

**BA Art and History of Art**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2011/2**

**UCAS code: VW31**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Art and Design, History of Art
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	4 years
Date of specification:	14/May/2013
Programme Director:	Susanne Clausen
Programme Advisor:	Dr Paul Davies Mr Alun Rowlands
Board of Studies:	Art
Accreditation:	University of Reading

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme aims to give a thorough and broad based training in Art and the History of Art, and gives students opportunity to explore areas of overlap between Art and History of Art.

In Art it aims:

- To provide a framework, both practical and intellectual, for the development of an independent Art practice
- To provide in each student a critical awareness and understanding of contemporary art and its contexts
- To develop students' informed interest in the subject, enhance creativity and independence of thought through the provision of a supportive learning environment which fosters collaborative and independent learning
- To produce graduates with potential and abilities for continued professional practice, creative and intellectual development.

The History of Art syllabus aims to provide a framework for examining changing categories of art, architecture and visual artefacts in different places and times. It will develop advanced skills in analysing visual culture and embed the examination of its production and reception within diverse cultural and social contexts. It will foster a critical understanding of the relationship between contemporary conceptions of art, architecture, visual artefacts and culture, and those held elsewhere in other periods, promoting a conception of history of art as a dynamic discipline encompassing divergent, sometimes conflicting, approaches and views.

**Transferable skills**

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, use of IT and problem-solving and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

In Art there is an emphasis on self-initiated practice encompassing the acquisition and development of specific skills, methods and approaches attuned to professional practice. The importance placed on independent study demands that students become confident and self motivated in establishing working methods that expand through the technical resources of the department and wider university. Students will develop research skills including the ability to locate and assemble visual and written material, they will engage in evaluative analysis of visual and critical sources. In addition, students have the opportunity to work collaboratively through practice, staging internal and external exhibitions, events and projects.

In the History of Art programme, students will develop advanced skills in visual analysis, learning how to recognize visual sources and communicate their qualities in oral and written forms. They will be able to articulate and substantiate independent points of view, based on evaluating evidence and using reasoned arguments. They will learn how to organize their own work schedule, to become self-motivating and to take independent initiatives to develop their studies. They will understand ways of improving learning and performance, by identifying personal strengths and weaknesses, be skilled at time management, and have developed strategies for working with a team and alongside their peers. The programme will include opportunities to develop skills at making oral presentations, to use visual sources in support of an argument and to deploy IT, with a particular emphasis on visual images.

**Programme content**

The following profile states which modules must be taken including the compulsory modules together with optional modules for Part 1. Part 1 students must choose which additional modules they wish to take from

within both the department and faculty to make 120 credits. Each Part comprises 120 credits. The number of credits for each module is shown after its title.

Part 1 Art introduces the range of contemporary art practice and art theory, also a guided introduction to the development of an independent practice across specific methods, approaches and media. Part 2 provides students with the opportunity to identify and investigate particular interests and concerns through practical engagement in their own studio spaces and to relate their studio work to relevant contemporary contexts through the study visits, seminars and lecture programmes. Part 2I provides the opportunity to build on the intellectual and technical skills of the second year through increasingly independent development of work in the studio and through an exploration of the discourse surrounding contemporary art and art theory. Part 3H encourages the focused development of an independent practice and its documentation in relation to contemporary art and art theory.

Part 1 History of Art provides different introductions to aspects of the study of history of art and architecture. A compulsory core module introduces students to art historical skills, categories and methods. Other optional modules allow students to orientate themselves in different ways in relationship to the subject -through the study and critique of a canon of western art, or in terms of art as part of the history of visual artefacts and their makers. In Part 2, through a compulsory core module, students engage with material on the historiography of history of art and its objects of study, directly extending the work of Part 1. Optional modules in selected periods, approaches and distinctive media each provide a focus on broad aspects of visual culture. In Part 2I, students select one optional module, involving more intensive and specialised study, and introducing areas of innovation and scholarship both within the discipline and in its interdisciplinary aspects. A compulsory module held at a study centre abroad allows works of art and architecture to be studied at first hand and as part of a specific cultural and social formation. Independent research is pursued through a dissertation on a topic chosen in consultation with a dissertation supervisor, and carried out in Part 3H.

### **Part 1 (three terms)**

#### *Compulsory modules*

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
FA1MP	Part 1 Compulsory Module Multimedia & Painting	40	4
HA1AB	History of Art & Architecture Workshop	20	4

#### *Optional modules: 20 credits from:*

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
FA1AT	Contemporary Art and Theory	20	4
FA1SP	Skills & Processes	20	4

Any other 20-credit level 4 module available in the Faculty.

#### *History of Art*

##### *Optional modules*

At least 20 credits to be made up from the following:

HA1AA	Art's Histories: a survey	20	4
HA1AC	Makers and making: artist, architects and their practices	20	4

### **Part 2 (three terms)**

#### *Compulsory modules*

FA2AT	Contemporary Art and Theory	20	5
FA2S2	Part 2 Studio including Career Management Skills	40	5
HA2DD	Distance and difference: perspectives on art, architecture and visual	20	5
HA2ST	Study Trip Abroad	20	5

#### *History of Art*

##### *Optional modules: 20 credits*

A complete list of options is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook.

### **Year abroad/Year away/Additional year (three terms)**

#### *Compulsory modules*

FA2IAT	Contemporary Art and Theory	20	5
FA2IS2	Part 2I Studio	40	5
FA2ITEX	Image Action Text	20	5

#### In History of Art

#### *Optional modules: 40 credits*

A complete list of options is available from the BA Programme Coordinator, and a list of current options can be found in the BA Programme Handbook.

### **Part 3 (three terms)**

#### *Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
HA3DI	Dissertation	40	6
FA3HS2	Studio (joint honours)	80	6

### **Progression requirements**

Obtain marks of at least 40% in the module FA1MP and achieve a threshold performance  
AND  
obtain a weighted average of at least 40% across 40 credits from the HA1 modules taken.

To proceed from Part 2 to 2I and from Part 2I to Part 3 students must:

achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2 and Part 2I AND achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules representing a total of at least 100 credits in each Part.

### **Assessment and classification**

The University's honours classification scheme is:

Mark	interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/exa-class.aspx>.

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is

### **Four-year programmes in Art and in the Institute of Education**

See Programme Handbook

Part 1 teaching is by workshops, tutorials and lectures. At Parts 2, 2I and 3H teaching is by individual tutorials, workshops, seminars and lectures. Technical assistance and instruction occurs throughout the year and at the student's request. Directed visits to museums and galleries take place throughout the programme. In Part 1 Compulsory module FA1MP, formative assessment with written feedback takes place at the end of each project with summative assessment at the end of Part 1. The Part 1 final assessment is an aggregate of all the projects. Part 1 optional modules are assessed by coursework. In Parts 2 and 2I studio modules there are two types of assessment, an Interim and a Part assessment. Interim Assessments are formative and take place mid-module where a diagnostic mark is achieved alongside self assessment. The Part Assessment occurs at the end of the module, the results contributing to the Final Degree classification. At Part 3H assessment is by examination in the form of an exhibition and documentation. In all studio modules assessment is by coursework selected and

presented by the student. Seminars, Contemporary Art Theory and Art Dissertation are assessed by coursework. Full details are given in module descriptions.

In the History of Art, at Part 1 teaching is by lectures and seminars. Assessment is by a mixture of coursework and timed examination. At Parts 2 and 2I, teaching is principally by seminar. Assessment is by a mixture of coursework and timed examination. The dissertation is supervised in a series of tutorials with an individual supervisor and is assessed only as coursework.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but you should note that weightings in Art for Part 2, Part 2I and Part 3H for classification purposes are:-

Part 2 10% (Studio), Part 2I 20% (10% Studio, 10% Contextual Seminar), Part 3H 70% studio.

The Part 2I assessment takes place during the summer term. Due consideration will be given to the timing of and expectations at this assessment point in respect to the student's commitment to final examinations in the other subject.

### **Admission requirements**

Applications from mature and international students are welcome. We recommend you contact our Admissions Tutor or departmental secretary to discuss your individual circumstances and/or arrange a visit to the department. All home students are interviewed with their portfolio of practical work.

Standard offer:

UCAS tariff: 300 points from 3 A levels or 320 points from 3 A levels plus 1 AS level. Total points exclude Key Skills and General Studies. Grade B or above will normally be required in an Art or Art History A level.

International Baccalaureate: Pass Diploma and achieve 6,5,5, in three higher level subjects.

**Admissions Tutor:** Tina O'Connell (Fine Art)

### **Support for students and their learning**

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), In-session English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see [www.reading.ac.uk/student](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)

Support for students in their studies is provided through the University's iLearn academic record. There are Programme Advisers to offer advice on the choice of modules within the programme.

In Art there is an extensive provision of studio space alongside resources for exhibition and presentations. Part 1 has a dedicated studio environment that is collectively negotiated to the demands of each project. In Part 2 and 3 each student is allocated a studio space with twenty-four access the privilege of Part 3H students through access card entry. There is access to studio workshop for construction; two darkrooms for photography and two digital workshops including facilities for film and video editing, imaging, sound and website building. The department runs inductions and workshops covering core skills, embedded with health and safety as good practice. There are several 'bookable spaces' available for installation, time based work, testing modes of display and curation. Students can avail themselves of the opportunity to curate or collaborate on projects within the department gallery through proposal submission. From Part 2 onwards students elect studio tutors within the compulsory modules and support for students in their studies is provided through the Personal Tutorial system. New students are provided with a copy of their *Programme Handbook* (available online via blackboard) that covers resources available, programme specific matters and examinations. Academic feedback and guidance is given through oral and written feedback, and supported through individual tutorials, workshops and group seminars. In addition there are directed study visits to museums and galleries. The Library houses key journals and publications alongside electronic databases. Specialist subject librarians are available to advise and guide students to library resources.

Throughout the programme there are opportunities for work-based learning, placements and internships. The department promotes prospective external exhibitions and projects that enable experience of working with

outside arts organisations. In addition, there are opportunities to gain experience working with staff on practice-based research projects and exhibitions.

Within the History of Art, additional support is provided through a subject-specific reading room containing essential course texts, reference works, some current periodicals and photocopying facilities. There is also a Visual Resources Centre containing images from all periods of art and architecture history which students will consult as part of their studies. It includes resources in video tapes and computers and in digital imaging and e-learning such as BlackBoard. First hand study of works of art is provided through particular classes taught in museums, art galleries or on architectural visits and by a period of study at a centre abroad as well as through the department's own collections, mainly of drawings. Each student is assigned a Course Adviser, normally their personal tutor, to advise on their choice of modules within the programme, supported by a comprehensive Programme Handbook issued to each student individually which includes extensive advice on study skills. Support for students in their studies is provided through the University's iLearn academic record.

### **Career prospects**

Graduates of BA Art are equipped to sustain their practice as artists, curators and writers. In addition recent graduates have found employment in museum and gallery education, art therapy, journalism and publishing, post-production, theatre and television. The programme is excellent preparation for further study at postgraduate level. Graduates have found that the specific and transferable skills developed by the programme enable them to enter professions across the cultural field.

A number of specialised careers are open to History of Art graduates, such as jobs in Museums, auction houses, and increasingly the heritage and leisure industries. Their visual skills also make them attractive to the advertising industry. In addition the skills which History of Art graduates acquire, such as analytical abilities, problem solving, research skills, independence and adaptability, mean they are sought after for jobs in a wide range of fields, including publishing, teaching, social work, accountancy, personnel, banking and commerce, retailing, marketing, IT, civil service and local government. A number of students go on to post-graduate study in History of Art, both at MA and PhD level, both at Reading and elsewhere.

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

There are opportunities to study abroad including international exchange scheme at Rutgers University, USA; Ottawa University, Canada and Monash University, Australia. In Europe there are exchanges with F+F School of Art, Zurich and there is an Erasmus exchange with L'Ecole des Beaux Arts, Dijon, France. Individual student interest in work experience and public exhibition of work is supported by staff.

### **Programme Outcomes**

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

##### **A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

###### **Art**

1. independent and self directed work through the management of a creative practice
2. contemporary art theory and recent art history's relationship to the development of critical art practice
3. collaborative and individual production of exhibitions, their modes of display and curation
4. reflexive skills to research, analyse and evaluate material, both written and visual
5. professional practice and transferable skills.

###### **History of Art**

1. a broad range of art, architecture and visual culture from the Middle Ages to the present day both in the West and in comparison to selected cultures in other times and places
2. specialist knowledge of certain chosen periods and issues in art history
3. key issues and current priorities in art and architectural history including conflicting

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

###### **Art**

All students are inducted and introduced to approaches and methods of independent practice. Teaching is directed through project based workshops, tutorials and studio seminars addressing the principles of practice developing understanding across media (1). Students are encouraged to work in a range of studio disciplines focusing their intentions as the programme develops. The compulsory studio modules develop the emphasis towards a self-initiated programme of work that is tested, staged and documented throughout the year. Students work closely with their elected studio tutor, in individual and group tutorials. These taught sessions develop critical evaluation of practice and foster reflective skills towards exhibition and documentation (4). Modes of collaboration, both in practice and through exhibition, are introduced in Part 1 and fostered through the optional module 'Critical Collaborative Methods' delivered through lectures and seminars that introduce curating and

interpretations and specific methods of analysis germane to the historiography of the subject

4. advanced abilities to interpret visual artefacts, their function and meaning
5. technical language of the subject.

exhibition practice (3). The compulsory module 'Image Action Text' develops through lectures, seminars and workshops, critical contexts for the dissemination of practice (4 + 5). Contemporary Art Theory lectures introduce key terminology, theory and historical precedents (2). Through the taught component students are exposed to the language, vocabulary and debates in contemporary art. Museum and gallery study visits are integral part of the programme, placing study within a wider cultural field. Visiting lectures provide a context within which student knowledge and understanding of professional practice is extended (5).

#### History of Art

Basic knowledge is provided through formal lectures in Part 1, supported by set tasks for practising the elementary analysis of visual artefacts. Feedback is initially through tutorials, seminars and through formative assessed work where assessment is for guidance only and does not contribute to the final mark. Specialist knowledge and deeper understanding is fostered in the guided selection of period options at Part 2, where the teaching is seminar and discussion based. Feedback is provided through written responses to seminar participation and in formative assessed work. In later parts of the programme, and beginning at Part 2, students will take increasing responsibility for their own learning, fostered through the guided selection of increasingly specialised options and independent study, including a dissertation. Feedback is provided through tutorials and written reports on seminar presentations.

#### Assessment

##### Art

Knowledge and understanding are assessed by studio presentations, essays, coursework and dissertation. In studio modules there is formative and self assessment with written feedback at an interim point in the year. Summative assessment at the end of the Part is through presentation and documentation.

##### History of Art

Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and unseen formal examinations. A dissertation and oral presentation also contribute.

### Skills and other attributes

#### B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*

##### Art

1. critical judgement in the selection of work for exhibition, and its relationship to the broader field of cultural production
2. engage in creative and speculative propositions, with the ability to find creative solutions
3. the ability to apply appropriate critical knowledge and understanding of professional practice and its

#### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

##### Art

Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above, particularly through lectures, seminars, tutorials and feedback on the development of individual programmes of work (2). Intellectual attributes are extended in dialogue and discussion demanded by individual and group tutorials, and seminars which

contexts

4. identify key theories of contemporary practice, and to test and critically evaluate through written, oral and material resources
5. planning, organising and presenting an independent enquiry both individually and within a collaborative environment

History of Art

1. analyse and interpret visual artefacts
2. use visual resources as evidence
3. plan, organise and write a coherent argument
4. transfer appropriate skills and methods from one topic within the subject to another
5. plan, organise and conduct an independent enquiry.

are features of all module teaching. These skills are particularly addressed in Contemporary Art & Theory modules, with individual essay tutorials supporting critical writing (4). The lecture modules culminate in one-to-one supervision of individual research interests for the Art Dissertation (2 & 4). Command of methods and processes appropriate to practice are assisted through specific workshops available to support studio skills. Group tutorials in Part 1 are project specific, while Part 2 tutorials establish the specificity of individual practice. Planned and organised staging through exhibition, collaborative ventures and events (internal and external) test iterations of practice (5). In Part 3 in tandem with focused dissertation research, students manifest their critical practice through exhibition and documentation (1).

History of Art

How to analyse and interpret visual artefacts is constantly exemplified in formal lectures and in seminars from the start of Part 1. Lectures and seminars will also demonstrate how to use visual evidence in the construction of arguments and students will develop advanced skills in this through seminar presentations and coursework tasks. Such skills are additionally fostered through opportunities to study visual artefacts at first hand including in the compulsory module involving study abroad. The ability to transfer knowledge from one area of the programme to another is evidence of high level performance. The ability to organise and structure arguments is emphasised throughout but particularly in compulsory modules and through modules in independent study and the dissertation.

*Assessment*

Art

Intellectual skills are assessed in all parts of the programme through coursework. Coursework in modules is both formatively and summatively assessed with written feedback at the appropriate stages. Critical judgement and selection form part of the studio assessment, in particular the final exhibition.

History of Art

1-3 are constantly assessed in all parts of the programme including coursework and unseen examinations which also include compulsory questions analysing visual artefacts. 4 and 5 are particularly assessed in compulsory modules in independent study and the dissertation.

### **C. Practical skills - able to:**

Art

- 1 employ the methods and approaches within practice-based enquiry
- 2 develop conceptual and practical skills appropriate to specific practice
- 3 research and develop reflective documentation

### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Art

The teaching of practical skills is embedded into the structure, content and delivery of the programme. In Part 1 and 2 there is a focus on specific studio disciplines through inductions, workshops, technical demonstrations and tutorials (1). Further optional

skills

4 identify creative applications for sustaining practice and developing professional practice  
5 understand the issues surrounding display and presentation of practice through the ability to stage exhibitions and events.

History of Art

1. locate and record visual sources
2. memorise and be able to recall key features of different visual resources
3. identify, find and organise written sources
4. identify appropriate resources including the internet for the study of works of art.

instruction is available with one-to-one support for skills diversification (2). The seminar module Critical Collaborative Methods promotes diverse skills from exhibition making, collaboration and technical skills (4). Image Action Text module wraps theoretical concerns with practical skills with a particular focus on distributed forms that include websites, online publications, digital video, sound and image (5). Visiting Lectures support teaching and learning through professional practice (4 + 5). The reflective documentation which forms part of all studio modules is taught through tutorials and workshops (3).

History of Art

Identifying visual artefacts and sources is taught from Part 1, including assessed tasks which test the student's ability to find and select appropriate visual evidence for analysis and comparison. Such skills are additionally fostered in Part 2 where greater emphasis is placed on increasingly complex and sophisticated analyses, including the ability to recall and use visual and other data from often disparate and widely separated sources and locations. 3 and 4 are taught throughout the course but particularly emphasised in the independent study tasks in Part 2 and dissertation in Part 3.

*Assessment*

Art

Subject specific and practical skills and the ability to assimilate knowledge appropriately are demonstrated in work submitted for assessment. Formative assessment throughout the year of presentations of studio work and contextual essays.

History of Art

1-3 are assessed in all coursework, including oral presentations, and written examinations and 4 is assessed in independent study tasks.

#### **D. Transferable skills - able to:**

**Art**

1 sustain independent work and study with initiative and to deadlines  
2 discuss work and ideas in a well-informed and reasoned presentation  
3 initiate and work responsibly both individually and in collaboration with others  
4. utilise a range of digital and technological processes for the production of work and ideas  
5 write and plan proposals and applications in support of professional practice  
6 identify and develop careers in the visual arts and other related cultural fields.

History of Art

1. use IT (word processing, and the internet)
2. evaluate evidence and use reasoned arguments.
3. describe evidence from visual sources in oral and written forms
4. give oral presentations

#### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

**Art**

The emphasis placed on self-initiated programmes of work centred on the studio enables students to develop specific techniques, skills, processes and working methods as required by their individual programme of work (1). The ethos of collaboration within the department, is explicitly taught within seminar modules, and fostered through external exhibition opportunities (3 + 4). Careers is introduced formally at the beginning of beginning of programme, and assessed as part of the studio module (5+6). Further professional practice is embedded in programme through tutorials and visiting lectures.

History of Art

The use of IT is embedded throughout the programme. 2 and 3 are essential to success in all parts of the programme. 4 and 5 are increasingly emphasised in Part 2 and play a key role in Part 3,



5. work as part of a team
6. use library and internet resources
7. manage their time
8. plan their career.

and 5 is a key skill in the compulsory module Study Trip Abroad. Career planning is emphasised in Part 2. Library and internet skills are required in the independent study module in Part 2 and the dissertation in level 3. Time management is essential for the effective completion of the programme.

#### *Assessment*

##### *Art*

Transferable skills are integrated features which contribute to the quality of all coursework. The formal assessment of studio work, essays, seminar presentations, dissertation and reflective documentation covers 1-6.

##### *History of Art*

2 and 3 are assessed throughout in coursework and examinations. 4 is assessed in Part 3 and 6 in Part 2 and 3. The other skills are not assessed directly but their effective use will enhance performance in later modules.

**Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**