



Mermaid Court  
165a Borough High Street  
London SE1 1HR

info@artacademy.org.uk  
www.artacademy.org.uk  
Tel: 020 7487 6969

Company no. 3801729  
Charity no. 1078804

Patrons: Sir Stuart Lipton, Dame Merle Park, Comt. Elizabeth Pillet-Will, David Shepherd CBE, Prof. Sir Arnold Wolfendale FRS

## The Art Academy Fine Art Foundation 2017/18

### OVERVIEW AND STRUCTURE

The course aims to give you an intensive and fulfilling foundation in what it means to be an artist and pursue a future in the Visual Arts. The course is designed to develop your personal practice, a strong and dynamic work ethic, analytical evaluative skills and tools for developing ideas. The course also provides unprecedented skills training whereby you are introduced to a wide variety of disciplines which you continue studying throughout the whole year and integrate into your developing practice.

Our intensive and supportive tutoring will enable you to plan and enact your progression to further study, equipping you with a comprehensive portfolio, personal statements and all the necessary information to help you with your entry into Higher Education.

Diverse skills modules and specialist sessions will allow you to experiment with different core media and techniques, giving you a broad range of materials and processes with which to express and explore and help you decide where to focus your practice in future study. A series of personal projects will develop your personal interests and develop your core practical skills, design process, formal language and conceptual clarity.

A range of talks, lectures, seminars, workshops and visits will help you to contextualise your practice within the history of art and importantly, within the contemporary environment. You will also be introduced to research resources through professional development topics which will equip you for both further study and your future life as an artist.

### Full time

The full time programme is one year. Students are tutored three days a week in the Academy but are expected to work independently on your projects for 2 days (14 hours minimum) a week. One tutored day a week will be spent on your personal project and two days of the week in various skills components based in different studios and workshops in the Academy. The tutored components run every day of the week 10am-5pm and you will have access to the foundation studio space during Academy hours (7.30am-9pm weekdays and some weekends) for project work and self-directed study, although you may complete this work elsewhere on other days should you so wish. This would, for example, allow you to undertake paid work on those days if needed and to catch up on your self-directed study at other times.

**Term 1:** Drawing, Painting, Digital & 3D components 5 wks each + Friday Personal project 1

**Term 2:** 2 skills component day + Friday Personal project 2 + UCAS portfolio prep & Application

**Term 3:** 2 skills component day + Friday Personal project 2

## Part time

The part time programme is two years. Students are tutored two days a week but are expected to work independently on projects for an additional 7 hours minimum a week. One tutored day a week will be spent on your personal project and one day of the week in various skills components based in different studios and workshops in the Academy.

**Term 1:** Drawing & Painting components (5 wks each; one per ½ term) + Friday Personal project 1

**Term 2:** 1 skills component day + Friday Personal project1(to half term)/ Friday Personal project 2

**Term 3:** 1 skills component day + Friday Personal project 2

**Term 4:** 1 skills component day + UCAS portfolio prep & Application - Friday

**Term 5:** 1 skills component day + UCAS prep & Application (to half term)/ Friday Personal project 3

**Term 6:** 1 skills component day + Friday's Personal project 3

## The Academy works to three 10 week terms:

TERM	DATES
Autumn	September to December
Spring	January to March
Summer	April to July

## AUTUMN (TERM 1)

You will actively explore the different notions of what art is considered to be and thereby, how different artists are situated in the wider context of the art world. You will become confident in your expressive abilities and discover the joy and power of experimentation and exploration in a wide range of media in four disciplines; Drawing, Painting, 3D (including Installation and sculpture) and Digital Media.

***Full time students follow a module comprising of 5 week components over the first term (along with a studio practice/ personal project day) Part time students will undertake only the drawing and painting component in the first term (along with a studio practice/ personal project day):***

### Drawing

This first component is designed to settle you into the programme, encourage free expression, and to illustrate the huge potential and versatility of 'drawing' in its widest sense and of drawing as a primary medium of expression and observation. A wide range of styles and materials will be used.

### Photo, video and digital

In this component you will get the chance to explore photography, video and other digital media as an artistic medium and as a means of documentation. This will include introductions to key software for photographic work (including Adobe Photoshop) and video editing. You will also explore narrative, storyboarding and presentation of time-based work, as well as learning how to photograph your own work, both 2D and 3D.

## **Painting**

The aim of the component is to develop students' exploration of the medium of oil paint and its basic techniques through experimentation, still life and developing work from another painting. Students will primarily consider the materiality of various paint mediums and how it feels to handle them and how their materiality can inspire and direct the forms they make.

## **3D**

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the practice of Installation and Kinetic sculpture. Students will explore basic mechanics and ways to create sculptural movement as well as how space is used as a medium and vehicle of expression. Students will continue to develop a sensitivity to 3D language; processes, materials, and form. Students will also develop the confidence to work on a large/architectural scale in a variety of mediums and learn the value and nature of working on a collaborative project and how this may function within their singular practice.

## **SPRING (TERM 2)**

You will be given the opportunity to select modules in areas that particularly appeal to you. Full time students choose two ten week components (each component is 1 day a week) from a range of focused skills components available on the Art Academy course list or select from Foundation specific modules which combine a selection of skills aimed at giving you a wider introduction to different mediums and techniques. The third day will be spent on a studio practice personal project.

Part time students choose one ten week component to accompany their studio practice personal project day. This format is repeated for terms 3, 4 & 5 for part time students.

## **SUMMER (TERM 3)/ FINAL TERM (TERM 5/6 for part time students)**

You will work towards a final exhibition as well as selecting two final skills components to complement and support the development of your personal project work in the final term.

Individual tutors and the Head of Foundation will constantly monitor you and your progress and each module will be followed by a critique and roundup session. You will be given constant care and guidance throughout the programme.

## **CONTENT**

### **Skills Module (Media experimentation)**

The skills are all taught in such a way that you will gain a real understanding of the techniques and creative opportunities within that medium, but we will also ensure that you understand how the skill is relevant within the broader context of your own creative practice. Lectures at the beginning and end of each skill component will explore such things as the language and nature of that medium, why you might choose it, how it combines with other media, and its individual aesthetics, concepts and contexts.

The tutors for each skills component are all practicing artists who are specialists and highly skilled and professional in their particular area.

### **Visits**

Being situated in central London, regular gallery visits to key contemporary exhibitions will take place throughout the course to engage students with contemporary artists and curation. These will be complemented by visits to museums to study and observe the history of art and creativity at first hand.

## **Talks, seminars & lectures**

You will have a whole range of practical and theoretical talks, seminars, lectures and workshops on subjects such as design process, portfolio preparation, the use of sketchbooks, what it is to be an artist, the language of art, art critique, and contemporary contextualisation.

## **Preparation and progression**

This element of the course is designed to help you prepare for your application and interview for your chosen course for further study. The Head of Foundation and your tutors will make sure that you have a clear understanding of the subject area you aim to study, and will help you decide the institutions best suited to your personal study aims. You will have mock interviews and help with writing a statement and applying through UCAS, the organisation and presentation of your portfolio in time for your applications and interviews. You will also have time to visit the colleges you are considering applying to, and will have ample opportunity to find out about the Art Academy Diploma course and to speak to currently enrolled students should this course be of potential interest.

## **Personal Projects (integrating theory and practice)**

Throughout the course, projects\* are set to develop your practical and conceptual skills as an artist and allow room for extensive experimentation. The projects allow you to discover and develop the ideas and processes central to your practice. The final stage of the course uses skills gathered throughout the Foundation course. The final project (term 3 full time students and terms 5 & 6 part time students) will partly form the basis of your final exhibition and will help you to consolidate the key elements of the course from design process and conceptual development to formal interpretation.

\*Full time students undertake three personal projects; one each term. Part time students complete the same projects over a term and a half each time, with term 4 through to half term in term 5 being used for portfolio and UCAS application preparation.

## **Art Theory**

A broad introduction to art history including key movements and their context. Special attention is paid to the movements and developments of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and how they have led to contemporary practice. The teaching of these sessions will involve visits, lectures, discussions, student presentations and practical sessions.

This module invites students to think critically about a range of topics in the field of art theory including how we can look at and talk about art, how artworks are affected by the world around them, how art can alter the way we perceive things and how art can be political. Throughout the course we will consider different ways in which art theory can be useful for art practice - how can our ideas about art influence what we decide to make? There will also be a strong emphasis on looking throughout and students can expect their visual skills to be greatly improved by the end of the year.

There will be one short, annotated written piece as part of your Art Theory module in order to teach the research skills needed for study at Higher Education level and show you the value of research and contextualization of your own practice.

## **End of year exhibition.**

The show will be a culmination of the work you have made during the course, not only helping and pushing you to develop and complete work to a deadline, but also channelling your efforts into your chosen areas and giving you the invaluable experience of setting up and running an exhibition.

## Personal Tutorials

You will be assigned a personal tutor who will provide pastoral care, advice on your artistic practice and your progression to Higher Education. Throughout the year you will also have tutorials that will specifically address:

- **Portfolio and progression tutorials**

You will have individual tutorial sessions with the appropriate tutors during this process to help guide your choices, your presentations and your portfolio preparation.

- **Project tutorials**

During each project, there will be constant individual tuition helping you with skills, exploration, and concept development.

## Assessment

It is Academy policy that students must attend 80% of each component to pass it.

*Foundation students are required to complete the necessary Skills Components for the course, and will be expected to attend 80% of their skills classes, or a minimum of 60% at the discretion of the Head of Foundation, in order successfully to complete the Foundation year. In exceptional circumstances, the Head of Foundation may exercise their discretion to waive this requirement, taking account of any extenuating circumstances or other relevant factors as outlined in the Academy's extenuating circumstances policy (see student handbook). Any failed components need to be made up or credited in order to complete the programme (this will be arranged in consultation with the Head of Foundation.)*

Informal feedback and assessment will happen at the end of each component, so that you can monitor your own progress, assess your strengths and identify areas of interest.

At the end of terms one and two, there will be a portfolio presentation of your selection from your skills components and your personal project. Students will present their work to assessors and then leave their portfolios for further review. Please note that whilst work from your skills components are not formally part of your final grade, where the assessor and moderator feel that the work presented for the personal project is not of sufficient standard to clearly award a pass grade in any member of the cohort, the portfolio of selected component work will also be taken into consideration when grading each student. Your skills component work is used however as a diagnostic tool to assess where your strengths lie and to inform the advice given to use in regards to your progression and personal practice.

The final show and the art theory essay both contribute to the final grade.

The assessment structure is devised to ensure that students make full use of the whole foundation programme and do not focus all their efforts on the initial stages and portfolio development for degree application, putting less effort into the latter stages of the course once acceptance to further study has been granted.

## Grading Criteria (all practical work)

<i>All studio projects are graded by the following criteria and 4 levels.</i>	<b>Fail</b> (unsatisfactory)	<b>Pass</b> (satisfactory)	<b>Merit</b> (high)	<b>Distinction</b> (very high)
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	standard)	standard)	standard)	standard)
<b>Research</b>				
Systematic identification and investigation of a range of academic and cultural sources.				
<b>Analysis, Evaluation &amp; Interpretation</b>				
Examination and interpretation of research material evident within preparation and final Piece.				
<b>Experimentation</b>				
Dynamic practical experimentation of ideas, materials and processes relevant to the selected methodology and concepts explored.				
<b>Self Management</b>				
Management of learning through reflection, evaluation, planning, self direction, subject engagement and commitment leading to a resolved final piece.				
<b>Technical Competence</b>				
Level of skills evidenced in the execution of ideas appropriate to the medium and expression of the concept				
<b>Communication and Presentation</b>				
Clarity of purpose/intention, awareness of context of own work (formal /conceptual / thematic/ historic etc.)				

## Grading Criteria (Art Theory)

<i>Your art theory essay is graded by the following criteria and 4 levels.</i>	<b>Fail</b> (unsatisfactory standard)	<b>Pass</b> (satisfactory standard)	<b>Merit</b> (high standard)	<b>Distinction</b> (very high standard)
Demonstrate visual acuity and an ability to describe artworks in detail				
Demonstrate an understanding of how materials, techniques and processes communicate meaning and ideas in art work.				
Demonstrate an understanding that the 'meaning' of any artwork is grounded in its objects and practices				
Demonstrate an ability to think reflectively				
Communicate and present ideas clearly				

## Grade allocation

Term one portfolio presentation assessment – 30%

Term two portfolio presentation assessment – 30%

Final show assessment – 30%

## **Facilities**

The Foundation programme has its own dedicated space in the Art Academy's with plenty of space for study and the storage of materials and artwork. Some of the Academy's resident artists have studios in this building, offering excellent opportunities to rub shoulders with and learn from practicing artists. You will also come to the Art Academy's Mermaid Court building, across the street to mix with the students on our Diploma in Fine Art programme. You will have access to the Foundation studios outside your tutored hours to continue with your project work and develop your self-directed practice.

Some materials and equipment are included in the course or provided in the studios, but you will need to buy some basic materials for general use (such as your own painting and drawing kit) and for specialist courses such as kiln formed glass, stone carving or printmaking. The studios are located next to the Academy's workshop facility where some of the specialist sculpture components will take place.

The studios are ideally located in central London, with excellent transport links just a few minutes walk away. They also benefit from being five minutes walk from Tate Modern and all the other exciting cultural and recreational facilities of London's South Bank.

*Dec 2016*