

BA (HONS) FINE ART – SCULPTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL ART

Sculpture & Environmental Art at The Glasgow School of Art is one of the few undergraduate programmes in the UK, and the only one in Scotland, dedicated to the specialist exploration of relationships between object-making, art in public and social engagement, underpinned by contemporary critical and cultural debates and conditions.

While Sculpture has been taught at The Glasgow School of Art since the 19th century, the introduction of Environmental Art in the mid-1980s and the creation of a single, integrated programme in 2001 has led to a pioneering, influential and cross-disciplinary approach to fine art education and contemporary art practice.

The scope of Sculpture has widened, extending the conventional boundaries of object making to encompass both traditional and contemporary materials and media. The language of spatial and material practice taught on the programme is based on construction, casting and fabrication and extends through to more time-based art practices such as video, performance and installation. The course recognises and embraces this breadth and actively encourages students to think independently and critically to gain command of the conceptual and technical processes appropriate to this expanded field of sculptural practice.

Renowned for our globally successful and locally engaged practising alumni, including Turner Prize winners and nominees past and present, Sculpture & Environmental Art is a diverse community of practice situated within Glasgow's distinct and dynamic artistic and cultural ecology.

The programme attracts talented and motivated students internationally committed to becoming practising artists driven by the question of the artist's role in society and the relevance of contemporary art practice to an ever-broadening range of audiences and contexts. Sculpture & Environmental Art is taught by practising artists and researchers at the forefront of the field and is designed for students dedicated to achieving both artistic excellence and cultural relevance in our fast-changing world.

Welcome to Sculpture & Environmental Art at The Glasgow School of Art

Dr Roddy Hunter, Head of Department

OUR ETHOS

Sculpture & Environmental Art has an inclusive and holistic ethos in terms of teaching, learning and practice. Studio-based and outward-facing simultaneously, the programme is structured to provide time and space for individual and collective self-development and discovery. Working through and across group and self-initiated projects exploring the studio's relationship to social and cultural situations and settings, our approach to teaching and learning is highly personalised and responsive. We'll help you build your confidence and proficiency as an artist able to work innovatively and inventively with a range of traditional, contemporary and emerging material processes.

Embracing hybridity, fluidity, reciprocity, uncertainty, becoming and change, you will be able to explore new and emerging disciplinary formations, materialities, technologies and curatorial platforms to build a distinctive portfolio and body of work reflective of your personal concerns and ideas, providing a platform for professional practice as well as further postgraduate study and research.

EACH YEAR OF STUDY

The BA(Hons) Fine Art is a four-year, full-time degree programme and students are recruited into one of three specialist departments (Photography, Painting & Printmaking, Sculpture & Environmental Art).

The Fine Art programme employs a variety of learning and teaching methods that alter and adapt according to the perceived needs of students. The main programme delivery methods are lectures, seminars, artists' presentations and group discussions, tutorials, progress reviews, projects, group crits, workshops, students' exhibitions, independent study, and formative and summative assessments. In addition to this, the School provides students with opportunities to take part in placements and exchanges. All students undertake a programme of study in Fine Art Critical Studies. In addition to applications for first-year level entry, the School also welcomes applications for second and, exceptionally, third-year level entry from suitably qualified applicants.

The programme aims to:

- enhance your capacity for independent creative, intellectual, and imaginative enquiry.
- facilitate the acquisition of practical and theoretical skills, knowledge and understanding appropriate to contemporary fine art practice.
- develop your engagement with and critique of the discipline.
- develop your visual literacy in conjunction with critical understanding of the diverse philosophical, historical, social, and economic contexts of art and culture.
- inculcate high standards of critical writing which deploy skills in research and reading as a critical practice.
- inculcate high standards of art practice which deploy experiential, active and enquiry-based learning.
- encourage your creative and intellectual independence.
- develop resilience through self-reliance, self-management, and responsibility for your learning.
- facilitate the development of your personal skills such as working in groups, utilising interpersonal skills, effective communication, and positive diversity.
- enhance your capacity to develop professional attributes and support an enterprising learning culture.
- support the development of ethical, safe, and responsible working practices.

YEAR 1

The First Year Fine Art programme is the first of the four years of the undergraduate course in Fine Art at The Glasgow School of Art.

The First Year of Fine Art differs from traditional diagnostic foundation programmes in that students are recruited on a subject-specific basis to one of the four specialisms: Painting & Printmaking, Sculpture & Environmental Art or Photography.

The First-Year programme deals with the generic creative processes of fine art practice and with subject-specific studies of the three academic subject areas designed to develop confidence and understanding in the management, manipulation, and resourcing of ideas from observation and concept. A wide variety of learning and teaching methods are used to enhance, support and facilitate learning through practice both at a group and individual level.

YEAR 2

Year 2 builds on what has been achieved in Year 1 as you continue to develop your practice through longer group projects, typically exploring mapping, place and site with fieldwork throughout Glasgow and further afield. Emphasis shifts toward what you take from group activity and fieldwork and how you refine and synthesise your interests in making work. Having also ensured that direct entry and continuing students entering directly into Year 2 have received appropriate workshop inductions, you can engage with technical and making processes with increasing proficiency..

YEAR 3

Year 3 brings further focus and enhances your professional experience and practice explicitly through live projects in public-facing settings, where your work will begin to address actual audiences and settings. Working with external arts and cultural organisations is an integral part of your Year 3 experience.

YEAR 4

Year 4 is a year of independent study supported through an ongoing, intensive series of critiques/viewings and tutorials with a range of staff. Over the year, you will produce a substantial body of work in preparation for the end of year degree show. You are encouraged to exhibit your work publicly as much as possible, to try out your work in a public context and gain important professional practice skills. As with the third year, each student's individual studio space becomes an increasingly important place for testing, development, creation, and manufacture of artworks.

UCAS INFORMATION:

Institution Name: GSA

Institution Code: G43

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