

Module specification

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Module Code	ARD566
Module Title	Contexts 2
Level	5
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) Photography	Core
BA (Hons) Applied Art	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	30 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	30 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	170 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	15/05/2024
With effect from date	September 2025
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1



Module aims

To enhance students' comprehension of contemporary art practices, ideas, and debates, the module aims to delve deeper into the subject matter. This involves introducing more intricate contextual frameworks that facilitate the analysis of artworks, practices, and theories within a broader intellectual landscape. The goal of the module is to broaden students' knowledge and foster critical thinking and argumentation skills essential for interpreting the complexities of contemporary art contexts. By encouraging independent research, the module seeks to empower students to explore new areas of contextual or theoretical interest, promoting a self-directed and inquisitive approach. Furthermore, the module seeks to empower students to independently explore potential topics of contextual interest suitable for extended study at level 6.

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

1	Interpret artworks and practices through the application of contextual frameworks
2	Construct coherent written and verbal critical arguments
3	Demonstrate in-depth understanding of debates around key contemporary art theories
4	Design and conduct independent contextual research on a chosen area of interest

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: Individual Research Report (2000 words)

The research report will assess their independent investigation of a contextual area. It will take the form of a piece of journalistic writing, which will potentially be compiled in a publication/added to the Art School archive.

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

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The module encompasses thematic lectures that introduce theoretical concepts and contextual frameworks to provide students with a foundational understanding. Tutor-led seminar discussions are employed to analyse artworks and practices collectively, facilitating a deeper exploration of the subject matter. In group tutorials, students receive constructive



feedback on their presentations, enhancing their communication skills and refining their grasp of the material. Independent study sessions are structured to allow students dedicated time to conduct contextual research, promoting self-directed learning and the cultivation of a more comprehensive understanding of the topics covered in the course. This methodology aims to create a well-rounded learning experience that combines theoretical knowledge, practical analysis, and independent exploration.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Postmodernism and contemporary artistic practices
- Identity politics and intersectional frameworks
- Theories of globalization and transnational art discourses
- Key contemporary thinkers and philosophical perspectives
- Emerging areas of contextual interest (biotechnology, climate change etc.)

Indicative Bibliography:

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

Essential Reads

Applied Art:

Adamson, G. and Bryan-Wilson, J. (2016), *Art in the making: from paint to crowdsourcing*. London: Thames & Hudson.

Fine Art:

Wollen, Peter. (2008), *Raiding the icebox : reflections on twentieth-century culture*. London ; Verso Books.

Photography:

McIver Lopes, D. (2016), *Four Arts of Photography: An Essay in Philosophy (New Directions in Aesthetics)*. New Jersey. Wiley

Other indicative reading

Bate, D. (2020), *Photography as Critical Practice: Notes on Otherness*. Bristol: Intellect Books

Black, A. and Burisch, N. (2020), *The New Politics of the Handmade*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Erickson, R. & Respini, E. (eds.) (2019), *When Home Won't Let You Stay : Migration Through Contemporary Art*. Boston: The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, in association with Yale University Press, New Haven and London.

Joselit, David. (2013), *After Art*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Livingstone, A. and Petrie, K. (2020), *The ceramics reader*. London: Bloomsbury Visual Arts.

Lionis, C. (2023), *Comedy in crises : weaponising humour in contemporary art*. Chrisoula Lionis (ed.). Basingstoke: Springer International Publishing AG.

Mirzoeff, N. (1999), *An introduction to visual culture*. London ; Routledge.

Walker, J. A. (2001), *Art in the age of mass media*. 3rd ed. London, England ; Pluto Press.

Romero, A., Tucker, D. and Wang, D.S. (2022), *Lastgaspism: Art and survival in the age of pandemic*. Chicago, IL: Soberscove Press.

Schneider, A. & Wright, Christopher. (2006), *Contemporary art and anthropology*. Oxford: Berg.

Broadcasts

Curits, A (2002), *The Century of the Self*, BBC iPlayer. Available at:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p00ghx6g/the-century-of-the-self> (Accessed: 12 January 2024).

Marker, C. [dir]. (1983) *Sans Soleil*.