

**Programme Specification for**  
***MA Fine Art***



<b>1. Programme title</b>	MA Fine Art
<b>2. Awarding institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>3. Teaching institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body</b>	
<b>5. Final qualification</b>	MA Fine Art
<b>6. Year of validation</b> <b>Year of amendment</b>	
<b>7. Language of study</b>	English
<b>8. Mode of study</b>	Full-time/ Part-time

**9. Criteria for admission to the programme**

**Appropriate qualifications or experience:**

- a good honours degree in a relevant art and design subject– or recognized equivalent professional qualification;
- applicants with a good honours degree in a non-art and design subject and substantial experience working within the field, or able to demonstrate an aptitude for working in art and design at this level may be considered;
- applicants without the normal qualifications but who have extensive and substantial work experience in appropriate areas may be considered through accreditation of prior learning (APEL).

**In all cases, admission is dependent on:**

- evidence of subject-related skills (through submission of a portfolio of work or equivalent, as hard copy and/or PDF or PowerPoint files);
- sufficient command of the English language – those applicants for whom English is not the first language must demonstrate evidence of attainment by an IELTS overall score of 6.5 or higher (with no component achieving less than 6), or equivalent. Applicants with less than six in any component score are strongly recommended to

undertake the University's Pre-sessional English Language Course;

- supportive academic/professional references;
- an appropriate personal statement which outlines in general terms an area of interest that would provide the focus of study and with reference to the following guideline headings:
  - a) an area of interest or a provisional title;
  - b) background experience directly or indirectly relevant to the proposed area of study;
  - c) consideration about how your research might be done (even though this may change later) and any possible outcome(s);
  - d) an indication of the resources considered necessary to undertake a successful investigation;
  - e) evidence of an initial exploration in the area of the project and reference to research and practice that has already been carried out by the applicant and/or others;

*Please note that applicants with visual impairment may find aspects of the programme excessively challenging.*

## 10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- provide a stimulating creative and critical environment that encourages and promotes a reflective approach to Masters' level Fine Art practice and research;
- enable Fine Art Masters students to develop and operate confidently with self-direction and professionalism as distinctive practitioners;
- establish a systematic investigative approach to creative practice to enable students to produce an advanced, articulate and coherent body of work in relation to current advanced knowledge and practice in fine art;
- examine, critically evaluate and develop the language(s) used to articulate research in the field of Fine Art;
- create knowledge about particular strategies from learning, skills and methodologies for practice-based research in the fine arts;
- identify, consider and, where appropriate, engage with potential for crossing disciplines and subject areas across Art & Design, including collaborative practice.

## 11. Programme outcomes

### A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of :

1. Key concepts and ideas in creative

### Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

- a critical art forum seminar series that culminates in a student-led public

<p>thinking and different fine art research methodologies.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The range, social significance and history of contemporary fine art practice and the social role of the creative practitioner.</li> <li>3. Current, individually related practice at the forefront of the contemporary fine art field and the interrelationship between theory and practice.</li> <li>4. The processes of individually relevant creativity and their role in investigating and testing the validity of supposition.</li> </ol>	<p>seminar event usually taking place in an off-campus professional context. These seminars explore contexts of professional practice from a critical perspective and also take advantage of regular study trips to important exhibitions and events nationally and internationally as well as the Fine Art visiting artist lecture series.</p> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• coursework, including reports, presentations and dissertation.</li> <li>• The criteria for assessment are both generic across Level 7 as well as specific to the module.</li> </ul>
<p><b>B. Cognitive (thinking) skills</b></p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Articulate relevant questions and present complex concepts and ideas in research and contemporary practice of individual relevance.</li> <li>2. Assess the validity of evidence through rational disputation and the application of advanced research skills.</li> <li>3. Demonstrate a capacity for critical reflection, identifying appropriate fine art research needs and considering the means and methodologies for meeting them.</li> <li>4. Synthesise and implement advanced knowledge regarding the utilisation of particular strategies for learning when developing their own practice.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students learn cognitive skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• research, reading, writing and presentation tasks across subject-specific and cognate modules.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' cognitive skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• coursework, including participation in weekly seminars, project work, reports and dissertation.</li> <li>• The criteria for assessment are both generic across Level 7 as well as specific to the module.</li> </ul>

<p><b>C. Practical skills</b></p> <p>On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Manage (plan, organise, monitor, progress and complete) a complex creative or research project.</li> <li>2. Apply dedicated fine art conceptual and technical skills at an advanced professional level.</li> <li>3. Implement appropriate, effective and creative technological practice and research knowledge resources.</li> <li>4. Follow principles and conventions of communication in research and practice appropriate to individual needs.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students learn practical skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• technical inductions and workshops aimed at acquiring advanced skills in technical and technological formation.</li> <li>• high quality individual tutorial input on identifying and problematizing conceptual and critical elements in own practice.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' practical skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• coursework, including participation in weekly seminars, project work, reports and dissertation.</li> <li>• The criteria for assessment are both generic across Level 7 as well as specific to the module.</li> </ul>
<p><b>D. Graduate skills</b></p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apply reflective practice strategies in developing advanced self-managed learning and professional practice.</li> <li>2. Make use of a group as a creative resource in collaborative learning practices and team endeavours.</li> <li>3. Carry out advanced work by connecting individually relevant theory with practice.</li> <li>4. Communicate effectively utilising a variety of methods, applicable to individual needs and future professional context.</li> <li>5. Plan for effective career development.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students acquire transferable postgraduate skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• working collaboratively and cooperatively in mixed subject student groups across Art &amp; Design;</li> <li>• participating in all aspects of production of professional group exhibition with peers in Fine Art.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' postgraduate skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• coursework, including participation in weekly seminars, project work, reports, and presentations.</li> <li>• The criteria for assessment are both generic across Level 7 as well as specific to the module.</li> </ul>

## 12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

### 12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

This MA Fine Art programme is structured to enable students who already have some experience of fine art practice to expand their artistic horizons, develop their reflective abilities and expand their portfolio as critical and creative practitioners.

If undergraduate study requires the ability to demonstrate knowledge of field of practice, then this Masters programme provides an intensive, challenging and critically supportive environment or practitioners for range of backgrounds instead to situate themselves within their chosen field of cross-art form fine art practice.

This contemporary professionally oriented programme encourages cross-fertilisation of theoretical, critical and practical research methods and insists on the important of bring work to public through public discourse and professional exhibition making.

Taught by some of the UK's leading artists, curators and practitioners in Fine Art, this course is divided into five modules taken over three semesters (if studied **full-time**).

Each module is designed to be flexible, allowing students to bring their own interests to the assignments while extending the boundaries of their current artistic practice through experimentation, research, analysis, and creative exploration.

#### Students undertake four 30 credit modules and a final 60 credit module at Level 7:

- **ART4000** Developing Practice (*30 credits*)
- **ART4001** Critical Debates (*30 credits*)
- **ART4002** Advanced Research (*30 credits*)
- **ART4013** Studio and Exhibition (*30 credits*)
- **ART4004** Major Project (*60 credits*)

The MA Fine Art programme is undertaken in a single calendar year (October to November) comprising three 15 week stages. In **part-time** mode the programme is undertaken over two calendar years comprising six 15 week stages. At present, there is a single entry point in October.

On successful completion of 60 credits (**ART4000** and **ART4001**) students are eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate exit award, and on successful completion of 120 credits (**ART4000**, **ART4001**, **ART4002** and **ART4023**) for a Postgraduate Diploma exit award. Students must complete 120 credits for the Postgraduate Diploma before commencing the final 60 credit module that leads to the MA award.

Each 30 credit module requires a minimum of 300 hours of study (comprising taught sessions, the guided use of campus resources and independent study), supplemented by contributions from visiting academics and professional practitioners. Students should expect to commit a minimum of 36 hours/week (**full-time**) or 18 hours/week (**part-time**) to their studies.

Contact teaching and input from visitors is front-loaded in the first two stages and consists of studio sessions, lectures, seminars, workshops, group and individual

tutorials. Learning in these stages leads progressively towards self-directed study in the final stage, which is supported through periodic individual and group supervision and access to campus resources and facilities.

The **ART4001** Critical Debates, and **ART4002** Advanced Research modules are shared by all postgraduate Art & Design programmes, and delivery is made collectively all subject cohorts, and is intended to develop an active and engaged cross-disciplinary postgraduate culture and community.

The **ART4000** Developing Practice and **ART4013** Studio & Exhibition modules are taught in subject-specific groups with the opportunity to see and respond to work across all the art and design postgraduate programmes at key formative and summative assessment points. All the preliminary modules are intended to provide students with the context, knowledge and skills necessary for the initiation, development and realisation of a significant self-directed project.

The **ART4004** Major Project module is taught in subject specific groups working towards a final submission of a substantial creative art, design and/or research project together with a comprehensive project report and a verbal presentation.

## 12.2 Levels and modules

Level 7

COMPULSORY

OPTIONAL

PROGRESSION  
REQUIREMENTS

<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p><b>Full-time</b> students must take all of the following:</p> <p><b>Term 1</b>  <b>ART4000</b>  <i>30 credits</i></p> <p><b>ART4001</b>  <i>30 credits</i></p> <p><b>Term 2</b>  <b>ART4002</b>  <i>30 credits</i></p> <p><b>ART4013</b>  <i>30 credits</i></p> <p><b>Term 3</b>  <b>ART4000</b>  <i>60 credits</i></p> <p><b>Part-time</b> students must take all of the following:</p> <p><b>Term 1</b>  <b>ART4001</b>  <i>30 credits</i></p> <p><b>Term 2</b>  <b>ART4002</b>  <i>30 credits</i></p> <p><b>Term 1,2,3</b>  <b>ART4000</b>  <i>30 credits</i>  (as a long thin module)</p> <p><b>Term 1</b>  <b>ART4000</b>  <i>30 credits</i></p> <p><b>Term 2</b>  <b>ART4002</b>  <i>30 credits</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Successful completion of:</p> <p><b>Term 1 – PGCert.</b></p> <p><b>ART4000</b>  <i>30 credits</i></p> <p><b>ART4001</b>  <i>30 credits</i></p> <p><b>Term 2 – PGDip.</b></p> <p><b>ART4002</b>  <i>30 credits</i></p> <p><b>ART4013</b>  <i>30 credits</i></p>
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<b>Term 1,2&amp;3</b> <b>ART4001</b> <i>30 credits</i>		
<b>Term 4</b> <b>ART4013</b> <i>30 credits</i>		
<b>Term 5&amp;6</b> <b>ART4004</b> <i>60 credits</i>		

<b>12.3 Non-compensatable modules</b> (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)	
<b>Module level</b>	<b>Module code</b>
Level 7	ART4000
Level 7	ART4001
Level 7	ART4002
Level 7	ART4013
Level 7	ART4004

<b>13. Curriculum map</b>
See attached.

<b>14. Information about assessment regulations</b>
<p>Please refer to the Middlesex University Regulations at <a href="http://www.mdx.ac.uk/regulations">http://www.mdx.ac.uk/regulations</a> or the Your Study pages on UniHub: <a href="http://www.unihub.mdx.ac.uk">http://www.unihub.mdx.ac.uk</a></p> <p>The modules <b>ART4000</b>, <b>ART4001</b>, <b>ART4002</b>, <b>ART4013</b> are graded on Pass/Fail. The final module <b>ART4004</b> Major Project is graded on the University 1–20 marking scale, which determines the level of the Award (Pass, Merit or Distinction).</p> <p>For complete assessment regulation details, please refer to the University Regulations. Self-deferral is not allowed on any of the modules – students seeking to defer must consult the Assessment Administrator.</p>

<b>15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)</b>
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N/A

### **16. Future careers (if applicable)**

The MA Fine Art is a critically rigorous, professionally oriented programme. We are committed to ensuring the highest quality personal and professional development for our students and understand that their professional credentials and employability potential ought to be significantly maximised during their time with us.

Tutors exploit their research and professional networks to create opportunities unique to Middlesex including developing partnerships with visual arts organisation in London to ensure at least participation in professional group exhibitions during their study period.

We also provide regular networking opportunities through contact with a range of curators and visitors with whom students discuss professional strategies toward sustaining their professional practice.

There is at least one international trip to a major contemporary art city or biennial (e.g. Glasgow, Berlin, Venice) that in addition to regularly exploiting opportunities within London ensures graduates having the most relevantly informed possible practice.

Graduates will establish professional practices as artists in London and elsewhere internationally and/or continue research in the context of MPhil/PhD study and/or employ their skills in a range of employment and self-employment across the creative industries and education.

### **17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)**

- Dedicated Fine Art studio and project space facilities.
- Dedicated Apple i-Macs work running Adobe Creative Suite Software
- Assistance of specialist workshop technical staff in the realization of work and projects
- Loan of equipment including digital and analogue SLR cameras, media players, lighting kits, projectors, media players, digital sound recording, Library facilities and resources, including specialist books, journals, videos, DVDs, slides, special collections, and computer programmes. Art materials shop on campus.

#### **Access across specialist facilities including:**

- 3D workshop with a wide range of metalworking, woodworking and plastics
- Ceramics workshop
- Black and white darkrooms
- Digital darkroom with the most equipment of any UK university

- Digital media workshop
- Screen-printing and letterpress typographic workshop
- Art and design learning resources centre
- Photography studio
- Print workshop
- Reprographics and digital output room
- Jewellery and small metals workshop

<b>18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)</b>	W640
<b>19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)</b>	Art and Design History of Art Architecture and Design

<b>20. Reference points</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant University Regulations <a href="http://www.mdx.ac.uk/regulations/">http://www.mdx.ac.uk/regulations/</a></li> <li>• QAA Subject Benchmark Statements for Art and Design</li> <li>• QAA Subject Review Report 9Q231/99 (Art and Design)</li> <li>• QAA Subject Overview Report Q013/2000 (Art and Design)</li> <li>• Middlesex University Corporate Plan</li> <li>• School of Art and Design Plan</li> <li>• Learning and Teaching Policy and Strategy Student, Staff, External Examiners and Graduates feedback and comments</li> </ul>	

<b>21. Other information</b>

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

## Appendix 2: Curriculum Map

### Curriculum map for MA Fine Art

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

### Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills	
A1	Key concepts and ideas in creative thinking and different Fine Art research methodologies.	C1	Manage (plan, organise, monitor, progress and complete) a complex creative project.
A2	The range, social significance and history of contemporary Fine Art practice and the social role of the creative practitioner.	C2	Apply dedicated fine art conceptual and technical skills at an advanced professional level.
A3	Current, related practice at the forefront of the contemporary Fine Art field and the interrelationship between theory and practice.	C3	Implement appropriate, effective and creative technological practice and research knowledge resources.
A4	The processes of creativity and their role in investigating and testing the validity of supposition.	C4	Follow principles and conventions of communication in research and practice.
Cognitive skills		Graduate Skills	
B1	Articulate relevant questions and present complex concepts and ideas in research and contemporary practice.	D1	Apply reflective practice strategies towards self-managed learning and professional practice.
B2	Assess the validity of evidence through rational disputation and the application of advanced research skills.	D2	Make use of a group as a creative resource.
B3	Demonstrate a capacity for critical reflection, identifying appropriate fine art research needs and considering the means and methodologies for meeting them.	D3	Carry out advanced work by connecting theory with practice.
B4	Synthesise and implement knowledge regarding the utilisation of particular strategies for learning when developing their own practice.	D4	Communicate effectively utilising a variety of methods, applying appropriate and reasoned structures.

