

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	MA Fine Art
2	BCU Course Code	PT1093
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	

6	Course Description
	<p>Our MA Fine Art Master's course embraces art practice, in whatever form it takes (drawing, painting, sculpture, print, photography, installation, lens-based media, performance, participatory, interdisciplinary and expanded practice) and in whichever circumstance it occurs.</p> <p>It is conceptual at heart, pursuing strong ideas and challenges of art in real life. The artist Joseph Beuys, working in Social Sculpture, famously said: <i>Each and every man has the most precious building in the world in his head, feelings and free will.</i> And the French poet Baudelaire said: <i>The best form of art criticism is another work of art.</i></p> <p>We agree, and so art is considered in relationship to philosophy, art history and theory, contemporary discourse and global contexts, establishing critical frameworks, in which artists make work. We also have strong links with art galleries and artists communities, including Eastside Projects led by Gavin Wade and Céline Cordorelli.</p> <p>What's covered in the course?</p> <p>This expansive postgraduate course offers you a specialist education in Fine Art with both core practice modules and optional modules that change to reflect contemporary ways of practising. These have included: Philosophy and Aesthetics; Social Practices in the Visual Arts; Creative Publishing; Technical Methods; Small Arts Business Set up; Models and Methods of Curatorial Practice and Photography as Research. These help develop and frame your practice whilst also introducing you to contemporary contexts and debates.</p> <p>It will enable you to take risks, be imaginative and self-reflexive in the development of your work. It builds your confidence, enhances your critical and analytical skills and prepares you for a career in the creative sector. Numerous alumni have gone on to be successful in a wide range of sectors of Education, Culture Industries and public and private sector arts organisations. You will be encouraged to personalise your learning preparing you for life as a professional artist or PhD researcher. Collaboration and personal development are strongly encouraged alongside attention to pastoral care.</p> <p>You will be located at Birmingham School of Art (Margaret Street Campus), an impressive Grade 1 listed purpose built resource, with a specialist team of friendly, experienced and dedicated technicians.</p>

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Master of Arts Fine Art	7	180
	Master of Arts Fine Art with Professional Placement	7	240
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Postgraduate Certificate Fine Art	7	60
	Postgraduate Diploma Fine Art	7	120

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	Not applicable

9	Delivery Patterns			
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
	Full Time	Margaret Street	1 year	PT1093
	Part Time	Margaret Street	2 years	PT1092
	Full Time with Professional Placement	Margaret Street (and placement provider)	18 months	PT1427

10	Entry Requirements
<p>The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/.</p>	

11 Course Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
1	The historical and contemporary cultural, social, political, theoretical, philosophical, critical and contextual factors that impact upon the current discourse of arts practices and their reception.
2	Practice, theory and context as an informed dialogue at an advanced level.
3	Professional Practice: Including skills that facilitate progression to a career as a professional practitioner, higher or research degrees or other career sequels.
4	Research methods and/or methodologies and their application as appropriate to the individual's course of study.
5	Ethical practice and responsibility in research activities and the presentation of research.
Intellectual and Cognitive Skills	
6	The ability to demonstrate intellectual, conceptual, speculative, imaginative and creative skills applicable to individual study and an appropriate theoretical model and/ or critical context.
7	The ability to demonstrate a breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding of theory, practice and context appropriate to individual study.
8	The ability to demonstrate the application of analytical and critical skills to problem solving, reflective evaluation and interpretation.
9	The ability to engage with research methods and/or methodologies appropriate to theory and context.
10	The ability to engage with research methods and/or methodologies appropriate to individual study
Practical, Research and Independent Learning Skills	
11	The ability to demonstrate the application of effective specialised practical expertise and advanced technical skills where appropriate.
12	The articulation of ideas through the review, development, synthesis and realisation of individual project based practice and/or writing.
13	The ability to exercise initiative and demonstrate personal responsibility in the negotiation, realisation and presentation of individual practice.
14	The application of Information Technology and/or Multimedia as a research and presentation tool.
15	The effective application of appropriate research methods and/or methodologies in the review, development, synthesis, resolution and evaluation of a written academic essay or equivalent project.
16	The effective application of appropriate research methods and/or methodologies in the review, development, synthesis, resolution and evaluation of practice or written work
Interdisciplinary	
17	The ability to develop skills in alternative media and/ or related cognate disciplines where relevant to an individual course of study.
18	The ability to demonstrate adaptability and flexibility in a range of contexts.
19	The ability to work collaboratively where appropriate.

Transferable / Key Skills	
20	The ability to think in a creative, imaginative and speculative manner at an advanced level and in a range of academic and professional situations.
21	The ability to demonstrate communication and presentation skills through the articulation of ideas in written, verbal and practical forms.
22	The ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of professional practice and professionalism through the application of communication, exhibition and/or presentation skills.
23	The ability to reflect and communicate in an articulate, informed, confident and effective manner.
24	The ability to work independently while demonstrating initiative and self-reliance.
25	The ability to demonstrate a high level of motivation and appropriate organisation, negotiation and planning skills and the ability to strategise effectively.
26	The ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of appropriate procedures compliant with Health and Safety policy and good practice in a variety of working environments and situations.
Internalisation	
27	The ability to devise a Personal Development Plan relevant to a local, national and/or international context.
28	The ability to exercise initiative and demonstrate personal responsibility in professional practice and the development of a career trajectory in local, national and/or international contexts.
29	The ability to publicly disseminate work in an appropriate form

12	Course Requirements																																																							
12a	<p>Level 7:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 160 credits):</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ART7895</td> <td>Advanced Practice 1</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ART7872</td> <td>Advanced Practice 2</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ADM7000</td> <td>Major Project</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ART7902</td> <td>Research in Practice</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ART7877</td> <td>Contemporary Philosophy and Aesthetics</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ART7881</td> <td>Models and Methods of Curatorial Practice</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ART7900</td> <td>Queer Strategies in Practice</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ART7901</td> <td>Social Practices in the Visual Arts</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ART7883</td> <td>Small Arts Business Set Up</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ART7882</td> <td>Photography as Research</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ART7884</td> <td>Technical Methods, Workshop Practice and Learning</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ART7887</td> <td>Art and Transcultural Communication</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ART7878</td> <td>Creative Publishing and Public Dissemination</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ART7899</td> <td>Art and Ecologies</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Level 6:</p> <p><i>In order to qualify for the award of MA Fine Art with Professional Placement, a student must successfully complete all of the Level 7 modules listed above as well as the following Level 6 module:</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PLA6003</td> <td>Professional Placement</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	ART7895	Advanced Practice 1	40	ART7872	Advanced Practice 2	40	ADM7000	Major Project	60	ART7902	Research in Practice	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	ART7877	Contemporary Philosophy and Aesthetics	20	ART7881	Models and Methods of Curatorial Practice	20	ART7900	Queer Strategies in Practice	20	ART7901	Social Practices in the Visual Arts	20	ART7883	Small Arts Business Set Up	20	ART7882	Photography as Research	20	ART7884	Technical Methods, Workshop Practice and Learning	20	ART7887	Art and Transcultural Communication	20	ART7878	Creative Publishing and Public Dissemination	20	ART7899	Art and Ecologies	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	PLA6003	Professional Placement	60
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12b Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

MA Fine Art		
Full Time Mode		
Semester 1 Stage 1: Postgraduate Certificate	Semester 2 Stage 2: Postgraduate Diploma	Semester 3 Stage 3: Masters
ART7895: Advanced Practice 1 40 credits	ART7872: Advanced Practice 2 40 credits	ADM7000: Major Project (Faculty Module) 60 credits
	ART7902: Research in Practice 20 credits	
Professional Placement		
Semester 1	Semester 2	
Professional Placement 60 credits		

Part Time Mode – Year 1		
Semesters 1 Stage 1: Postgraduate Certificate	Semester 2 Stage 1: Postgraduate Certificate	Semester 3 Stage 2: Postgraduate Diploma
ART7894: Advanced Practice 1 20 credits		ART7867: Advanced Practice 2 20 credits
		ART7103: Research in Practice 20 credits

Part Time Mode – Year 2		
Semester 4 Stage 2: Postgraduate Diploma	Semester 5 Stage 3: Masters	Semester 6 Stage 3: Masters
ART7103: Research in Practice (cont.)		
ADM7000: Major Project (Faculty Module) 60 credits		

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for assessment and submission points

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 7

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	236
Directed Learning	1204
Private Study	360
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	
In-Person	