

Materials, Processes and Techniques VC1-9

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits¹	5	Programme	BA (Hons) Visual Culture
NQF level	8	School	Visual Culture
Stage	1	Module Co-ordinator	Sorcha O'Brien
Trimester	1	Module Team	Sorcha O'Brien with contributions from School of Fine Art and School of Design staff
Contact	Neasa Travers, Secretary School of Visual Culture: visualculture@staff.ncad.ie		
Responsibility	NCAD Academic Council / School of Visual Culture		

Introduction

This module introduces students to materials, processes and techniques of making employed by artists, designers and craftspeople today and in the past. It will approach processes and techniques of making as repositories of knowledge about the potential and tolerances of materials. As such, it will allow students to understand how materiality sets limits on matters like the scale or durability of things. The module will span a range of techniques and processes from long-established practices like weaving and intaglio printing to digital techniques such as 3-D printing. It will examine the extent to which such new technologies and processes contain within them histories of older ways of making and knowing.

A key aim of this module is to ensure that students have a heightened understanding of the nature of materials, processes and techniques that will benefit other aspects of their studies in Visual Culture.

Other aims of this module are:

1. To introduce and contextualize technologies and environments relating to the study of visual culture;
2. To introduce key concepts in the relationship between theory and practice across various media and technologies in the visual arts;
3. To investigate the challenges of contemporary research and art curation in regard to the history of media technologies.

What will I learn?

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

1. RESEARCH how materials, processes and techniques have shaped visual and material culture as well as the world in which we and our forebears lived;
2. ANALYSE the different effects and potentials of particular techniques of making;
3. COMMUNICATE: write effectively about the concepts and practices of materiality, processes and techniques.

Module content

The module will combine practical demonstrations in the studios and workshops of NCAD with lectures and seminars exploring key themes in the history of art, design and craft relating to making. They include tacit knowledge; technological determinism; the role of drawing in design; etc. Where appropriate and possible, visits will be made to witness the reconstruction processes employed by experimental archaeologists and the specialist knowledge deployed on museum conservation studios.

How will I learn?

Students will attend lectures and participate in seminars; they will witness demonstrations and will participate in practical workshops

Credits

Learning tool	Hours
Lectures / Seminars	12
Demonstrations	12
Specified Learning Activities	26
Independent study	50
Total Workload	100

What learning supports are provided?

Set readings will be supplied for classes.

Indicative Reading

Thwaites, T. (2011) *The Toaster Project*, Princeton Architectural Press.
Miodownik, M. (2014) *Stuff Matters: The Strange Stories of the Marvellous Materials that Shape Our Man-made World*, Harmondsworth: Penguin Books.
Dant, T. (2004) *Materiality and Society*, Milton Keynes: OU Press.
Ingold, T. (2013) *Making: Anthropology, Archaeology, Art and Architecture*, London: Routledge.
Sennett, R. (2009) *The Craftsman*, Harmondsworth: Penguin.
Steigler, B. (1998) *Techniques and Time*, Stanford: Stanford University Press

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
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How will I be assessed?

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Written submission	100%	Week 12
Total	100%	

Students submit a 3000 word essay in response to a brief set by the tutor. Students will also present their initial research for the essay which accompanies the module in a work in progress presentation for which they will receive informal tutor and peer feedback. Students are assessed against NCAD published Grade Assessment Criteria. Written feedback is given at the end of the module in response to the work submitted for assessment.

Feedback, results and grading

Assessment will be made using NCAD's Grade Assessment Criteria (see the Visual Culture handbook). Written feedback will be given within 20 working days of the submission.

What happens if I fail?

Resit Opportunities

Opportunities will be provided during or at the end of Trimester 2 to students who do not complete all assessments in Trimester 1, but students will not be able to progress to the next stage of the programme until they have successfully completed all Year 2 modules, equivalent to 60 credits.

When and where is this module offered?

Venue TBC / Week 1-12

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 trimester, 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. These evaluation events are important to current and future students, to ensure we can enhance the delivery of programmes at NCAD.

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

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