

Module specification

When printed this becomes an uncontrolled document. Please access the **Module Directory** for the most up to date version by clicking on the following link: [Module directory](#).

Module Code	ARD488
Module Title	Contexts 1
Level	4
Credit value	20
Faculty	FACE
HECoS Code	101361
Cost Code	GADC

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
BA (Hons) Fine Art	Core
BA (Hons) Applied Art	Core
BA (Hons) Photography	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	164 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	15/05/2024
With effect from date	September 2024
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1



Module aims

The primary goal of this module is to familiarise students with a contextual understanding of their subject area. The module aims to introduce students to critical thinking, fostering their ability to engage in critical analysis and structured processes of inquiry. By emphasising these skills, students will not only grasp the evolution of artistic practices in their discipline but also develop a deeper understanding of the broader cultural and historical contexts that have shaped these practices. Furthermore, the module seeks to cultivate students' curiosity, encouraging them to explore their individual interests within the contexts of art & design history. Overall, the module is intended to lay a solid foundation for students, equipping them with the essential tools to navigate and appreciate their chosen field.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Identify visual and textual elements to effectively communicate information
2	Identify the links between historical and contemporary artistic based practices
3	Recognise different perspectives within subject area, demonstrating the ability to record varying viewpoints to inform a well-rounded understanding.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Written Assignment: Case Study (2000 words)

Students will develop a process of inquiry related to specific artworks and contexts and explore connections and changes that link to contemporary practices and submit in the form of a case study. The case study will take the form of booklet/zine that will potentially be exhibited or added to the School of Art Zine Library

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1-4	Written Assignment	100%

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

This module will primarily feature thematic lectures and seminars focusing on art and design, providing students with a comprehensive historical and contextual understanding. Themes covered include the interconnectedness of history, social and political factors, technological evolution, philosophy, and the relationship between art and design. Additionally, students will explore the histories and contexts of their specific subject specialisms. The module will



introduce research methodologies, guiding students through the process of compiling a document that serves as evidence of their research inquiries.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Social, political, and technological contexts
- Philosophy and critical theory underlying artistic practices
- Evolution of practices in art & design
- Links between historical and contemporary works
- Interpreting artworks in context
- Identifying patterns and relationships
- Considering diverse perspectives
- Developing a process of inquiry
- Exploring connections between works
- Building an evidence-based case study
- Contextual understanding
- Critical analysis
- Research and inquiry skills

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads

Applied Art:

Adamson, G. (2018), *Thinking Through Craft*. London: Bloombury Visual Arts.

Shales, E. (2017), *The shape of craft*. London: Reaktion Book

Fine Art:

Warburton, N. (2003), *The art question*. London: Routledge.

Photography:

Wells, L. (2021), *Photography: A critical Introduction*. 6th ed. London: Routledge.

Other indicative reading

Adams, R. (2004), *Why People Photograph*. New York: Aperture.

Adamson, G. and And, V. (2018), *The invention of Craft*. New York: Bloomsbury Visual Arts

Berger, J. (2009), *About looking*.

Barlow, C. (ed.) (2017), *Queer British art, 1861-1967*. London: Tate Publishing.

Danto, A. C. (2013), *What art is*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Finkel, J. [Ed] (2019), *It speaks to me : art that inspires artists*. Munich: DelMonico Books.

Freeland, C. A. (2001), *But is it art? : an introduction to art theory*. Oxford:Oxford University Press.

Goldsmith, K. (2011), *Uncreative writing: Managing language in the Digital age*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Johnstone, S. (2008), *The everyday*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press.

Korn, P. (2017), *Why we make things and why it matters*. Vintage.

Noble, R. (2018), *VISUAL RESEARCH : an introduction to research methods in graphic design*. London: Bloomsbury Visual Arts

Williams, G. (2014), *How to write about contemporary art*. London:Thames & Hudson.

Uroskie, A. V. (2014), *Between the black box and the white cube : expanded cinema and postwar art*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.