

Contemporary Art Practices 2: Mediums of Art

PGVC1007

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits¹	5	Programme	MA / MFA Art in the Contemporary World
NQF level	9	School	School of Visual Culture
Stage	1	Module Co-ordinator	Dr Francis Halsall; Dr Declan Long
Trimester	2	Module Team	Dr Francis Halsall, Dr Declan Long, and other members of NCAD staff as appropriate
Contact	Neasa Travers, School Secretary: traversn@staff.ncad.ie		
Responsibility	The NCAD Academic Council and the School of Visual Culture Board have responsibility for this module.		

1. Introduction

From the starting question, “How do we analyse contemporary art?” this seminar continues the reflections of Contemporary Art Practices 1 on the discourses, practices and techniques relevant to contemporary art — in this case with a particular emphasis on the artistic mediums and cultural forms most commonly employed and addressed in the field of contemporary art. Various ways in which the question “How do we analyse contemporary art?” might be answered are explored through close analysis of the mediums/media, processes, forms, ideas and effects of recent art. During the seminar the specific choices of contemporary artists referenced in the discussions will be determined by a guiding theme identified in response to a topical issue in the field of art.

The aims of this module are to:

1. Introduce and discuss significant contemporary art practices and explore key elements relating to the production, distribution and reception of it.
2. Critically engage with and analyse the practices, theories and techniques of contemporary art.
3. Increase awareness of how specific examples and forms of art can be situated within wider fields of discourse and practice.
4. Develop techniques to employ relevant critical and theoretical frameworks in the consideration of contemporary practices.
5. Present and analyse debates about contemporary art practices and consider their relevance in appropriate professional and discursive contexts.

¹ European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, where 60 ECTS credits equate to the workload of a full-time academic year

2. What will I learn?

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

RESEARCH:

1. Demonstrate a wide knowledge of significant contemporary art practices and of key issues pertaining to the production, distribution and reception of contemporary art

ANALYSE:

2. Present an understanding of how to critically engage with contemporary artworks,
3. Show awareness of how specific examples and forms of art can be situated within wider fields of discourse and practice.
4. Understand how to employ relevant critical and theoretical frameworks.

COMMUNICATE

5. Discuss and present debates about contemporary art practices in ways appropriate to different academic and professional contexts

Module content

To reflect the changing nature of contemporary art the specific module content changes according to the themes that are deemed to be most relevant to contemporary practices at the time of delivery. At all times there will be careful consideration of the place and relevance of art in the contemporary world.

3. How will I learn?

Lectures, seminars and independent study.

Learning tool	Hours
Tutor-led tutorials and classes	24
Specified Learning Activities	24
Autonomous Student Learning	52
Total Workload	100

4. What learning supports are provided?

This module is supported by a dedicated VLE (Canvas or Google Classroom) in which bibliographic material, set readings, assignments and other supporting material is shared. If possible, key materials in the NCAD library have been identified to support learning on this module. Where appropriate support for technical training in key skills such as sound recording and editing is provided through LinkedIn Learning online tutorials.

Where possible there may be trips/ site visits incorporated into the learning experience.

5. Am I eligible to take this module?

Module Requisites and Incompatibles

Pre-requisites	None
Co-requisites	None
Incompatibles	None
Prior learning	Where a student can demonstrate that they have achieved at least 80% of the learning outcomes of this module, by academic certified achievement, or through quantifiable and documented experience, they can apply to the School for that prior learning to be recognised. Applications must be received prior to the commencement of delivery of the module.
Recommended	None

6. How will I be assessed?

Students are asked to produce a written, critical reflection on an example of contemporary art practice. This is intended to help them engage in contemporary art criticism. This might be a review of an exhibition or work of art, or a critical reflection and assessment of an example of published art criticism.

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
A piece of critical writing c. 2000 words	100%	By the end of the trimester
Total	100%	

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes assessed
A piece of critical writing c. 2000 words	All learning outcomes

7. Feedback, results and grading

Students' assessments will be graded using the [NCAD Grade Descriptors](#).

8. What happens if I fail?

Opportunities will be provided during or at the end of the trimester to students who do not complete all assessments.

9. When and where is this module offered?

Trimester 1 on campus.

10. How will I have the chance to evaluate the module?

It is important to NCAD that students inform the development of teaching and learning at NCAD. We encourage all students to communicate their concerns and their observations about their study to members of staff so that any changes can be made in a timely manner.

About two-thirds of the way through the year, a student forum will be convened to gather students' comments about their study and the delivery of the programme. In addition, at the end of Trimester 2, students have the opportunity to complete an online evaluation of their study and experience at NCAD. Students are also encouraged to complete the Irish Student Survey of Engagement. These evaluation events are important to current and future students, to ensure we can enhance the delivery of programmes at NCAD.

In addition, students are invited to discuss their experience on the module with their lecturers at any point during the year. Students can also relay your comments to the class student representative who will communicate their comments to the staff.

**For further details on the content of your module and teaching arrangements,
consult your Programme or Module Handbook**