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Certificate in Sculpture

2 years, 1 day per week or 1 year, 2 days per week

Art Academy Aims

- To contribute to the creation of great works of art;
- To provide the highest standard of education to students wishing to become professional artists;
- To give creative opportunities to the wider community;
- To encourage debate around the practice and principles of Higher Education in Fine Art.

Art Academy Principles

The development of creative skills, both traditional and contemporary, allows freedom of expression.

Certificate students have intensive contact time with tutors who are specialists in a range of disciplines. No specific style is imposed – artists are then free to follow their own intention.

Each student should be trained to develop a robust creative process that allows him or her to be true to his or her creative vision.

The creative process can and should be learned. Design process, critique methodology, creative and contextual awareness and personal vision form key parts of the curriculum.

Understanding the art market and the world of the professional artist helps artists make informed choices within their creative practice.

Tutors at The Art Academy are working professional artists. We also have resident artists from whom the students gain a first-hand understanding of professional life. There is a comprehensive Professional Development programme integral to the programme and students have opportunities to exhibit, gain commissions and teach during their studies.

Creativity is best nurtured in a small, dedicated and vibrant artistic community.

The Academy maintains a body of approximately 50 Certificate students to ensure that each student can be catered for and nurtured within a hive of creative energy.

INTRODUCTION

The Award:	Certificate in Sculpture
Structure:	Students may start at the beginning of any term.
Duration:	2 years, 1 day per week, for each Certificate undertaken. In some circumstances students may complete a Certificate in one year by studying 2 days per week. Students may also elect to take more than one Certificate course at a time.
Principal:	Tanya Russell

Aims of the Certificate Programme

- To develop technical skills in the chosen discipline
- To support students to use their skills creatively and expressively
- To encourage students to start to develop their artistic direction and creative vision
- To give students an appreciation of the skills needed to be a professional artist
- To give students the opportunity to be part of a thriving artistic community

The Art Academy's Certificate is a predominantly practice-based programme for students with limited time who wish to pursue their artistic practice seriously, though the course on its own is not sufficient to prepare a student to become a professional artist.

The Certificate in Sculpture programme is a one-day a week course for two years but it is possible to do 2 days a week for one year. Within this programme students have the option to concentrate their studies in the following areas: Experimentation with a variety of techniques and mediums (Tuesdays), focus on figure modelling (Thursdays), or focus on creative sculpture (Mondays). Within programme components there is ample scope for creative development and expression while learning the comprehensive skill set.

The course is also flexible allowing students to swap between these days to focus on different areas throughout their course. These options can be discussed when during an informal visit to the Academy or at initial interview.

Different mediums are taught in components of between 5 and 10 days by tutors specialising in these areas. Areas explored in sculpture are:

- Figure modelling techniques (large and small scale, including anatomy and measuring techniques)
- Portraiture • Glass • Ceramics • Stone carving • Tools and carpentry • Armature making • Plaster and wire • Mould making • Steel welding and fabrication • Silversmith techniques (copper and brass)

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The year comprises 3 terms, each consisting of 10 teaching weeks.

In addition to regular study days, some additional sessions are available to Certificate students free of charge:

- Guest lectures, seminars and special museum/gallery visits. Each term there are a selection of special events held on Wednesdays - students should consult the Wednesday Timetable for details each term.
- Tutorials - students have one tutorial each term with a Personal Tutor in Level 1 and two in Level 2, one of which may be with a different tutor.
- Additional classes: Some evening, weekend and short courses run by The Academy may be available to Certificate students free of charge depending on availability. Other courses run by the Academy must be paid for at the regular rate. Students should consult the Academy website for a complete listing of available courses each term.

The course can be started at any point in the year but this must be at the start of an individual term. There are three possible study days for the Certificate programme: Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays. While the curriculum is slightly different on each of these days they are potentially interchangeable on a termly basis.

STUDY OPTIONS

Students can join the Certificate programme at the start of any term and may elect any of the following options or a combination of any of them based on their interests and goals. Prospective applicants are advised to discuss the options of study with the Principal during their interview.

Materials and Techniques Focus - Tuesday: 2 year overview

Different mediums are taught in components of 5 to 10 days duration by tutors specialising in each area.

Tool & Metal Induction Component: DS001 – 5 days

This component establishes required technical skills and health & safety knowledge and confidence to use the necessary equipment in the workshop without supervision.

Portrait Sculpture Component: DS003 – 5 days

This component develops the skills involved with portrait modelling in clay; measuring and modelling techniques; observation and memory; and the ability to appreciate and capture the quality and character of the sitter.

Sculpture Abstraction: DS013 – 5 days

The aim is for students to feel confident with their sculptural language, develop their knowledge of abstraction and become intuitive and fluid with their use of abstract form.

Stone carving Component: DS008 - 5 days

An introductory course in 3D stone carving, in which students learn the basic fundamental principles of carving and letter cutting, and gain some experience of tools usage as well as an understanding of the behaviour of stone.

Site Specific Sculpture Component: DS009 - 10 days

To help students to have the vision, the skills, the confidence and the understanding to produce large-scale sculpture which will make a real contribution to the public realm.

Small Metal Component: DS006 – 5 days

The aim of this component is to familiarise students with the basic skills needed for working with non-ferrous metals. It also aims to develop an understanding of how to approach and tackle sculptural ideas in metal, culminating in a finished piece of the students own design. Non-ferrous metals such as copper and brass used in this class approximate the properties of gold and silver used by silversmiths and goldsmiths through the ages.

Sculptural Ceramics Component: DS007 – 5 days

The course covers uses of ceramic clay, the techniques of hand-building, coiling, slab building, hollowing, and firing and glazing techniques.

Sculpture Measured Figure Component: DS004 – 10 days

Measured figure covers a systematic method for sculpting a half/quarter life size figure. It is a great opportunity for development of figure modelling skills and observation and is invaluable in the progression towards competence in creative expression.

Dynamic Figure component: DS010 – 10 days

To develop the skills involved with modelling from life, from the initial conception of choosing the pose and making the armature, through to a fully completed piece.

To learn to connect with the real quality and character of the model in a commission-like situation.

To produce a series of maquettes that work at the three levels:

- Physical/sculptural: form and composition
- Emotional/intellectual: character and individual quality
- Universal appeal: inspiring for the artist and the viewer

To learn to use a model properly so that form is not being merely copied but used to enhance the quality and expression of the work.

To enhance visual memory and develop the ability of always seeing freshly and clearly.

Figure Modelling Focus – Thursdays: 2 Year Overview

Armatures: students will gain insight into the principles of armature-building, why and how we use armatures and back-irons, and the implications for casting etc.

Measuring skills: students will be introduced to callipers and other measuring tools. The variety of tutors have different measuring techniques that they share with the students.

Modelling skills: Obviously, there is no one way or 'style' of modelling, but students will gain confidence in working with clay, and thereby move towards developing their own personal voice.

Observational skills: Whilst each student will obviously have their own response to the pose and the model, they will also be encouraged to develop their observational skills. This is one of the primary aims of the course – students must learn to SEE properly, in order that they can make decisions about what how to express themselves in clay.

Anatomy: It is up to the student how much anatomy they would like to focus on through the course.

Abstract work: Once students feel comfortable working with the model, they can experiment with more abstract approaches, if they so wish.

Materials: the majority of the course will be using clay, but students can also use other materials, such as plaster or wax, or anything else suitable that they would like to try.

Creative Sculpture Focus - Mondays: 2 Year Overview

Students have the opportunity to explore form and materials as a means of creative expression. This option focuses on creative sculpture using a life model as an open visual reference, rather than a technical figure study. Students will use the human form to express emotion, energy and/or character, to develop understanding of different forms and compositions and to develop the artist's choice of forms, textures and materials in creative expression.

A model will be present for the whole course, but not necessarily in one pose, as students will be using the model to suit their individual study. The tutor will work with students individually throughout the creative process with structured guidance in the creative and technical processes. Students can create sculptures in the scale and material of their choice.

OTHER PROGRAMME DETAILS

Materials

General materials required for all Components are listed in the Diploma and Certificate Student Handbook. Materials needed for specific Components are specified on the component sheet. Some materials can be bought from the Academy shop.

Please note that students must provide all their own materials, except on rare occasions for specialist courses, where the Academy may supply materials and notify students of the cost.

Tutorials

In Level 1, Certificate Students can sign up for one tutorial per term. In Level 2 students have two tutorials. All tutorials are with a tutor of the student's choosing. .

Format

Tutorial sheets will be pinned up in the Common room indicating the days on which the different tutors can be booked. At the start of each term, students should write their names in the time slot on the day with the tutor they would like to see. Slots book up very quickly, so students are advised to book early. Where a student's time is restricted, they may have to come out of a class to have their tutorial.

Students should ensure that they have the mobile number of the tutor they have arranged a tutorial with and call them or the Academy office as soon as possible if they cannot attend. Students failing to turn up to a tutorial having not informed anyone will lose their tutorial allocation as the tutor's time will still be paid. Tutorials cannot be carried over from term to term.

Content

Tutorials have a wide and open brief. They are generally the only time that a student can have a tutor survey their whole artwork production across the board and this can also include any pre-certificate work and extra-curricular artistic activity. A tutorial is the main opportunity for focused, one-on-one feedback and students should feel free to bring any art-related issue to the table. The tutor should also feel free to respond in any way he or she sees fit, provided of course that it is in the best interests of the student's development and will provide clarity rather than confusion. Tutorials can also be used for specific technical help in specific areas, if this is really needed – students should choose your tutor accordingly.

Students should be properly prepared for tutorials and should show as much of their work as they can. It is much better that the tutor decides what is relevant as students often dismiss work which has the most potential. Students should consider in which areas they most want help and give the tutor as much detail as possible.

Assessment

80% of the course must be completed in order for the Certificate to be awarded. Valid reasons for lateness or absences will be taken into account. (Students should inform The Academy as soon as they are aware they will be absent for any reason). If a student fails a course based on attendance alone, the student may continue in the Certificate programme and may, at the tutor's discretion, be credited for work done outside the Academy in lieu of a failed component. If not, they would need to pay to repeat the component in a subsequent term.

Graduate Exhibition

In July of their second year students will show work at the Graduate Show, alongside the Academy's Diploma students. Students starting in September show in their sixth term of study. Students starting in January show in their fifth term of study (and then continue their studies for a sixth term). Students who start in April complete their Certificate in six terms, then have one term working on their own before showing in the July Graduate Show.

Storage space and studios

The Academy will provide a small space for students to store their materials and work. The large studios are also available for student use outside of all scheduled course times.

Fees – 2016 - 2017 Academic Year

Fees are payable yearly or termly. If paying termly, a 3% surcharge is added.

Course fee (2 years) – £3,756

Per year - £1,878

Per Term (with surcharge) - £645

Students can complete the course in one year (two days per week), in which case the whole course fee will be payable.

Students also have the option of taking extra components/ days at the cost of £495 per day per term.

Terms and Conditions

All students must follow the code of conduct set out in the Diploma and Certificate Student Handbook.

PROGRAMME DATES 2017-2018

Days run from 10am – 5pm

Autumn Term 1701: Induction 11/09

18/09/17 - 01/12/17 (half term 23/10/17 - 27/10/17)

Spring Term 1702

08/01/18 - 23/03/18 (half term 12/02/18 - 16/02/18)

Summer Term 1703

16/04/18 - 22/06/18 (No half term)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are required to submit a portfolio of recent work, a current CV and an Academy application form. Applicants are required to demonstrate competency in spoken and written English.

Portfolio requirements:

If possible, students should bring to the interview a portfolio containing the following:

- 5 - 10 pieces of original finished work, which show their technical ability in a range of media. Students should bring photographs of 3d installation work and a device on which to show digital work as necessary
- 1 sketchbook showing the student's own areas of interest, individual thought process or development process of finished work.

If a student doesn't have all of the above, they should contact the office and Academy staff will discuss alternatives with them.

- Portfolios should be well-conceived and well-presented
- Portfolios will be presented at interview (For telephone interviews, portfolios should be mailed to the Art Academy, attention of Tanya Russell.)

Competency in spoken and written English:

- Written English will be judged by Application Form
- Spoken English will be judged at interview. Overseas applicants can opt for a telephone interview.

An online Application form is available at <http://artacademy.org.uk/certificate>

Applications are welcome from all ages 18 and over. No prior academic qualifications are necessary.

Interview Procedure

- Each suitable candidate will be offered an interview.
- The Academy administrator will inform the applicant of the time and date of the interview.
- The interview will be based on the portfolio, CV and Application Form.
- Interviews are conducted by the Principal or the Programme Manager.
- Acceptance offers will be made after interviews are complete. This will be either an outright offer or a provisional offer.

Acceptance of a place must be confirmed by a candidate in writing via a completed Course Enrolment Contract returned to the Academy accompanied by a deposit of £300 for each Certificate course. Course Documents and a Detailed Timetable will then be distributed to students or made available via the website.

Alumni

As a graduate of the Certificate programme, students who wish to continue to study informally at the Art Academy can benefit from the following benefits:

- 10-week day classes at the Part Time rate of £495;
- Free storage space while taking a day class;
- Sign up for a tutorial for £25;
- Free places on evening classes, short courses and weekend courses subject to availability;
- Option to exhibit again at the Graduates' show for £150.