identify and investigate particular concerns through developing independent studio practice informed by relevant historical and contemporary precedents explored in seminars, lectures and study visits. A compulsory module held at an international study centre allows works of art to be studied at first hand and as part of a specific cultural and social formation. Part 2 optional modules develop more focused approaches and distinctive media each providing an emphasis on visual culture. Part 2I Art provides the opportunity to build on the intellectual and technical skills of the Part 2 though increasingly independent studio practice and its relation to art history and theory. Part 2I offers opportunities for study abroad and work-based learning. Optional module, involving more intensive and specialised study, and introducing areas of innovation and scholarship both within the discipline and in its interdisciplinary aspects. Independent research is pursued through a dissertation on a topic chosen in consultation with a dissertation supervisor, and carried out in Part 3. Part 3 Art studio module facilitates sustained and focused studio practice with an emphasis on independent research and enquiry.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FA1ART	Art Studio	40	4
FA1RW	Reading Objects, Writing Images	20	4
FA1MM	Modernisms & Mythologies	20	4

Optional modules: a minimum of 20 credits and a maximum of 40 credits from

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FA1ME	Medium, Media & Materials	20	4
FA1WC	What is the Contemporary?	20	4

Students may substitute up to 20 credits with a Part 1 module from elsewhere in the University, including Cultural History modules from the Department of History or the Institution Wide Language Programme

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FA2S2	Part 2 Studio including Career Management Skills	40	5
FA2IS	International Study	20	5
FA2AS	Artist as... Models, Becomings, Encounters	20	5

Optional modules: 40 credits from

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FA2CM	Critical Collaborative Methods	20	4
FA2AA	Aesthetic, Anti-aesthetic	20	5
FA2MW	Visual Thinking and Material Writing	20	5

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

Compulsory modules

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FA2IS2	Part 2I Studio	40	5

Optional modules: 80 credits

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FA2IUT	Utopias & Other Worlds	20	5
FA2ITEX	Image Action Text	20	5
FA2IAE	Affects, Aesthetics and the Event	20	5
FA2ILM	Landscape & Memory	20	5
FA2ISP	Independent Study & Placement	20	5

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
FA3HS2	Studio (joint honours)	80	6
FA3VCD	Art & History of Art Dissertation	40	6

Progression requirements

To proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 students must:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at level 4 or above; and
- (ii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) at least 40% in all compulsory Part 1 modules.

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

- (i) obtain 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.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

The University's honours classification scheme is:

Mark interpretation

70% First class

-

100%

60% Upper

- Second class

69%

50% Lower

- Second class

59%

40% Third class

-

49%

35% Below

- Honours

39% Standard

0% - Fail

34%

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>

and see Programme Handbook

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

Part 2 and 2I one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

In Art at Part 1 teaching is by project, workshops, tutorials and lectures. At Parts 2 and 2I teaching is by individual tutorials, workshops, seminars and lectures; and at Part 3 by individual supervision. Technical assistance and learning is embedded within the studio modules and occurs throughout the year through specific workshops and by request. Directed study visits to museums and galleries take place throughout the programme. In Part 1 compulsory modules FA1ART and FA1RW, formative assessment with feedback takes place at the end of each project with summative assessment at the end of Part 1. Part 1, 2 and 2I optional modules are assessed by coursework and/or examination. In Parts 2 and 2I studio modules there are two points of assessment, an Interim and a Part assessment. Interim assessments are formative and take place mid-module where a diagnostic mark is achieved alongside written feedback and 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 a presentation of practice-based work and reflective documentation. In all studio modules assessment is by coursework selected and presented by the student. In the optional modules, teaching is shaped by lectures, projects and seminars. Assessment is by a mixture of coursework, learning journals and seminar presentations. The dissertation is supervised in a series of tutorials with an individual supervisor and is assessed only as coursework. Full details are given in module descriptions.

The conventions for classifications are given in the Programme Handbook but you should note that the weighting for Part 2, 2I and 3 for classification purposes is:

Art: Part 2 and 2I: 33%; Part 3: 67%

History of Art: Part 2: 33%; Part 3: 67%

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

UCAS Tariff: AAB from 3 A level subjects; and a portfolio

Three Higher Level International Baccalaureate scores of: 35 points overall and a portfolio.

All home students are interviewed with their portfolio. Applications from mature students and international students are welcome. For international students digital portfolio submission is accepted.

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

In Art there is an extensive provision of studio space alongside resources for exhibition and presentations. Part 1 has a dedicated studio environment that is collectively negotiated to the demands of each project or workshop.

In Parts 2, 2I each student is allocated a studio space with twenty-four hour access the privilege of Part 3 students through access card entry. There is access to studio workshops for construction, printing and casting; darkrooms for photography and digital workshops including facilities for film and video editing, imaging, sound

and web building tools. In addition there is a dedicated Audio Visual Room, a whitespace and sound recording booth. 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. The department gallery is a prominent resource that is student-run and offers opportunities to curate or collaborate on projects and events. From Part 2 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. 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. Academic feedback and guidance is provided 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.

Career learning

Career learning is delivered as a component embedded within the Part 2 Studio Module. It is delivered in part with Careers and by staff in the department. The dialogue established shapes the day which is animated through presentations by alumni and guests working in a number of fields such as museum education, art therapy and public curatorial roles. The three assignments that follow allow students to profile their skills, interests and career path, develop and articulate these through a CV; and develop a 'real world' proposal for residency, fellowship or relevant opportunity identified. The initial career learning activities are extended into Parts 2I and 3 through Professional Practice in which visiting speakers from across the cultural field address practical considerations for funding, developing exhibition projects, public art commissions and the networks of support to sustain art practice after university. The Visiting Artists Lecturer series is a key resource in helping students map career options. Part 3 students are able to develop portfolios and applications through the Postgraduate Clinic, which assists students with applications. 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.

Career prospects

Graduates of BA Art and History of Art are equipped to sustain their practices as artists, curators and writers. In addition recent graduates have found employment in museum and gallery education, auction houses, 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 and heritage sector.

Opportunities for study abroad

As part of the degree programme students have the opportunity to study abroad at an institution with which the University has a valid agreement.

There are opportunities to study abroad including international exchange programmes at amongst others Rutgers University, USA; Emily Carr School of Art & Design, Canada; Monash University, Australia; F+F, Zurich; National University of the Arts Taiwan. In Europe there are exchanges with F+F School of Art, Zurich and there is an Erasmus exchange with L'Ecole des Beaux Arts, Dijon, France. Study Abroad options and applications are presented and discussed with the Study Abroad advisor in the Autumn term.

Placement opportunities

Throughout the programme there are opportunities for work-based learning, placements and internships through Art's associate partnership with the Institute of Contemporary Art, London amongst others. The department promotes prospective external exhibitions and public projects that enable experiences of working with outside arts organisations. In addition, there are opportunities to undertake negotiated placements for credit within the Part 2I Studio Module assessed through reflective writing that forms part of the students' practice-based documentation.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

Art

1. independent and self-directed work through the management of a creative practice
2. contemporary art theory and 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.

History of Art

1. a broad based approach to the debates and discourses of art and visual culture
2. specialist knowledge issues in art history, theory and visual culture
3. key discourses and current priorities in art history including conflicting interpretations and specific methods of analysis germane to the theory and philosophy of the art
4. advanced abilities to interpret visual artefacts, their function and meaning
5. technical language of the subject.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Art

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/ or presentations, are introduced in Part 1 and fostered through the optional modules with group seminar presentations, delivered through lectures and seminars that introduce curating and exhibition practice (3). The diet of optional module develops distinctive strands of practice-based, historical and theoretical modes of enquiry through lectures, seminars and workshops that explore the critical contexts of art and its histories. (4 + 5). The lectures and seminars introduce key terminology, theory and historical precedents (2). Through the taught component students are exposed to the language, vocabulary and debates that forge contemporary art. Museum and gallery study visits are an 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).

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 thematic 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

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*:

Art

1. display 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. 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. plan, organise and present an independent enquiry both individually and within a collaborative environment.

History of Art

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

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Art

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 the range of optional modules, with individual essay tutorials supporting critical writing (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 project 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).

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

Intellectual skills are assessed in all parts of the programme through coursework and examination. 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. 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:

Art

1. employ the methods and approaches within practice-based enquiry
2. develop conceptual and practice 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.

History of Art

1. locate and record visual sources
2. memorise and be able to recall key features of different visual resources
3. identify, find and organise written sources
4. identify appropriate resources including the internet for the study of works of art.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Art

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). Some of the optional modules with a practice-based research dimension promote diverse skills from exhibition making, collaboration and technical skills (4). FA2CM and FA2ITEX modules 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 Lecturers 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).

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

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

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

D. Transferable skills - able to:

Art

1. sustain independent work and study with initiative and to deadlines

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Art

The emphasis placed on self-initiated programmes of work centred on the studio enables students to

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.

History of Art

1. use IT
2. evaluate evidence and use reasoned arguments
3. describe evidence from visual sources in oral and written forms
4. give oral presentations
5. work as part of a team
6. use library and internet resources
7. manage their time
8. plan their career.

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

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 International Study Visit. 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. 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.

Assessment

Transferable skills are integrated features that 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.