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| BA (Hons) Fine Art Mixed Media  ORIENTATION TIMETABLE |
| COURSE LEADER – RAINE SMITH / HEAD OF SCHOOL – GREGORY SPORTON **WELCOME**  Welcome to the BA Honours Fine Art Mixed Media (FAMM) course, at the Harrow Campus of the University of Westminster, HA1 3TP.  This undergraduate (UG) course is structured as a three-year degree course for full-time students with the flexibility of between four and eight years of study for part-time students.  The academic year is divided into two semesters, which run from September to December and from January to June respectively. Under the University's modular scheme, learning is structured around a credit system and each UG student takes modules to the value of 120 credits per level to a total of 360 for completion to Honours degree. A single module is currently valued at 20 credits with certain key modules doubled in value to 40 credits, with taught content across the course being Approx. 70% practical and 30% theoretical.  The aims and organisation of FAMM are outlined more fully in the Course Handbook which will be made available to you when you start, but in brief it has developed to offer an opportunity for students to explore the changing arena of contemporary fine art practice across a range of disciplines, in preparation for a career in the arts and further study at postgraduate level.  This is a dynamic and challenging area of work and debate, with many questions and few fixed answers. We have worked to create a course that reflects the nature of that debate, both in its academic content and significantly, in its teaching and research ethos. |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **MON 16TH SEPTEMBER** | | | | **Time** | **Event** | **Location** | | **10:30- 12:30** | **MEET KEY STAFF AND EACH OTHER** | **Meet in the forum at 10.30 where FANS and staff will direct you to Room A 1.04** | | **13:30 – 14:00** | **WELCOME MEETING** | **Auditorium - Harrow** | | **15.15** | **ENROLMENT** | **The Forum - Harrow** |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **TUESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER** | | | | **Time** | **Event** | **Location** | | **10:30 –13:00** | **THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW** | **A1.04** | | **14:00-16:00** | **“EXPLORING SPACE”** | **Fine Art Studios ,2nd Floor A block** |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **WEDNESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER** | | | | **Time** | **Event** | **Location** | | **11:00 – 16:00** | **ARRIVALS FAIR (optional event)** | **The Forum - Harrow** |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **THURSDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER** | | | | **Time** | **Event** | **Location** | | **12:30- 17:00 or later** | **FIELD TRIP - LONDON GALLERY VISITS** | **TBC** |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **FRIDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER** | | | | **Time** | **Event** | **Location** | | **11:00 – 13:00** | **FACILITIES TOUR AND LOOK AROUND HARROW WITH FANS** | **Fine Art Studios ,2nd Floor A block** | |
| **SUMMER READING**  There is an extensive stock of books in the Library and available through the University Lending network, as well as a significant list of recommended reading, but by way of preparation we strongly recommend the following as a good introduction to ways of thinking about contemporary art.  **“All of a sudden. Things that matter in contemporary art.” by Jorg Heizer**    **&/or**  **Vitamin P: New perspectives in Painting by Barry Schwabsky**  **Vitamin 3D: New Perspectives in video and installation, Jens Hoffman**  **Conceptual Art by Tony Godfrey**  **“Ways of Seeing” by John Berger**  It is a good idea to see as many shows as possible over the summer although some of the smaller galleries close over summer there are always exhibitions to see in London. To find out what’s on look at [www.artrabbit.com](http://www.artrabbit.com) and [www.newexhibitions.com](http://www.newexhibitions.com) which give full listings and info.  Otherwise, read as many reviews of exhibitions and events in national press and online as you can. “Front Row” (weekday evenings on Radio 4 or via BBC iPlayer) is also very useful as are publications like Frieze, Art Monthly & Parkett, though these are expensive and available to read anyway in the University library, once you get here.  Substantial reading lists are made available once you start the course. |
| **PREPARATION FOR BA (Hons) FINE ART MIXED MEDIA**  **EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS**  **Computer (Desktop/Laptop/PC/Mac)**  Substantial computer access, basic & advanced training with specific software, internet access and student email accounts are all available within the University. However, many students these days also have their own laptop or notebook, and tend to work across both personal and University managed platforms.  Beyond email an essential first programme is Word and others often use Photoshop and Video Edit programmes (Premiere, Final Cut). However don’t invest in hardware or software unless you feel confident about what you’re buying. Both expert technical advice and significant discounts on set-ups are available once you’re at university, as well as introductory workshops on a wide range of programmes.  **Photographic and Video Equipment**  Although good quality digital and analogue camera equipment can be helpful, you can borrow a wide range of both still and video cameras on site once inducted so owning one is not essential. Again as you begin to develop your practice you may wish to invest in media specific tools at a later date.  **Artists Materials**  Apart from the obvious basic needs only buy equipment that suits your immediate interests and practice. Don’t invest hugely because these interests can change very quickly at university. Have available what you can afford or can get for free, and be prepared to experiment. There is an art shop on site for the most immediate needs, and the course has a number of materials available free or at cost price. The names of significant trade suppliers of artist’s materials are circulated during the year with the most obvious of those being Cass Art who have several outlets across London and do offer various student discounts on many items.  A shop that a lot students use is ‘Great Art’ in Haggerston as its so cheap and has a great range the students often use it because of this [www.greatart.co.uk](http://www.greatart.co.uk/), 49 Kingsland Rd, Hackney, E2 8AG  Get on their online mailing list for details of these because they’re often at short notice, don’t last long and sell out fast. Remember you do not need to buy materials, many artists use found materials which they are drawn to, such as natural products, house hold paint, cardboard etc.  An appropriately sized notebook (for Critical Journal use) is essential and will be needed from day 1 of Orientation Week. You will also find a 2nd ordinary note book for general information very useful.  **BORROWING EQUIPMENT**  We have an extensive range of equipment available for students to borrow for project work, the majority at professional or semi-professional standards (but please note that we have limited numbers of such items, and loan periods are consequently short). This currently includes (but is not limited to):   * Digital Video Cameras (in a variety of formats, up to fully professional standards) * 16mm Bolex Film Cameras * Digital sound recorders * Microphones (shotgun, lavalier, cardioid etc. plus booms and stands) * Portable hard discs (for video and sound editing) * Digital SLR stills and moving image cameras and lenses * 35mm SLR stills film cameras and lenses * Medium Format cameras and lenses * Portable lighting and light meters * Tripods and other supports   Please note that any materials we do not supply will normally be bought by you, as you need them, so it’s far better not to invest in advance beyond the very basic items.  All equipment should be marked and kept safe at all times.  All personal mains electrical equipment brought into studios, workshops and classrooms etc. MUST be PAT tested for Health & Safety reasons. This is available free inside the University from various technical staff. Consult staff or technicians once here on how to access this.  **PREPARATORY RESEARCH**  The best preparation for starting the course is to continue to make work, and spend time experiencing as many varied exhibitions & cultural events as possible over the summer. Films, music, museums, galleries, live & recorded performative experiences are all equally valid as stimulus.  Useful online sites include Ubuweb, which features a huge moving image archive of artists and works, as well [www.newexhibitions.com](http://www.newexhibitions.com) which provides complete current gallery events listings for London & the UK. Where it’s available as hard copy in private galleries it’s free so do take one. Also very helpful are Arts listings and reviews from magazine and newspaper sources including; What’s On and the Guardian (especially the weekend listings).  If in London, your ambition for gallery visits should now begin to exceed Tate Britain and Tate Modern to include the ICA, Serpentine, and Whitechapel galleries, plus White Cube (various sites), and a selection of East and West End galleries. Please note most are closed on Mondays, check gallery Web site for details.  London is exceptional but there are interesting galleries, exhibitions and public art and events in towns and cities across the UK, Europe and the rest of the world, so keep an eye out wherever you are.  It is suggested that in addition to visiting galleries and museums you engage in the following:  - Collect useful gallery information on shows during visits, and look regularly for reviews in arts and listings magazines and newspapers. These can be included in your Critical Journal/sketchbook and used as the basis for choosing shows you might like to visit, as well as aiding you in developing your own written opinions on the work seen.  - Continue to record and explore your own ideas in sketchbooks and notebooks and elsewhere, in response to any stimulus received from these and other sources.  Alongside this try look at all and any interests you have in the world around you this could include theatre, literature, scientific talks and discussions as well as the interests that are occurring directly in front of you (music, sport, social culture for example)  **PASSPORT**  With the above in mind it is useful to have a valid passport. We may have the possibility to visit galleries further afield than London during the next academic year or you make take up opportunities to visit other country’s via the universities distant horizon program <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/study/current-students/your-studies/scholarship-information/distant-horizons-awards> , we therefore recommend that you apply for a passport if you do not already have one. |