NCAD DUBLIN

National College of Art and Design
A Recognised College of University College Dublin

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION FORM

Programme Title:	MA Art in the Contemporary World (Theory Pathway)	**Programme Type:**	Postgraduate Full Time (12 months) Part Time (24 Months)
Level (NQAI Framework):	9	**Total no. of credits**	**90**
University award	MA		
Programme Leader:	Dr. Francis Halsall & Dr. Declan Long	**Faculty/School**	Visual Culture
Programme Team (Modular Coordinators)	Dr. Francis Halsall & Dr. Declan Long	**Head of Faculty/School**	Prof. Jessica Hemmings
External Examiner and institution	Dr. Ross Birrell, Glasgow School of Art	**Internal Examiner**	Prof. Jessica Hemmings, Dr. Francis Halsall & Dr. Declan Long
Projected Student Numbers	10-15 [Plus MFA Fine Art students taking modules]		

1. Aims and Objectives of the Programme

We aim to:
(i) provide students with an intensive immersion in the conditions of contemporary art discourse;
(ii) survey the most significant contemporary art;
(iii) develop students' critical responses to contemporary art;
(iii) provide the relevant theoretical, historical and social contexts for contemporary art;
(iv) assist students in developing their own practice in relation to contemporary art. This may be as a maker, curator, educator, writer or other.

2. Programmes Outcomes

On successful completion of the course students should:
(i) be able to demonstrate a good awareness of the relevant co-ordinates and themes in contemporary art discourse;
(ii) have a good, working knowledge of significant contemporary art;
(iii) be able to produce in written and spoken form credible critical responses to contemporary art;
(iii) situate contemporary art practices in relation to the relevant theoretical, historical and social contexts;
(iv) be able to articulate what their own practice is (e.g. making, writing, curating) and situate it in relation to contemporary art discourse.

3. Stage Outcomes	

3. Stage Outcomes

(i) Semester 1 & 2: coursework responding to the taught component
(ii) June – September: major research project (e.g. thesis)

4. Admission requirements for the programme

- BA Hons (2:2) in a relevant/ cognate discipline.

- An appropriate level of professional practice in the subject field will also be considered.

- Assessment of a sample of writing along with a statement of interest in the program.

- Where necessary, an interview.

5. Further educational opportunities that may arise during or upon completion of the programme
e.g. Transition to Masters level study (+2)

This course provides a sound and strong basis for further self-directed education at PhD level, both directly in relation to contemporary art and art history, and in related fields such as cultural studies.

A number of MA ACW students have proceeded to (and successfully completed) PhD study at NCAD or elsewhere.

At the end of the second semester, there will also be an opportunity for students to expand their studies in the context of a related 2 year MFA programme at NCAD: MFA ACW.

6. Major Teaching and Learning Methodologies: please specify the rationale for these.
e.g. Group Critiques in order to develop peer learning, communication skills, critical analysis and self-reflection

Course Ethos: The MA Art in the Contemporary World aims to function as a valuable forum for debate on contemporary art theory and practice, and as a result we encourage students to seek publishing, public speaking and curating/exhibiting opportunities during the academic year. A course website and blog at www.acw.ie is available as a resource and publishing outlet for students and we urge all course participants to contribute texts, ideas, questions and references to this online discussion space. In addition, a number of course sessions will have a public dimension, allowing us to invite other interested parties from the fields of contemporary art scholarship and practice to join our conversations — in order to help build extended networks for students beyond the immediate course community.

From the beginning of the course students are encouraged to consider their own emergent 'practice' (e.g. as artist writer, or curator) and relate the course material to this. Elements of the course are elective and students are expected to engage with the elements of the course most relevant to their own. The course culminates in a major research project (such as a thesis) in which students develop and reflect upon the research interests which inform their practice.

The programme provides a broad student-led approach to the study of contemporary art practice and discourse. The following teaching and learning methodologies are used:

Seminars: Each seminar has a specific focus. They are based around readings and group discussions facilitating the development of peer learning, communication skills, critical analysis and self reflection.

Tutorials: In which students discuss their specific work and development. The aim of tutorials is to help students in the process of making choices and decisions in progressing development of their practical and academic project work. Student initiated projects are shaped, directed and managed through on-going dialogue with the supervisor.

Staff lectures: regular weekly sessions in which staff outline key components of the field of enquiry pertaining to the course. These broader surveys are complemented by more the focused, group based learning undertaken in seminars.

Visiting Lectures: Practitioners and scholars are invited to present work, engage in discussions and debate, and to talk about aspects of research practice with the student cohort.

All of the lecture sessions — visiting and staff — involve cohorts from related Fine Art postgraduate groups in the college (specifically: *Masters in Fine Art* students and *Masters in Art: Art in the Digital World* students).

External Visits and Study Trips: External visits to local and international galleries/ exhibitions are a key feature of the course. These enable students to get a good understanding of the field of contemporary art.

External relationships are also nurtured through the delivery of specific course components in collaboration with galleries, museums and related relevant institutions. Institutional partners on sich course components include: UCD School of Architecture; UCD School of Art History & Cultural Policy; the Irish Museum of Modern Art; National Gallery of Ireland; Dublin City Gallery/the Hugh Lane; Irish Film Institute.

7. Methods of Assessment: please specify the forms of assessment used on the programme and the rationale for these including how these forms of assessment align to programme outcomes

Presentations: Often short presentations feature as part of the modules. For assessment purposes there will normally be a team of two assessors and the class peer group present. As part of the submission the learner is required to make available a copy of their presentation materials to the assessment team. Such presentations allow the student to demonstrate (i) communication skills in discussing contemporary art and its wider contexts and (ii) the ability to use visual materials appropriately.

Academic Essays: Essays are required to be clearly structured and should include a bibliography. Essay submission should conform to the standard style sheet requirements of research thesis. Essays should be submitted in hard copy. Written assignments demonstrate the acquisition of research techniques, understanding of key movements and key concepts, and skills in object analysis. They also expose the student's skills in writing and structuring assignments, using primary and secondary sources, and articulating an argument which is argued throughout the essay.

Other writing and presentation styles: Students are encouraged to respond to different styles of presenting their work, each exploring or testing a different approach. This, typically, includes experimental and creative writing, curatorial projects, online projects alongside other initiatives.

Major Research Project: Typically this is a written thesis of 15-20,000 words in length, although it may take other forms such as a curated exhibition or an edited text (and has even included a radio station in

one case). The project facilitates the demonstration of research skills acquired, the ability to integrate a range of critical and empirical skills in a cohesive project and to demonstrate skills, techniques and knowledge developed during semesters 1 and 2.

8. Modular provision: please list modules available to students indicating which are core and which optional

NB – all modules are core (c) for MA ACW students, theory pathway and optional (o) for MFA students

Name	Code	Credits
Research Methods		10
1. Contemporary Art Practices 1: Discourses of Art,		5
2. Contemporary Art Practices 2: Mediums of Art,		5
3. Situations 1 (elective options)		5
4. Situations 2 (elective options)		5
5. Situations 3 (elective options)		5
6. Situations 4 (elective options)		5
7. Key theories 1: 20th Century Foundations		5
8. Key theories 2: 21st Century Revisions		5
9. Key theories 3: Making Publics		5
10. Key theories 4: The Politics of Participation		5
11.Art and Writing 1: Varieties of Criticism		5
12. Art and Writing 2: The Practice of Writing		5
13. Major Research Project/ Thesis		20

9. Programme Structure: please provide diagram indicating structure and modular content of the programme across its years

MA Art in the Contemporary World: Full Time Mode

YEAR ONE	Mondays				Fridays		
Sem 1: 40 credits Sep-Jan	Research Methods 10 credits	Contemp. Art Practices 1: Discourse 5 credits	Situations 1 Elective seminar options 5 credits	Situations 2 Elective seminar options 5 credits	Key Theories 1: Positions 5 credits	Key Theories 2: Revisions 5 credits	Art & Writing 1: Varieties of Criticism 5 credits
Sem 2: 30 credits Jan–June	Contemporary Art Practices 2: Medium 5 credits	Situations 3 Elective seminar options 5 credits	Situations 4 Elective seminar options 5 credits	Key Theories 3: Making Publics 5 credits	Key Theories 4: Politics of Participation 5 credits	Art & Writing 2: Practices of Writing 5 credits	
Final Project 20 credits **June-Sep**	Major Research Deliverable						

MA Art in the Contemporary World: Part- Time Mode

YEAR ONE	Fridays		
Semester 1: 15 credits September - January	Key Theories 1: Positions 5 credits	Key Theories 2: Revisions 5 credits	Art & Writing 1: Varieties of Criticism 5 credits
Semester 2: 15 credits January – June	Key Theories 3: Making Publics 5 credits	Key Theories 4: The Politics of Participation 5 credits	Art & Writing 2: Practices of Writing 5 credits

YEAR TWO	MONDAYS			
Semester 1: 25 credits September - January	Research Methods 10 credits	Contemporary Art Practices 1: Discourse 5 credits	Situations 1 Elective seminar options 5 credits	Situations 2 Elective seminar options 5 credits
Semester 2 : 15 credits January – June	Contemporary Art Practices 2: Medium 5 credits		Situations 3 Elective seminar options 5 credits	Situations 4 Elective seminar options 5 credits
Final Project 20 credits **June- Sep**	Major Research Deliverable			

10. Please identify exit points, credit requirements at different stages of the programme :
➢ After semester 1 & 2: Postgraduate Diploma in Visual Culture (70 Credits)
➢ After semester 1 & 2: option to transfer to MFA Art in the Contemporary World (120 credits extended study course)

11. Final Undergraduate Award Calculation - *please select one option*	
	(1) final year only
NA	(2) final and penultimate years, stage-weighted. *(Please give details)*

11 a. Final Postgraduate Award Calculation – *please select one option*	
	(1) final year only

Special Programme/Module Derogations from University Regulations.
Areas requiring derogation include but are not restricted to those indicated below.

12. Module Derogations - Please identify any area a derogation is being sought from University regulations and explain the academic rational for the proposed derogation.

Issue	Derogation required	Academic regulation
Credit value of module is greater than 5 ECTS credits.	*Irregular Credit Value*	*Reg 1.3 An undergraduate module size of 5 ECTS credits is standard across the University.*
Rationale: *(please identify the module and explain the academic rationale for the proposed derogation)*		

Issue	Derogation required	Academic regulation
The module will take place outside either the Autumn or Spring semester.	Year Long Module OR Module Outside Semester OR Module in Summer term	**Reg 2.1 The taught programmes of the University will normally be based on two teaching semesters (Autumn and Spring) per academic session. The teaching, learning and assessment activities associated with a module will normally be completed during one formal semester.**
Rationale: *(please identify the module and explain the academic rationale for the proposed derogation)*	**The "major research deliverable" (typically a thesis) is a 20 credit module completed over the summer. This is a 12 month (full time) course.**	

Issue	Derogation required	Academic regulation
No electives places are available	**No Elective Places**	**Reg 3.9.4 All undergraduate modules must offer a number of elective places to students from programmes other than the programme(s) for which the module may be core.**
Rationale: *(please identify the module and explain the academic rationale for the proposed derogation)*	**NA**	

13. Programme Derogations - Please identify any area a derogation is being sought from University regulations and explain the academic rationale for the proposed derogation.

Issue	Derogation required	Academic regulation
Timing of Exam Boards (e.g. no assessment of students at end of Semester 1)	**Irregular Timing of Exams and Exam Boards**	**Reg 2.1 The taught programmes of the University will normally be based on two teaching semesters (Autumn and Spring) per academic session. The teaching, learning and assessment activities associated with a module will normally be completed during one formal semester.** **and** **4.1 Assessments for a module should be completed during or as soon as practicable after completion of the module.** **and** **5.9Resit assessments may be offered during an autumn examination period only in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the relevant University Programme Board.**
Rationale: *(please explain the academic rationale for the proposed derogation)*	**NA**	

Issue	Derogation required	Academic regulation
Programme to have restricted or no elective places made available OR an elective pattern that differs from the norm.	**Alternative Elective Provision**	**Reg 3.9.4 The University requires that each undergraduate bachelors degree programme specifies credits to a minimum of 30 ECTS as electives across the duration of the programme.**
Rationale: *(please explain the academic rationale for the proposed derogation)*	**NA**	

Issue	Derogation required	Academic regulation
Honours Classification that differs from the norm	*Honours Classification*	*Reg 6.3 The relevant Programme Examination Board will classify the overall awards within all of the University's programmes according the bands set down by the Academic Regulations.*
Rationale: *(please explain the academic rationale for the proposed derogation)*		

15. Programme Review and Evaluation

a) Please Provide details of local programme and modular review processes:

The Programme will be subject to internal review at the end of each year.

The Programmes will have a course representative who will be entitled to sit at Faculty Board.

The External Examiner of the course provides written feedback about aspects of the course consistent with UCD Guidelines.

Annual postgraduate and end of year surveys to students provide information for the end of year review.

b) Please provide details of central quality review processes including dates of projected review.

To ensure that NCAD courses meet academic internal and external requirements and are responding to change, The NCAD Quality Assurance Framework concentrates on:

1.   Programmatic reviews *and*
2.   Institutional review

All NCAD programmes are reviewed internally and annually through staff meetings, end of year meetings and student feedback.

The first formal external review of the MFA will take place in 2018.

All reviews commence at the start of Semester 1 in October and will conclude with publication of course improvement plans in September of the following year.

16. Resources

a) Staffing: Please provide list of staff and their role with indication of hours dedicated to this programme.

		Name	Teaching hours per week	Admin hours per week
	Teaching Staff:			
	Visual Culture:	Francis Halsall	6	2
		Declan Long	6	2
		James Armstrong	12 hours in total	
		Jessica Hemmings	6 hours in total	
		Part-Time & Visiting Lec.	2	
	Fine Art Staff	TBA		
	Admin Staff:			
	Visual Culture	Neasa Travers (secretary)		2
	Technical support staff:	NA		

b) Space: Please provide details of both department and central areas used in delivery of the programme (please append a timetable for the programme with room numbers identified)

Core Course activities
Monday HCLT - 10:00 – 12 30 "Contemporary Art Practices" 1-2 modules (with MFA)
Monday HCLT - 2:00 – 4:00; 4:00 -6:00 "Situations" Elective

Friday HC203 – 10:00 – 12:00 "Key Theories" 1-4 modules
Friday HC203 – 14:00 – 16:00 "Art & Writing" 1-4 modules

MA ACW frequently collaborates on modules, seminars and public events, many of which are held off site. For example, collaborative "Situations" electives have been run with: UCD History of Art (Newman House); Irish Museum of Modern Art; Hugh Lane Gallery; The Joinery (a not for profit space, Dublin 7)

c) Facilities: What specific facilities are used and required by the programme? Please provide details of studio, IT and other infrastructural facilities needed to deliver the programme.

NA