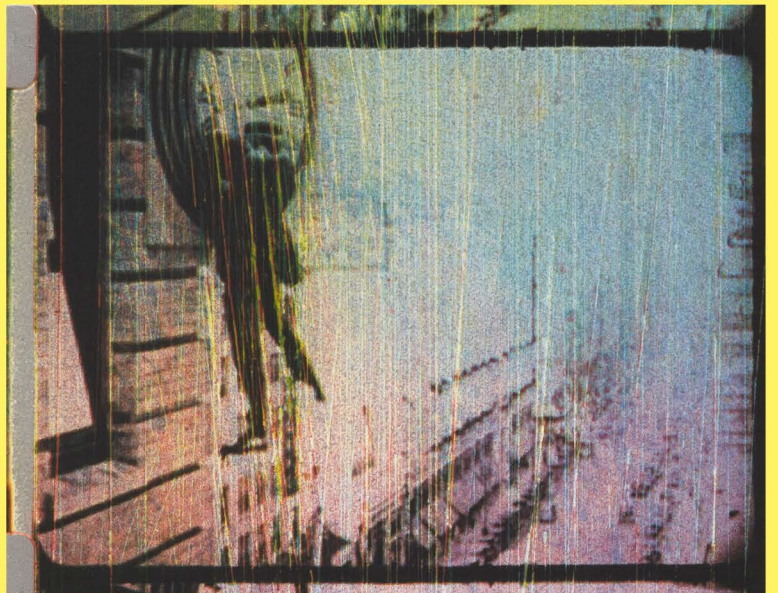


# MRES ART: THEORY AND PHILOSOPHY



## MRes Art: Theory and Philosophy

<b>Awarding Body</b>	University of the Arts London
<b>College</b>	Central Saint Martins
<b>School</b>	C School
<b>Programme</b>	CSM Art (L027)
<b>Course AOS Code</b>	CSMMRATPX01
<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Level 7 Masters
<b>Course Credits</b>	180
<b>Mode</b>	Extended Full Time
<b>Method</b>	Face to Face
<b>Duration of Course</b>	2 years
<b>Teaching Weeks</b>	60 weeks
<b>Valid From</b>	2025/26
<b>Collaboration</b>	N/A
<b>UAL Subject Classification</b>	Fine Art
<b>PSRB</b>	N/A
<b>Work placement offered</b>	N/A
<b>Course Entry Requirements</b>	<p>The standard entry requirements for this course are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An honours degree</li> <li>• <b>Or</b> an equivalent EU/international qualification.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>AP(E)L – Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning</b></p> <p>Exceptionally applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements may still be considered. The course team will consider each application that demonstrates additional strengths and alternative evidence. This might, for example, be demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Related academic or work experience</li> <li>• The quality of the personal statement</li> <li>• A strong academic or other professional reference</li> </ul> <p><b>Or</b> a combination of these factors.</p> <p>Each application will be considered on its own merit but we cannot guarantee an offer in each case.</p> <p><b>English language requirements</b></p> <p>IELTS level 7.0 or above, with at least 6.0 in reading, writing, listening and speaking (please check our main <a href="#">English language requirements</a> webpage).</p>
<p><b>Selection Criteria</b></p>	<p>We select applicants according to potential and current ability in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of skills and experience appropriate to the proposed field of enquiry</li> <li>• Effective communication of the intentions and issues in the proposal</li> <li>• The level of contextual awareness</li> <li>• Awareness of the range and nature of challenges implied.</li> </ul> <p>You may be invited to an interview following our review of your application. The interview: for those applicants selected following submission of the form, indicative proposal and supporting work. The interview is used to evaluate the extent to which a candidate demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The capacity for independent research</li> <li>• Appropriate background knowledge and critical abilities</li> <li>• Awareness of the cultural and social context within which their interests/work is situated</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appropriate communication skills</li><li>• A preparedness to participate collaboratively in debate and presentation.</li></ul> <p><b>What we are looking for</b></p> <p>We are seeking imaginative, resourceful individuals who are committed to exploring art discourses.</p>
--	--

## Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

### Year 1

Awards	Credits
Postgraduate Certificate (Exit Only)	60

### Year 2

Awards	Credits
Master of Research	180

Scheduled Learning Split by Level	Credits
Level 7	38%
<b>Total Scheduled Learning Split</b>	<b>38%</b>

## Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	Engage in scholarship and research at Masters level within the sphere of contemporary art, theory and philosophy.
Aim	Promote an open, discursive, research-based approach to learning and support the development of, critical, creative and independent thinking.
Aim	Challenge the norms, practices and biases embedded in the production of knowledge and culture.
Aim	Foster your individual development preparing you for advanced research or professional practice.
Outcome	Participate in a specialist field of art research or related context, using advanced knowledge of research skills, ethics and methodologies.
Outcome	Articulate an in-depth critical understanding of complex theories, contextual issues and debates in a specialist area of research.
Outcome	Exercise critical, evaluative, reflective and speculative thinking.
Outcome	Engage in collaborative forms of learning that work to advance decolonial, just and sustainable futures
Outcome	Initiate and realise a relevant and feasible programme of self-directed study.

<b>Distinctive Features</b>	
1	The course is unique in offering distinct specialist areas for the development of research in fine art, supporting progression to PhD or professional roles. The synergies of the Postgraduate Art Programme will create a dynamic context for exploration of practices and issues in contemporary culture.
2	Complementary and adjacent working relationship with practitioners in the programme, i.e. Fine Art, Photography and Art & Science.
3	Exchanges and development of ideas between MRes historians/theorists/philosophers.
4	The C School community, which gathers a cluster of programmes at CSM focusing on the humanities, provides an exciting context to explore questions around creativity, planetary health and social justice.

## Course Detail

MRes Art is made up of three specialist pathways: Theory and Philosophy; [Moving Image](#); and [Exhibition Studies](#). MRes Art uses research and writing to develop modes of questioning, speculative thinking and critical evaluation. Drawing upon a wealth of scholarly expertise from the staff team, visiting lecturers and practitioners, the course considers the relationship of contemporary art research to wider aesthetic, cultural and socio-political issues.

There are opportunities for students on each pathway to come together for shared taught components both on campus and on-line. You will also be encouraged to develop student-led activities. In the past, our students have collaborated on research even, exhibitions and publications.

The Theory and Philosophy pathway is for artists and writers who want to study philosophy and art from a contemporary perspective. You will investigate how radical innovations in philosophy today can facilitate not just an understanding of art, but also how they can shape developments in writing and art practice.

This pathway has a uniquely informed dynamic of teaching and group dialogue. This is assisted by the staff team's research practice which is engaged in the areas of both art and philosophy. The theories that the curriculum draws upon are at the forefront of thinking today. These include continental philosophy, the Marxist intellectual tradition, studies in decoloniality, intersectionality, feminism, ecology and phenomenology. You will also study relevant theories for the plurality of art today within its socio-political context. These include theories of aesthetics, psychoanalysis, gender, race, linguistics, performance, affect, neuroscience, cybernetics, the algorithmic condition and the Anthropocene.

MRes Art: Theory and Philosophy responds to the radical transformation that thinking has undergone in recent years. As a consequence of this, approaches to writing theory have also changed, by adopting more fluid, less didactic models of practice. The purpose of this pathway is to enhance your thinking, writing and, if relevant, art practice in light of ongoing transformations in philosophy, theory and knowledge.

## Course Units

MRes Art: Theory and Philosophy is dedicated to creative and flexible ways in which its ideas can merge with your own interests. Alongside an intensive program of seminars which deepen your knowledge, the pathway also supports your own developing lines of enquiry and research, especially towards the end of the first year and throughout the second year of the course.



The curriculum will advance your research abilities and knowledge in both theoretical and art-related fields. Enabling an understanding of key issues and debates informing art discourse and practice today, the curriculum incorporates a wide range of practices – writing, publishing, group discussions, tutorials, gallery visits and public symposia – as integral to your studies.

### **Unit 1: Innovations: Art, Writing, Philosophy**

Responding to the question posed by the title of their 1991 book *What Is Philosophy?* Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari declare that "Philosophy is the art of forming, inventing, and fabricating concepts." By this, the authors infer that philosophy not only invents new ideas, theories and forms of cognition but, equally, that it opens up new realms of perception and subjective experience. The teaching on the pathway, as well as the writing and research it supports, takes up the consequent challenge of these innovations for art and cultural and social discourses. It affirms the innovations created by philosophical thought and its difference from traditional, categorial assumptions of knowledge.

Unit 1 will enable you to absorb and understand the seminal advances and speculative thinking developed by philosophy. It conceptually maps the legacies of continental philosophy for thinking, writing and art today. This opens up new possibilities for thinking and writing, as well as advances ways by which to interpret and contribute to developments in art, culture and the social today.

### **Unit 2: Methodologies and Methods I**

Unit 2 is an opportunity for all the students in the MRes Art course to study together. The unit has a core group of categories and approaches that have defined fundamental positions and concerns across the humanities, social sciences and arts. The unit maps out various schools of thought, methodologies and concepts that will help you to shape and define your research topics and aims.

### **Unit 3: Methodologies and Methods II**

Following on from Unit 2, this unit deepens your understanding of specific artistic and discursive methods. You will examine how they operate in specific texts, debates and events by relating them to the pathways' respective subject areas. Seminars and workshops are integral to the unit, in which methods of research and writing are collectively tested.

### **Unit 4: Individual Research Project**

Unit 4 has two parts. Part one continues the seminar series in Unit 1 concerned with philosophical innovations and their relevance for thinking and writing. Additionally, you will also focus on developing your research project proposal.

This involves reading and viewing, the formulation of appropriate research questions and methods. You will also produce a literature review.

In part two, you will lead presentations about your research. You will discuss progress, challenges and findings and issues of form, audience and dissemination. At the end of Unit 4 you will be assessed through presentation of your realised research project in the agreed forms.

Pathway leaders and visiting lecturers will support the development of your research project. You will have an opportunity to present your research in a visual form in the School's Showcase at the end of your studies.

### **Important note concerning academic progression through your course:**

If you are required to retake a unit you will need to cease further study on the course until you have passed the unit concerned. Once you have successfully passed this unit, you will be able to proceed onto the next unit. Retaking a unit might require you to take time out of study, which could affect other things such as student loans or the visa status for international students.

**CSM Academic Support** is delivered by a team of academics and practitioners working alongside your course to help you progress and achieve your maximum potential as a student. Academic Support can help you to develop your skills in different areas, including critical thinking, research and writing, time management, presentations and working independently and collaboratively. These may be offered as part of your timetabled classes or as bookable tutorials and workshops.

### **Mode of study**

MRes Art is offered in extended full-time mode which runs for 60 weeks over two academic years. You will be expected to commit 30 hours per week to study, which includes teaching time and independent study.

The course has been designed in this way to enable you to pursue studies, while also undertaking part-time employment, internships or care responsibilities.

### **Credit and award requirements**

The course is credit-rated at 180 credits.

On successfully completing the course, you will gain a Master of Research (MRes degree).

Under the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, an MRes is Level 7. All units must be passed in order to achieve the MRes but the classification of the award is derived from the marks for the third and fourth units.

If you are unable to continue on the course, a Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert) will normally be offered following the successful completion of 60 credits.

## **Learning and Teaching Methods**

The learning and teaching methods devised for this course include:

- Briefing materials, written guidance and meetings
- Inductions and workshops
- Lectures and guest speakers
- Project proposal document for individual programme of study (Year 2)
- Collaborative project opportunities
- Personal and group tutorials
- Seminars
- Symposia
- Presentations and discussion forums
- Recommended reading, exhibition viewing and visits
- Independent study
- Self-critical and peer evaluation
- Assessment feedback

## **Assessment Methods**

- Research and preparatory work
- Project proposal document
- Essays
- Documentation of work
- Verbal and visual presentations
- Participation in activities and debate
- Realised project work (normally written outputs)

## **Reference Points**

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

- The Learning and Teaching policies of the University of the Arts London
- College policies and initiatives
- HE Level Descriptors
- Art and Design Benchmark Statement
- AHRC research definitions
- External professional organisations.
- UAL Framework for Embedding the Principles for Climate, Racial and Social Justice

## Course Diagram

**MRes Art: Theory and Philosophy** – PLEASE NOTE DUE TO VACATION DATES, SPECIFIC DELIVERY WEEKS MAY CHANGE.

S=summative assessment

LEVEL 7 – Year 1																														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Unit 1: Innovations: Art, Writing, Philosophy (40 credits)														S	Unit 3: Methodologies and Methods II (40 credits)														S	
Unit 2: Methodologies and Methods I (20 credits)														S	Unit 4: Individual Research Project (IRP) (80 credits)															
LEVEL 7 – Year 2																														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Unit 4 continued																											S			

*The University will use all reasonable endeavours to provide the Course and the services described in this Output. There may be occasions whereby the University needs to add, remove or alter content in relation to your Course as may be appropriate for example the latest requirements of a commissioning or accrediting body, or in response to student feedback, or to comply with applicable law or due to circumstances beyond its control. The University aim to inform you of any changes as soon as is reasonably practicable*