

Higher Diploma in Art

<i>Higher Diploma in Art</i>	<i>Higher Diploma</i>	<i>Department of Continuing Education</i>
NFQ:	LEVEL 8	CODE: AD082
CREDIT:	90 ECTS	6.15 - 9 pm
Duration: 2 years	14 modules	Autumn & Spring
Typically, the programme takes place a minimum of two evenings a week and occasional Saturdays. There are occasional studio blocks and workshops.		
Programme co-ordinators: Felicity Clear, BA, MA, Beth O'Halloran, BA, MA, Elaine Leader, BA, MA, Fiona Loughnane, BA, MA, Emma Mahony, PhD		

The Higher Diploma in Art provides mature students with opportunities to deepen their knowledge, skills and experience in visual art practice. This programme provides lifelong learning options for adults who wish to participate in flexible learning and acquire a level 8 qualification in art. Having completed a level 6/ level 7 certificate, students are eligible to apply for this 2-year programme. During the Higher Diploma, students progress from creative exploration, inquiry and discovery, to engagement with context, audience, histories and cultures.

Social, ecological and economic challenges continue to impact on creative processes and increasingly visual arts practitioners require the ability to collaborate, innovate and influence. Through exploration of materials and competent use of a range of techniques students will apply skills and knowledge of processes to practice. This 2-year programme includes skills-based workshops, research methods, discipline orientation, project-based learning, professional practice combined with theories underpinning contemporary visual culture. The Higher Diploma in Art provides for interdisciplinary approaches and includes discipline options in drawing, painting and expanded practice, with students' orientation for practice identified on completion of stage 1 of this 2-year programme.

The aims of the programme are to:

- Establish a research methodology applicable to practice,
- Explore concepts, ideas and research processes in contemporary art,
- Encourage experimentation through engagement with studio-based projects,
- Develop self-discipline and effective time management applicable to practice,
- Acquire skills and knowledge applicable to an evolving practice,
- Foster critical engagement with art practice, contemporary visual culture and society.
- The objectives of the programme are to:
- Encourage the development of analytical skills and an understanding of reflective processes within studio practice,

-
- Examine and critically analyse key theories in contemporary critical culture,
 - Explore discipline characteristics, boundaries and transdisciplinary approaches to fine art,
 - Support decision-making, interpretation, judgement and evaluative strategies applicable to practice,
 - Develop an applied knowledge of materials, processes and technical skills appropriate to practice,
 - Develop an understanding of contemporary visual art practices,
 - Create a body of work for exhibition, display.

2. Programme outcomes

On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:

- Apply research methodologies in the generation of ideas, projects and proposals,
- Identify a personal direction for their emerging practice,
- Articulate an identity as an artist,
- Communicate effectively the ideas and processes underpinning their work,
- Select appropriate materials and techniques in the realisation of their work,
- Work independently and collaboratively where appropriate,
- Establish learning goals and manage their time effectively,
- Critically evaluate their practice within contemporary art,
- Analyse and evaluate key concepts and theories in visual culture,
- Produce resolved work suitable to exhibition standard.

Graduates of the programme will communicate ideas informing their practice to peers. They will be able to work independently, collaborate with others on projects, organise small group exhibitions and disseminate ideas and meaning underpinning their visual art practice in a range of formats and settings. Graduates will have established competency in a discipline area, demonstrate an ability to negotiate discipline boundaries and show an understanding of the potential of transdisciplinary approaches of working.

Teaching and Learning Strategies:

Group critiques, individual presentations, peer learning and group display of final project work, all feature within the programme. Lectures, seminars, projects, group discussion, tutorials, presentations, and group dialogue form part of the teaching and learning strategies. In year one students will have the opportunity to work in the environs of IMMA. A series of sequential practical projects will feature throughout the programme. Students are encouraged to actively engage in dialogue with peers, tutors and visiting lecturers. The teaching strategies support student-centred as well as problem-posing and problem-solving approaches with small group as well as individual

tuition. The programme includes both studio-based learning and collaborative approaches to learning and practice.

In the early stages of the programme, student led presentations, combined with participation in small group studio critiques, will facilitate students to gain confidence and enhance their communication skills. Critical and analytical skills will be enhanced as the programme progresses through research, experimentation and application to practice.

Students on the Higher Diploma in Art study 45 credits in each year. They complete 20 credits in the autumn trimesters of each year and 25 credits in the spring trimester.

Module	Credits	Core or Option	Trimester
Year 1			
Materials and Media	10	Core	Autumn
Theories and Concepts in Critical Cultures 1	5	Core	Autumn
Multi-disciplinary Art 1	5	Core	Autumn
Multi-disciplinary Art 2	10	Core	Spring
<i>Print-Making Techniques</i>	5	<i>Option</i>	<i>Spring</i>
<i>Digital Film</i>	5	<i>Option</i>	<i>Spring</i>
Discipline Project FA 1	5	Core	Spring
Professional Practice 2	5	Core	Spring
Year 2			
Studio Research FA 1	10	Core	Autumn
Theories and Concepts in Critical Cultures 2	5	Core	Autumn
Discipline Project FA 2	5	Core	Autumn
Studio Practices FA 1	10	Core	Spring
Studio Practices FA 2	10	Core	Spring
Professional Practice 3	5	Core	Spring