

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE STUDY GUIDE

FINE ART PAINTING + PRINTMAKING (BA)

The Departments of Painting and Printmaking is the largest specialist department within the School of Fine Art and the programme of study provides an increase the breadth of experience and learning opportunities for students.

The Painting and Printmaking programme aims to equip students with the necessary skills and expertise to realise their full creative potential and to pursue a career in the visual arts or other chosen professions. Each year is designed to ensure that it builds upon the previous year in terms of content, skill development and individual research.

Students are provided with a sound knowledge of the theory and practice of their subject before developing personal study paths and self-motivated programmes of work in the final year. Staff will help students to acquire the theoretical and practical skills needed as a practising artist and all students will be exposed to a wide range of views from both staff and visiting artists.

Our students are expected to bring their own enthusiasm to their work, show their own interests within the subject and to demonstrate an ability to work independently. The result is seen each year at the Degree Show.

Jim Birrell
Head of Department

OUR ETHOS

Painting

Painting is a very long-standing human activity, and is as much the outcome of thought and reflection as writing a novel or a theoretical scientific paper. An awareness of the history and traditions of painting are fundamental to our programme of study.

The Painting programme reflects the complex and changing conditions of art today, responding to new ideas and encouraging innovation. Painting in Glasgow is understood as a vehicle of thought and an intellectual discipline capable of great expressive powers. The Department encompasses a wide range of approaches to the subject and students have the opportunity to extend their work, in addition to printmaking, into areas such as electronic media and photography.

Printmaking

Print exists as a vital force in our everyday lives, providing an effective means for communicating ideas and disseminating information. Printmaking at The Glasgow School of Art is based on an exploration of visual representation allied to the materials, processes and

formats of established and developing technologies.

For the student, an understanding of the continuing relationship between reproduction and expression, the original and the copy, fine art and printed information, will engender an awareness of the print as a primary form of visual art, whilst supporting the creation of work informed by critical discussion and debate.

The Printmaking programme is structured around two principal areas of activity, the studio and the workshop. The three main areas of technical provision in the workshops are etching, lithography and silkscreen. There are also extensive facilities for relief printing, photo-mechanical and reprographic processing and a comprehensive print-specific digital imaging suite.

EACH YEAR OF STUDY

The BA (Hons) Fine Art is a four year, full-time degree programme and students are recruited into one of three specialist departments (Photography, Painting + Printmaking, Sculpture + Environmental Art).

The Fine Art programme employs a variety of learning and teaching methods which may alter and adapt according to the perceived needs of students. The main methods of programme delivery are lectures, seminars, artists' presentations and group discussions, tutorials, progress reviews. Projects, group crits, workshops, students' exhibitions, field trips, independent study, and formative and summative assessments. In addition to this, the School provides students with opportunities to take part in placements, residences and exchanges. All students undertake a programme of study in the Forum for Critical Inquiry.

In addition to applications for first year level entry, the School also welcomes applications for second and, exceptionally, third year level entry from suitably qualified applicants.

The course aims to:

- Enable students to develop their intellectual and imaginative abilities
- Guide students' critical and creative thinking through an understanding of philosophical, historical, social and economic contexts of art and culture
- Encourage students' creative independence, as well as to foster their ability to work collaboratively
- Develop students as self-critical, socially aware and responsible individuals
- Develop in students a high level of technical skill and an integrated understanding of fine art process
- Cultivate in students high standards of visual articulacy linked to the ability to formulate ideas and concepts efficiently in both speech and writing and in the gathering and use of information
- Stimulate in students an inquiring and imaginative approach in addressing formal, technical and conceptual creative problems
- Encourage and enable students to experience the professional practice and application of their fine art skills in a broader cultural context

YEAR 1

The First Year Fine Art programme is the first of the four years of the undergraduate course in Fine Art at the Glasgow School of Art.

First Year of Fine Art differs from traditional diagnostic foundation programmes in that students are recruited on a subject-specific basis to one of the five specialisms: Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture, Environmental Art or Photography that are structured into the three academic departments of Fine Art Photography, Painting and Printmaking and Sculpture and Environmental Art.

The First Year programme deals with the generic creative processes of fine art practice and with medium specific studies of the three academic subject areas is designed to develop confidence and understanding in the management, manipulation and resourcing of ideas from both observation and concept. A wide variety of learning and teaching methods are used to enhance, support and facilitate learning through practice both at a group and individual level.

YEAR 2

The joint Second Year Programme builds on what has been achieved in first year and permits in-depth exploration of the basic theoretical and practical aspects of painting, drawing and printmaking.

Students are expected to develop perceptual and practical skills through observational study in the life room and extended investigations of the particular techniques and materials deployed in painting and printmaking.

YEAR 3

By the third year, students are expected to be resourceful and self-reliant individuals who, over the course of the Third Year Programme, will gain in confidence through the development of their practical and critical skills.

Group critiques and discussions form an important part of the programme at this stage.

YEAR 4

In fourth year students are expected to be familiar with issues of critical relevance to the practice of printmaking and comfortable in expressing their views, both verbally and in written form.

Over the final year, students are expected to produce a substantial body of work in preparation for an end-of-year exhibition on which the degree examination is primarily based. This should demonstrate a capacity to develop and sustain a chosen theme or subject in a coherent, imaginative and skilful manner.

It is expected that students will submit work to the major competitions and exhibitions devoted to young and emerging artists. Staff will advise on these initiatives and assist with applications for scholarships, post graduate studies, or other specialised courses.

UCAS Information:

Institution Name: GSA

Institution Code: G43

UCAS Code: W120

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