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Programme Specification

Title of Course: *MFA Fine Art*

Date first produced	01/02/2019
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Version number	5
Faculty	Kingston School of Art
School	School of Arts
Department	Department of Fine Art
Delivery Institution	Kingston University

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes and content of each modules can be found in the course VLE site and in individual Module Descriptors.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Award(s) and Title(s): *Up to 10 pathways*	MFA Fine Art
Intermediate Awards(s) and Title(s): *There are 4 Intermediate awards for each pathway*	PG Cert Fine Art PG Dip Fine Art
Course Code *For each pathway and mode of delivery*	PFART1ART01
UCAS code *For each pathway*	

RQF Level for the Final Award:	Masters Award, Level 7
Awarding Institution:	Kingston University
Teaching Institution:	Kingston University
Location:	Department of Fine Art School of Art and Architecture Kingston School of Art
Language of Delivery:	English
Modes of Delivery:	Full-time
Available as:	
Minimum period of registration:	Full-time - 2
Maximum period of registration:	Full-time - 4
Entry Requirements:	The minimum entry qualifications for the programme are A BA Degree in a relevant subject area. A minimum IELTS score of 6.5, TOEFL 88 or equivalent is required for those for whom English is not their first language. Applicants who hold a Master's degree from another University may be considered for RPCL (Recognition of Prior Certificated Learning) with advanced standing and exemption for 120 credits if their learning experience is considered equivalent. All applicants are required to present a portfolio of recent work.
Programme Accredited by:	N/A

QAA Subject Benchmark Statements:	QAA Master's Degree Characteristics
Approved Variants:	None
Is this Higher or Degree Apprenticeship course?	

For Higher or Degree Apprenticeship proposals only	
Higher or Degree Apprenticeship standard:	N/A
Recruitment, Selection and Admission process:	N/A
End Point Assessment Organisation(s):	N/A

SECTION 2: THE COURSE

A. Aims of the Course

For the MFA award, the field aims to:

- produce students who will go on to work at a high level within the field, bringing to it innovative ideas that will challenge and progress established practices.
- provide an academic and technical education which enables the development and evaluation of individual creativity in contemporary fine art practice
- foster a developing dialogue between theoretical and practical issues which ensures a research framework appropriate to Master's level.
- provide for the acquisition of inter-personal skills necessary to practise autonomously in unfamiliar and challenging situations within the profession.
- provide the opportunity for a student to graduate with a comprehensive portfolio demonstrating innovative and original work which questions established practices through research and experimentation and the development of high levels of technical skills.
- encourage the development of mature understanding; of innovative approaches to, and applications of, research in the creation of contemporary fine art.
- provide for the progressive acquisition of in-depth knowledge, skills and technologies necessary to successfully develop a student's fine art practice
- provide students with the opportunity to engage with respected practitioners in all areas of contemporary fine art and particularly with those working within their own specialist subject.
- enable the development of a forward-looking portfolio and body of practical work that demonstrates exceptional levels of ambition and creativity.
- enable students to experience current professional practice including the development of team-working and establish their own practices.

B. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme outcomes are referenced to the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, including the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014) and the QAA Master's Degree Characteristics 2020, an awareness of the undergraduate subject benchmarks for Art & Design, and relate to the typical student. The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes.

The programme learning outcomes are the high-level learning outcomes that will have been achieved by all students receiving this award. They must align to the levels set out in the 'Sector Recognised Standards in England' (OFS 2022).

Programme Learning Outcomes

	Knowledge and Understanding On completion of the course students will be able to:		Intellectual Skills On completion of the course students will be able to		Subject Practical Skills On completion of the course students will be able to
A1	Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of Contemporary Fine Art Practice.	B1	Engage in sustained, in-depth research and critical analysis and the application and integration of theoretical studies throughout the process of making work.	C4	Produce a substantial and confident body of work to a high professional standard illustrating both an in-depth application and understanding of their specialism with an advanced level of individual responsibility for creative, technical and organisational skills.
A2	Express a constructively self-critical approach to their work shown through responses to modules dealing with both the practical and theoretical.	B2	Display an appropriate level of individual creativity, vision, personal expression and intellectual ability in the chosen specialism	C1	Utilise and integrate numerous creative platforms in the making of meaningful work.
A3	Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between theory and practice.	B3	Show the ability to undertake, at the appropriate level, independent and sustained research, analysis and creative evaluation of history, theory and/or practice.	C2	Respond individually and confidently to the demands of making work, showing the creative and organisational skills necessary to realise a viable solution.
A4	Show an in-depth understanding of new methods, materials, processes and technologies appropriate to contemporary fine art, fostering an ability to use a flexible, forward looking approach to problem solving, and a thorough understanding of the uses of appropriate visual aesthetics in the	B4	Apply advanced critical knowledge of the contemporary contexts of fine art in evaluating their own and others' work	C3	Display confidence in the communication of ideas effectively through a high level of visual, written and oral presentation, showing a comprehensive application of creative and analytical skills.

	successful communication of ideas and information.				

In addition to the programme learning outcomes, the programme of study defined in this programme specification will allow students to develop the following range of Graduate Attributes:
1. Creative Problem Solving
2. Digital Competency
3. Enterprise
4. Questioning Mindset
5. Adaptability
6. Empathy
7. Collaboration
8. Resilience
9. Self-Awareness

C. Outline Programme Structure

This programme is offered in full-time learning mode and leads to the award of MFA Fine Art and is available as a full-field.   Entry is normally at Level 7 with prior qualifications as above (See section D). Transfer from a similar course is possible at Level 7 with passes in comparable Level 7 modules – but is at the discretion of the course team. Intake is normally in September.

E1. Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

N/A

E2. Work-based learning

Work placements are actively encouraged – although it is the responsibility of individual students to source and secure such placements. This allows students to reflect upon their own personal experience of working in an applied setting, to focus on aspects of this experience that they can clearly relate to theoretical concepts and to evaluate the relationship between theory and practice. Students will be introduced to resources such as the University Careers and Employability Service to help support their enquiries into work-based learning and encouraged by staff to access appropriate online resources. Work-based learning may be evidenced in students Contextual Document (FA7113) or in Research and Professional Skills modules (FA7111 / FA7112).

Personal tutors and the course leader will provide support for students wishing to pursue work placement or internship opportunities. While these are not formally assessed, staff can provide advice and information as part of students' career development, and agree the appropriate length and timing of any such opportunity with individual students.

E3. Outline Programme Structure

Year 1

TB1	TB2	TB3
FA7110 (60 credits) Practice and Critique	FA7112 (60 credits) Extended Research and Professional Skills **OR** FA7111 (30 credits) Research & Professional Skills PH7703 (30 credits) Art Theory: Modernist, Avant-Garde, Contemporary	FA7113 (60 credits) Extended Practice

Year 2

TB1	TB2 and TB3
FA7113 (60 credits) Extended Practice	FA7114 (60 credits) Final Major Exposition

The MFA award is made up of three core modules each worth 60 credits and two option modules of 30 credits or one option module of 60 credits. All students will be provided with the University regulations and specific additions that are sometimes required for accreditation by outside bodies (e.g. professional or statutory bodies that confer professional accreditation). Full details of each module will be provided in module descriptors and student module guides.

MFA Fine Art

Level 7							
MFA Fine Art							
Core modules	**Module code**	**Credit Value**	**Level**	**Teaching Block**	**Pre-requisites**	**Full Time**	**Part Time**
Advanced Practice	FA7115	60	7	3		1	
Art Theory: Modernism, Avant-Garde, Contemporary - delivered and assessed in English	PH7703	30	7	2			
Exhibition & Dissemination	FA7116	60	7	2 and 3		1	
Extended Research and Professional Skills	FA7112	60	7	2			

Practice and Critique	FA7110	60	7	1			
Research and Professional Skills	FA7111	30	7	2			
Optional Modules							

D. Principles of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The learning and teaching strategies across the MFA Fine Art course have been designed to recognise and take account of the different ways students learn, and, as they progress through the programme, give students the opportunity to take more responsibility for their own learning. The MFA course aims to recruit students from a wide range of backgrounds who are encouraged to bring their own specific experiences to bear in discussion, presentations and the development of individual work. The programme promotes equal opportunities and good relations within its structure of group activities, the collaborative aspects of the modules and peer learning.

The course employs a range of approaches to teaching and learning, with all students undertaking online and on-site induction workshops and attending meetings with core teaching staff during Welcome Week. A combination of online and on-site lectures, seminars, group critiques and individual tutorials, study visits, presentations, workshops and final exhibition / exposition assessments support the development of practical and theoretical work. The course builds on the ethos of student self-management and peer learning, creating a learning atmosphere that may shift from year to year organically, and where critical dialogue is seen as the core creative and intellectual engine for the production of work. This makes for a distinctively shared learning experience, which encourages collaborative and group activity alongside individual research, and the consideration of new platforms for the production and dissemination of work.

All modules provide formative feedback and 'feed forward' opportunities for practice in the form of presentation, exhibition, publication, and formal discussion designed to help students reach their full potential in summative assessment. Each module is designed to interact with the next in a logical progression and students are encouraged to progress work and core conceptual concerns as they move from one module to the next.

The overall assessment requirements are consistent with the specification on assessment loading. There are clear connections and accumulative aspects to each module culminating in the 'capstone' Final Major Exposition module. Through the specific modules, the curriculum offers opportunities to develop and demonstrate independent learning and thought in the form of presentation, contextual reports and documentation, exhibition, publication (digital and print) and event. These opportunities are enabled through a combination of tutorials, seminars, lectures, workshops and peer learning. Summative assessment feedback is delivered in an individual tutorial and accompanied with feedback sheets providing commentary on how well the assessment met the marking criterion and offering comprehensive feed forward. Support is available to all students through their allocated personal tutor and drop in appointments with the Course Leader. Regular studio meetings provide a further formal conduit for effective communication with all students.

Through each module, the students are expected to present ongoing research that evidences developing contextual awareness and connect their own work to current contemporary strategies in the fine art field. The curriculum is delivered by academics who are also fine art practitioners and their professional experience and position feeds directly

into the student experience developed with the module structure. Visiting speakers are programmed internally across the Department and students benefit from occasional Stanley picker Public lectures programmed by the Department. The students may take advantage of internships offered within the University at the Stanley Picker Gallery or Dorich House and attend the Fine Art Department Lecture Series. Modules aim to equip students with discipline specific and broader skills necessary to their future ambitions such as presentation and effective communication skills, project management, digital skills and working in the public realm.

The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) site (Canvas), acts as the main online location and portal for course and School information and news. Course materials such as handbooks, module guides, timetables and information on talks programmes, lectures and events are all accessible through Canvas. Students benefit from further online and real-world access to the wider School and Faculty community through resources such as Printmaking, Photography, 3D workshops, as well as all the other Fine Art Department programmes.

All courses based in the Kingston School of Art offer students free access to the online video tutorial platform LinkedIn Learning. There is a wide range of subjects to choose from, many with downloadable exercise files, including software tutorials covering photography, graphics, web design, audio and music, CAD and Microsoft Office software, as well as courses on Business and Management skills. Some of these are embedded in the curriculum and offer additional self-paced learning, others may be taken at will by students wishing to broaden their employability skills in other areas.

The Department of Fine Art actively encourages and supports individuals from diverse backgrounds to apply and gain places through our interview processes. Regular open days and events which showcase student work are designed to remove barriers and provide easy access for prospective applicants to staff and current students and give them confidence to apply and provide a greater understanding of the aims and objectives of the course.

E. **Support for Students and their Learning**

Students are supported by:
- A Course Leader to help students understand the programme structure
- A Module Leader for each module who coordinates the teaching and learning activities and can advise students on any specific questions related to the learning and assessment for the module
- Personal Tutors to provide academic and personal support at all stages of study Personal tutors are allocated when students join and, wherever possible, remain the same throughout a students' study time. Contact with personal tutors is likely to be greatest at the start of a student's career, however meetings are scheduled at each stage to check progress, review achievement and help students plan for the future. The personal tutor will help each student to make the transition to Masters level study and understand how to use feedback on the postgraduate course, and to gain confidence in contributing to, and learning from, constructive peer review. They will encourage students to be proactive in making links between their course and their professional and/or academic or research aspirations, encouraging them to become part of a wider disciplinary and/or professional community, including helping students to prepare for the dynamics of supervision.

Meetings will be scheduled as appropriate to the delivery pattern of the course. Personal tutors will also act as the default referee for their tutees, (although students may ask other members of staff).

- A Student Achievement Officer who provides pastoral support
- Technical support to advise on the use of hardware and software and the construction of artworks
- A designated programme administrator
- An induction week at the beginning of each new academic session
- Staff-Student Consultative Committee
- VLE/Canvas – a versatile online interactive intranet and learning environment accessible both on and off-site
- LinkedIn Learning – an online platform offering self-paced software tutorials
- Academic Skills – an Academic Success Centre that provides academic skills support, academic skills support for UG and PG students
- Student support facilities that provide advice on issues such as finance, regulations, legal matters, accommodation, travel, international student support, well-being, mental health, faith and spirituality etc. All these and more can be accessed through the My Kingston portal and the KU App.
- Disabled student support
- University Careers and Employability Services
- The Union of Kingston Students

F. Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Course

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:
- External examiners
- Boards of study with student representation
- Annual Monitoring and Enhancement
- Periodic review undertaken at subject level
- Student evaluation including Module Evaluation Questionnaires (MEQs) and a Postgraduate Survey
- Moderation policies
- Feedback from employers

G. Employability and work-based learning

The Department of Fine Art has an established reputation within the national and international community and graduates go on to careers in many areas of the industry from Exhibitions and Curation through film and multimedia to publishing and assisting established practitioners to teaching and further study at Postgraduate Research level. The course enables postgraduates to explore a specialist subject area in-depth and to connect with new thinking in the field of Contemporary Fine Art Practice.

Postgraduate Fine Art graduates will be well placed to be effective in all sectors of a knowledge based society through their capacity for creativity and through the courses emphasis on learning to be independent, creative thinkers. Through the course experience they will be well equipped to become effective creative practitioners contributing to the field of contemporary art and will be familiar with independent and collaborative working.

They may work part-time as a practitioner whilst simultaneously fulfilling management and academic roles. Commonly graduates will become self-employed and/or be in occupations involving project work and short-term contracts. They are typically found in fine art, arts administration or arts education.

Postgraduate Fine Art students have gone on to study on PhD programmes (RCA, Queen Mary University, Belfast), teaching opportunities (UEL, UAL), internships, establish small arts collectives (Beirut), curatorial positions (India, Seoul, London) and as directors of contemporary art spaces (China).

Personal tutors can play an active role in providing guidance in terms of identifying what sector of the industry a student might seek a career in. Staff member's extensive knowledge of the industry and knowledge of the student combine to provide tailored support for that student as they enter the world of work. In addition, Personal Tutors are able to direct students to the University Careers and Employability Services and training that can help them both carry out and manage a portfolio career. More details are available on My Kingston..

Work-based learning, including sandwich courses and higher or degree apprenticeships

Work placements are actively encouraged – although it is the responsibility of individual students to source and secure such placements. This allows students to reflect upon their own personal experience of working in an applied setting, to focus on aspects of this experience that they can clearly relate to theoretical concepts and to evaluate the relationship between theory and practice. Students will be introduced to resources such as the University Careers and Employability Service to help support their enquiries into work-based learning and encouraged by staff to access appropriate online resources. Work-based learning may be evidenced in students Contextual Document (FA7113) or in Research and Professional Skills modules (FA7111 / FA7112).

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H. Other sources of information that you may wish to consult

Characteristics Statement: Master's Degree (qaa.ac.uk)

https://www.kingston.ac.uk/postgraduate-course/fine-art-mfa/

I. Development of Course Learning Outcomes in Modules

This table maps where course learning outcomes are **summatively** assessed across the modules for this course. It provides an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the course aims, a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the course progresses and a checklist for quality assurance purposes.

Module Code		Level 7					
		PH7703	**FA7111**	**FA7115**	**FA7110**	**FA7116**	**FA7112**
Knowledge & Understanding	A1			S		S	
	A2	S	S	S	S	S	S
	A3	S			S		S
	A4		S	S		S	S
Intellectual Skills	B1				S		
	B2			S	S	S	
	B3	S	S	S		S	S
	B4		S	S	S	S	S
Practical Skills	C4				S	S	
	C1		S	S		S	S
	C2		S	S		S	S
	C3	S	S	S	S		S

Students will be provided with formative assessment opportunities throughout the course to practise and develop their proficiency in the range of assessment methods utilised.