

## **Programme Specification - BA(Hons) Fine Art**

**Date of Publication to Students – September 2012**

**NOTE:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detail on the specific learning outcomes, indicative content and the teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found (1) at [Faculty web site address], (2) in the Module Specifications and (3) in the Student Handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked within independent review processes undertaken by the Quality Assurance Agency.

<b>Awarding Institution / Body:</b>	<b>Birmingham City University</b>
<b>Teaching Institution:</b>	<b>Birmingham City University Birmingham Institute of Art and Design</b>
<b>Interim Awards and Final Award:</b>	<b>Cert/HE Fine Art Dip/HE/Fine Art BA/BA (Hons) Fine Art</b>
<b>Programme Title:</b>	<b>BA(Hons) Fine Art</b>
<b>Main fields of Study:</b>	<b>Fine art practice and theory</b>
<b>Modes of Study:</b>	<b>Full time</b>
<b>Language of Study:</b>	<b>English</b>
<b>UCAS Code:</b>	<b>W101</b>
<b>JACS Code:</b>	<b>W100</b>

**Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external reference points used to inform programme outcomes:**

**QAA Art and Design Subject Benchmark Statement**

**Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)**

## **Course Philosophy**

The course promotes a dynamic and symbiotic relationship to contemporary fine art practice, set in the context of historical precedents and seen in relation to regional, national and international critical, theoretical, cultural, social and ethical debates. It fosters sustainability and flexibility within practice, and encourages resourcefulness, social responsibility, and awareness of and engagement with the ideas of others.

It is based upon the belief that students should be able and enabled to develop an imaginative and coherent fine art practice. This is achieved through a structured and stimulating curriculum, a range of learning and teaching strategies, and the provision of access to a wide range of technical means, media and resources, all of which develop the student's intellectual, technical, practical and professional skills.

The course supports students working exclusively or across approaches to painting sculpture, drawing, video, installation, performance, sound, photography and print. It also supports collaborative activity, curatorial practice, work placements, exchanges, and approaches to, and engagement with, emerging technologies.

Underpinned by an extensive range of staff knowledge and skills, the course provides an education and employability skills appropriate and relevant to subsequent professional practice, further study and employment across a range of career sequels. It also recognises the value of self-fulfilment and lifelong learning.

### **The course aims to provide learners with:**

- A specialist education through which a Fine Art practice is established and developed in relationship to historical, critical, cultural, social, ethical and theoretical contexts.
- A stimulating curriculum that encourages learners to articulate and develop their creativity through speculative enquiry, exploration and experimentation,
- A range of strategies and flexible approaches to practice set in the context of contemporary fine art.
- The means to acquire creative expertise, extend, develop and apply intellectual, technical, practical and communication skills.
- Skills related to a critical and practical understanding of the relationship of the artwork to its audience.
- The employability skills to progress to professional practice, further study, and/or other career sequels.

## **Intended learning outcomes and the means by which they are achieved and demonstrated:**

### **Learning Outcomes<sup>1</sup>**

- 1.** A comprehensive knowledge of both the historical, theoretical, social, ethical issues linked to contemporary art practice and to the intellectual, creative, technical and practical development of an individual or collaborative art practice.
- 2.** Analytical, critical and reflective skills to articulate and develop creative ideas, appraise work, and communicate effectively to an 'audience' in practical, written and verbal forms.
- 3.** The effective application of a wide range of range of practical, technical and research skills including: initiation and self management of a sustained programme of study; use of IT as a research and presentation tool; flexible approaches to learning and practice; ethical practice; and the capacity to be independent, adaptable and self aware.
- 4.** Negotiation, planning, organisation, presentation and employability skills appropriate to a fine art practice, a professional standard, and to further career sequels

### **Learning teaching, and assessment methods used:**

Learning and teaching:

Projects, group tasks and collaboration, lectures (including visiting lecturers and research fellow presentations), conferences, workshops, inductions, demonstrations, group discussions, student and staff led seminars, individual and group tutorials, local, regional national and international field study visits, work placements, international exchanges, Personal Development and Planning (PDP) and peer group learning.

Assessment methods:

Students to be assessed on -

- the presentation of a body of practical work
- supporting material in the form of a reflective journal/notebook, blog, video, etc
- individual presentations or group seminars
- written assignments (1,000 – 5,000 words)
- a verbal contextual presentation (10-15mins)
- website: biography, artist statement, documented work

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<sup>1</sup> Guidance on the specification of learning outcomes is available from the Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching.

## **Programme structure and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards**

The structure of the course, the modules, levels and credit values, and the awards which can be gained are shown in the diagram below.

### Level 4

Practice and Context	(15 credits)
Methods and Materials	(30 credits)
Establishing Practice	(45 credits)
Themes and Concepts in Art	(15 credits)
Methods of Presentation and Interpretation	(15 credits)

Successful completion 120 credits - Award Cert/HE fine art

### Level 5

Developing Practice	(45 credits)
Art in Theory and Writing	(15 credits)
Extending Practice	(45 credits)
Art, Space and Audience	(15 credits)
International Exchange	(60 credits - option)

Successful completion 240 credits - Award Dip/HE fine art

### Level 6

Practice and Final Presentation	(75 credits)
Practice-Led Dissertation	(30 credit)
Professional Portfolio	(15 credits)

Successful completion 3600 credits – Award BA (Hons) fine art

## ***Support for Learning including Personal Development Planning (PDP)***

Students are encouraged to identify and, with guidance, to reflect on their own learning needs and are offered the following support as appropriate to meet those needs:

The course fine art is very flexible in that students define the 'what' of their learning. With tutorial support and guidance and a structured curriculum, students on the course develop their own direction in terms of subject, content, methods and materials. This is established in the first individual practice module in the first year and continues in successive modules through to the end of the final year. In order for them to do this well and chart their PDP, there is a clear emphasis on effective action planning and reflectivity. For all practice modules students are required to complete a Statement of Intent at the commencement of the module and a Self Appraisal at the end identifying and appraising their development and skills acquisition. In addition, students are encouraged to keep blogs and reflective journals.

Further support and guidance is provided from the student peer group in group critiques. In Levels 5&6 students in both years come together to review and critically comment on each others work.

If in need of additional support, all module leaders offer 'open surgery' sessions for students to sign up to.

## Criteria for admission

Candidates must satisfy the general admission requirements of the programme.

The current admission requirements can be found under the 'Entry Requirements' tab of the web page for this course.

## Methods for evaluation and enhancement of quality and standards including listening and responding to views of students

The course team works closely with the student body to ensure that the aims of the course and the learning outcomes are met and delivered appropriately and effectively. Through feedback and review processes the team monitor the quality and standards and make adjustments and changes accordingly. The means of gathering and responding to student opinion are as follows:

### Student feedback

Level briefing meetings  
Open Forum \*  
Module feedback questionnaire\*  
Staff/Student forum meetings (student level representatives)\*  
Course Board of Studies (student level representatives)\*  
Student meeting with external examiners  
National Student Survey (NSS)\*  
Birmingham City University student survey

### Methods of course monitoring

Annual course report  
Retention, progression and achievement statistics\*  
Module evaluation (staff)\*  
External Examiners reports\*  
School of Art Monitoring Committee.  
Curriculum Development Committee  
Course Review and Revalidation (typically every 5 years)  
Faculty Academic Standards and Quality and Enhancement Committee  
Student Experience Committee  
Institute Board

\* included in the annual course report