

MRES ART: EXHIBITION STUDIES



MRes Art: Exhibition Studies

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London
College	Central Saint Martins
School	C School
Programme	CSM Art (L027)
Course AOS Code	CSMMRAESX01
FHEQ Level	Level 7 Masters
Course Credits	180
Mode	Extended Full Time
Method	Face to Face
Duration of Course	2 years
Teaching Weeks	60 weeks
Valid From	2025/26
Collaboration	N/A
UAL Subject Classification	Fine Art
PSRB	N/A
Work placement offered	N/A
Course Entry Requirements	<p>The standard entry requirements for this course are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An honours degree • Or an equivalent EU/international qualification.

	<p>AP(E)L – Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning</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"> • Related academic or work experience • The quality of the personal statement • A strong academic or other professional reference <p>Or 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>English language requirements</p> <p>IELTS level 7.0 or above, with at least 6.0 in reading, writing, listening and speaking (please check our main English language requirements webpage).</p>
<p>Selection Criteria</p>	<p>We select applicants according to potential and current ability in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of skills and experience appropriate to the proposed field of enquiry • Effective communication of the intentions and issues in the proposal • The level of contextual awareness • Awareness of the range and nature of challenges implied. <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"> • The capacity for independent research • Appropriate background knowledge and critical abilities • Awareness of the cultural and social context within which their interests/work is situated • Appropriate communication skills

- A preparedness to participate collaboratively in debate and presentation.

What we are looking for

We are seeking imaginative, resourceful individuals who are committed to exploring art discourses.

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	34%
Total Scheduled Learning Split	34%

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.

Distinctive Features	
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.
2	Specialist development of scholarship/research in the history of contemporary art through the history and theory of exhibitions.
3	Student/staff access to the resources and knowledge produced by Afterall, as well as to its network of contributors, collaborating institutions, staff and archives.
4	The C-School community, which gathers a cluster of programmes at CSM focusing on the humanities, provides a dynamic and 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.

MRes Art: Exhibition Studies asks the following core questions: Can we tell a different story of modern and contemporary art through its exhibitions? What does the history of exhibitions tell us about the wider cultural field in which artworks are produced and made public? And, finally, how can it inform more transformative and sustainable curatorial practices in the future?

Drawing on an interdisciplinary field of theory from the arts and the humanities, the pathway will introduce you to significant debates in the field of contemporary art and curatorial studies. You will gain in-depth knowledge of the history of exhibitions, as well as contemporary practices that seek to reimagine art's relation to its publics through decentralised, relational and collaborative approaches. You will be encouraged to interrogate the norms embedded in art institutions and participate in shaping practices that work to advance decolonial, just and sustainable futures.

This pathway is delivered in collaboration with Afterall Research Centre. You will have unique access to its network of contributors and partner institutions, including high-profile curators and theorists. You will also engage in participatory forms of learning that will expose you to diverse perspectives, foster critical and creative thinking, and enhance your teamwork skills.

Course Units

On MRes Art: Exhibition Studies, teaching in the first year will cover methodologies and research skills. It will also engage you in the specialist subject of exhibition studies. During the first year, you will begin to define your individual research project in close consultation with tutors. During the second year, you will undertake research and writing to bring the project to fruition. Throughout your studies, you will receive support through individual and group tutorials, workshops, and seminar discussions.

Unit 1: Exhibition Histories: Art in the Public Sphere

The unit encourages you to reflect critically on the formation of canonical institutional structures, and to interrogate the role of museums to reinforce colonial power. At the same time, you will consider oppositional strategies which have challenged hegemonic curatorial formats, for example in the form of self-organised practices, festivals and activist movements. You will also be introduced to a range of decolonial, intersectional, feminist and ecological approaches which propose innovative ways of studying the relation between artistic practice and its social and political context. The unit will be punctuated by close analysis of particular case studies, drawing from the research carried out by the Afterall Exhibition Histories research strand.

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 define your research topics and aims, and trains you to become a critical thinker.

Unit 3: Methodologies and Methods II

Unit 3 seeks to develop your skills as a researcher by working with primary sources and setting them within a broader historical context. You will work collaboratively with your peers to produce new research about a specific institution or artistic collective. Projects might involve hands-on research in physical or online archives, group discussions with artists or curators, as well as the production of public forms of dissemination. You will be encouraged to reflect on how institutional, curatorial and artistic practices may be historicised and analysed, and to think creatively about the methods and methodologies that they demand.

Unit 4: Individual Research Project (IRP)

Unit 4 has two parts. Part one is focused on the preparation of your individual research project proposal. Lectures in this part of the unit centre on key issues and problems that pertain to the study of exhibitions. During the first part of Unit 4 you will work together with your tutors to design your individual research project. This can focus on a single exhibition or a group of related exhibitions that afford interesting comparisons; a complete institutional programme; or a broader subject-centred study.

Part two is devoted to independent study and the development and completion of your research project. You will present and discuss your project proposal at a

symposium shared across the three MRes pathways. Group tutorials will provide an opportunity for students to engage with each other's research and to form a mutually supportive research community, which encourages creative and speculative thinking. Pathway leaders, associate lecturers and visiting practitioners will also support the development of your research project. You will have an opportunity to present your research 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
- Project opportunities
- Off-site, site-specific and collaborative project opportunities
- Personal and group tutorials
- Seminars and symposium
- Presentations and discussion forums
- Recommended reading, 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: Exhibition Studies – 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: Exhibition Histories: Art in the Public Sphere (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