

MA FINE ART



MA Fine Art

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London
College	Central Saint Martins
School	C School
Programme	CSM Art (L027)
Course AOS Code	CSMMAARTX01
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 <p>Or</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An equivalent EU/international qualification. <p>AP(E)L – Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning</p> <p>Exceptional 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 6.5 or above, with at least 5.5 in reading, writing, listening and speaking (please check our main English language requirements webpage).</p>
Selection Criteria	<p>We select applicants according to potential and current ability in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality of your practice and research; • Ability to devise and develop a self-directed programme of study; • The ability to develop and contextualise work in written form; • The ability to analyse and evaluate in both visual and oral terms. • Eagerness to contribute to the learning environment at postgraduate level. <p>What we are looking for</p> <p>We are seeking imaginative, resourceful individuals who are committed to exploring and critically challenging their art practice and are eager to contribute to the learning environment at postgraduate level, working collectively and reflexively to create a dynamic and generative studio community. Elements of the course address the</p>

	University's Climate Action Principles (https://www.arts.ac.uk/about-ual/climate-action-plan) and successful applicants will be expected to engage with the College's shared values in relation to social responsibility.
--	--

Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

Year 1

Awards	Credits
Postgraduate Certificate (Exit Only)	60

Year 2

Awards	Credits
Postgraduate Diploma (Exit Only)	120
Master of Arts	180

Scheduled Learning Split by Level

Level 7	14%
Total Scheduled Learning Split	14%

Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	Provide students with a challenging, supportive, and inclusive educational environment which develops students' creative abilities to instigate and produce work that is innovative and explores the boundaries and contexts of contemporary fine art practice, research and debates.
Aim	Encourage students to embrace challenging situations; be open to the unknown; seek out experimentation; and engage with a range of practice and research approaches that are responsive to change.
Aim	Enable students to critically evaluate and position their work within a contemporary framework – inclusive of questions and concerns which relate to climate, social, and racial justice.
Aim	Encourage students to develop ethical practices for the future, engaging with sensitivity and responsibility to complex, diverse situations, groups and communities.
Outcome	Prepare students for ongoing professional practice or for progress to research degree registration.
Outcome	Articulate an in-depth critical understanding of histories, theories, contextual and ethical issues and debates relevant to your practice and the contexts that it contributes to.
Outcome	Demonstrate a highly developed and appropriate synthesis of practical, research, evaluative and reflective skills.
Outcome	Communicate creative concepts, complex knowledge, and critical thinking effectively through both visual and written forms.
Outcome	Initiate, manage and realise a purposeful and feasible programme of original creative practice.

Distinctive Features	
1	<p>Positionality: MA Fine Art locates your practice within the contexts of the contemporary world and considers the shifting role of art within socio-cultural and geo-political contexts. Staff and students embody diverse experiences, educational histories, professional practices, and cultural/linguistic fluencies. This dynamic, heterogeneous learning environment encourages a plurality of positions and approaches to making work and inhabiting the role of artist today. Students are supported to explore and challenge their practices through the teaching and learning programme; utilising intermedial and experimental approaches to making, materials, technologies, histories, and research.</p>
2	<p>Studio-centred: We build sustainable and networked practices to support your development as an artist during the course and beyond. Individual making agendas are explored in parallel to collective discussions and ways of working, producing shared learning, student-led projects, and a supportive community of practice. Students work in shared studio spaces in our dedicated Archway campus which are facilitated by technical workshops in Archway and Kings Cross. Recent graduates have gone on to develop collective shows, transnational projects, and exhibition spaces together.</p>
3	<p>Public-facing: Work is shared through a range of exhibitions, projects and events which develop professional skills in art making, installation, and curation. These are often devised in response to unfolding opportunities and have in the past included international collaborations with world renowned galleries, museums, and institutions.</p>
4	<p>Community: Students benefit from being part of a larger Postgraduate Art Programme which includes MA Art & Science, MA Contemporary Photography; Practices and Philosophies MA Fine Art Digital and MRES courses. The whole of the Art programme at CSM regularly comes together around activities that celebrate and forefront themes emerging from within our practice and research culture. We work collaboratively and speculatively within the broader community of art education, to propose new futures for a sustainable practice beyond the course.</p>
5	<p>Extended Full-time (EFT) structure: The course is designed to help students manage their study-work-life balance and commitments in an holistic way. This two-year timescale allows a particular pace of development, with time for risk-taking and reflection in your practice. The mandatory teaching and learning aspects of the course take place on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, with some additional days for specific exhibition installation.</p>

Course Detail

MA Fine Art at Central Saint Martin's offers a dynamic environment in which to re-examine your practice as part of a student, alumni and staff community. The course supports a broad range of experimental and speculative practices brought together within the context of the studio. We are home to artists from across the globe, who work across installation, moving image, digital, time-based, performance, social engaged & site-specific practices, sculpture, painting, print and sound.

We create an environment where complex social, cultural, and artistic viewpoints are negotiated. Artmaking in this context is a testing ground for ideas and media. We welcome artists who are open to change, not just in expanding their practices but in creating new positions which contribute and challenge contemporary art discourse and ecologies. Student-centred learning brings your work and the way you make and imagine practice to critical scrutiny. You will develop your individual research into confident, sustained practice. We emphasise the investigation of materials and processes of fabrication - the intelligence of the work is in the making and the approach to realisation.

MA Fine Art has a track record of innovative teaching. Students and staff learn from one another through group projects, live events, and exhibitions as well as crits, tutorials and lectures. Academic and technical staff bring broad expertise in contemporary art as active practitioners undertaking research, production, publication and exhibition making, alongside their teaching roles. Approaches to teaching and learning are informed by these professional insights, in a collaborative learning environment where pedagogical experimentation is encouraged.

An intensive programme of study will develop your skills and knowledge of research methods in art-related fields. Your learning will extend across our postgraduate Art programme, with opportunities to meet your peers and the College's research community and to work with students from other disciplines and at different levels. Recent examples have investigated sound-based practices, archival work, virtual reality, photogrammetry, artists publication and animation. Strengthening critical engagement with contemporary technologies of making and dissemination, these forums for cross-course and transdisciplinary exchange and collaboration help to build a broad skill set you can take out into professional life.

The MAFA course is designed to support you to develop your practice to a professional level within the context of an international cohort of students who will then become your international network of practitioners. Collectively you will also be challenged to re-consider your practice within the current global climate crisis where the imperatives of social, racial and climate justice need to be considered. The MAFA seeks to equip all students with an informed and ethical approach to making and sustaining their practice within an ever increasingly entangled and inequitable world.

Course Units

The course is structured around 4 Assessed Units which are supported by a series of teaching events (including personal tutorials, group critique, lectures, workshops, inductions, and external public facing events) to support the development of your thinking and practice. Throughout the course you will also be expected to engage in independent practice and research.

Unit 1: UN-MAKE:RE-MAKE / Enquiry, Process & Communication

In Unit 1 you will engage with the studio as a site of making (un-making/re-making) and discussion; critically reflect on your processes of learning; and challenge your developing practice through risk and experimentation. You will be introduced to key theoretical and critical issues that will support your own research enquiries, engaging with material and processes with the support of a range of specialist staff. Your work in this unit will lead towards developing a Research & Practice Proposal for your continued progress.

Unit 2: The Collaborative Unit

This unit provides opportunities for cross-course creative and collaborative practices in relation to global challenges. The unit explores a range of thematic, experimental, and applied approaches to cross-disciplinary research, enquiry and knowledge exchange. The aim is to establish a framework for co-operation across the College, based on our shared values in relation to social responsibility.

Unit 3: CONTEXTS / Enquiry, Knowledge & Communication

Unit 3 takes an ambitious approach to research and practice, heightening your awareness of contemporary art practices by helping you develop and position your practice in relation to material contexts, critical theories, and histories. You will deepen your understanding of the critical contexts in which your practice operates by completing a Research Paper alongside the continuing development of your work.

Unit 4: PUBLICS / Realisation, Knowledge, Communication

During Unit 4 you will be supported in the production of a body of work for public dissemination and presentation. Throughout the unit, you will advance your professional and academic skills to a level that prepares you for post-graduation practices.

Teaching Events

Individual and Personal Tutorials take place in the studio with your designated tutor, they are a chance for you to share your ongoing developments and plans, getting direct feedback from the tutor.

Group Crits and Tutorials are an important opportunity for you to share your developing work with peers and tutors and to test the work physically in the studio spaces.

Practice Events take place in Units 3 and 4 and are an opportunity to develop curatorial strategies in a group context to present finished work in the studio project space. These events offer you practice and experience in the curation of work through collective endeavour and engage you in critical discussion with your peers.

Research Events are Unit 3 tutor-led group sessions in which shared research interests are explored and expanded as students develop the focus for their Research Papers.

Lecture and Seminar Programmes take place throughout the course and help contextualise and broaden your practice and its references. Postgraduate lectures offer the opportunity for all members of the MA-level Art programme to meet regularly for debate and engage with contemporary issues that touch all the disciplines. There are additionally, Art programme lectures delivered by visiting artists, and specific MA Fine Art programme seminars.

Open Studios are semi-public events, focusing on the development of your work, engaging with a public and developing self-organisational skills. They take place in your studio spaces at the end of the Autumn term, allowing an opportunity for students to share their work-in-progress with other courses and a small external public. An additional Open Studio takes place at the end of the academic year for first years only and provides an opportunity for students to develop a small, curated exhibition.

Workshops and technical inductions help support your introduction to, and use of the designated Art Programme facilities in college. Alongside inductions arranged by the course, you are encouraged to independently engage with these spaces where additional support is available within the workshops.

Independent, collective, and collaborative work. An important emphasis of the course is self-organisation and co-operative working. As you develop more independence over the course, you will also have opportunities to engage with a variety of projects or practices that involve a level of collaboration and co-operation.

Exhibitions and public facing events. There are a number of publicly facing

exhibition and event moments during the two years (physical and online). Of central importance to the course structure are the exhibitions and events that bring together students from across the Central Saint Martin's postgraduate Art programme. These are: Interim Show (Spring Term, Year 1), Editions (Autumn Term, Year 2), and the Showcase (Summer Term, Year 2). These events depend on students' collective participation.

Interim exhibition provides you with opportunities for directly sharing practice and experience with the broader post-graduate community across the art programme. It creates an opportunity to test your ideas outside of the studio context and approach audience engagement with your developing work.

Editions is an annually changing public-facing event which gives you direct experience of commercial enterprise. Based on the format of an edition, each student will produce a number of prints which will be put up for sale. All second-year students contribute to the preparation and running of the event. Proceeds contribute to further student Showcase activities.

Showcase: this takes place after your final assessment and is an opportunity to show your work publicly. The exact format and location is determined each year.

Additional and optional opportunities: Each year there are a series of MAFA elective and mandatory projects, providing you with additional opportunities to expand and develop your practice. These include international projects, external exhibitions and trans-disciplinary partnerships, media specific focus, publications and site-specific events- in both real and virtual environments. We have also worked collaboratively on projects with other MA and BA Art courses, or with courses external to the Art Programme. Students are encouraged to independently engage with opportunities for further collaborations, project work, exhibitions and research outside of the course, programme or college, but must inform their tutor and Course Leader and ensure it does not affect their ability to engage with the course.

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

MA Fine 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. We would however expect full attendance on the scheduled teaching days (Monday to Wednesday).

Credit and award requirements

The course is credit-rated at 180 credits.

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

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

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, or a Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip) following the successful completion of 120 credits.

Learning and Teaching Methods

The learning and teaching methods devised for this course include:

- Lecture and seminar programmes
- Personal and individual tutorials
- Group crits, tutorials and practice events
- Workshop inductions
- Collaborative and collective work
- Independent practice and research
- Studio meetings, briefings, and discussions
- Elective and mandatory workshops and projects
- Research paper and research groups and activities
- Public facing events within and external to the studios including the Showcase

Assessment Methods

Formative and Summative Assessments holistically assess a number of different formats such as:

- Verbal and visual presentations
- Participation in activities and debate
- Physical work and its documentation
- Research and preparatory work
- Outputs from group project work
- Research & Practice Proposal
- Written work
- Reflective self-evaluation
- Realisation of individual programme of practice

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
- Teaching and Learning Curriculum Design toolkits and advisory methods
- HE Level Descriptors
- Staff team expertise
- Experience of contemporary fine art practice
- College Quality, Teaching and Learning expertise
- External professional organisations
- Art and Design Benchmark Statement
- UAL Framework for Embedding the Principles for Climate, Racial and Social Justice

Course Diagram

MA Fine Art – 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: UN-MAKE:RE-MAKE / Enquiry, Process & Communication (40 credits)									S		S		Unit 2: The Collaborative Unit (20 credits)						S	Unit 3: CONTEXTS / Enquiry, Knowledge & Communication (60 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 3 Continued				S		S				Unit 4: PUBLICS / Realisation, Knowledge, Communication (60 credits)															S		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