

Materials, Techniques & Processes

VC1004

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits¹	10	Programme	BA Visual Culture
NQF level	8	School	Visual Culture
Stage	1	Module Co-ordinator	Dr Anna Moran
Trimester	2	Module Team	Dr Anna Moran 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 and the School of Visual Culture Board have responsibility for this module.		

1. Introduction

This module introduces students to materials, processes and techniques of making employed by 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 to:

1. Introduce and contextualize a wide range of materials, processes and techniques of making that have been employed by designers and craftspeople in historical and contemporary contexts.
2. Introduce key concepts relevant to the study of materials and making, particularly those relating to skill and materiality.
3. Investigate the effects and potentials of different techniques of making, ranging from very traditional, analogue techniques to digital techniques such as 3D printing.

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:

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 pertaining to materials, techniques and processes used by designers and makers in historical and contemporary contexts. The lectures will cover topics such as: Making and Materiality; Showing Making: documents and documenting the Process; Invention and Imitation: new materials and processes, 1750-1860; The Arts and Crafts Movement: truth to materials and joy in making; Materialising Modernity: metal, glass, plastic and concrete; The Studio Craft Movement; Sensing Materials: A multisensory perspective; Making as performance; Digitising and Retooling; Crowdsourcing as a mode of artistic production; Sustainability: Rethinking making and materials.

3. How will I learn?

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

Learning tool	Hours
Lectures / Seminars / demonstrations	30
Specified Learning Activities	60
Independent study	110
Total Workload	200

4. What learning supports are provided?

Set readings will be supplied for classes.

Indicative Reading

- Adamson, G. (2007) *Thinking Through Craft*. Oxford: Berg.
- Adamson, G. (2018) *The Invention of Craft*, London: Bloomsbury.
- Adamson, G. and Bryan Wilson, J. (2016) *Art in the Making: Artists and their Materials from the Studio to Crowdsourcing*. New York: Thames and Hudson.
- Ingold, T. (2013) *Making: Anthropology, Archaeology, Art and Architecture*, London: Routledge.
- Lehmann, A.S. (2012) 'Showing Making: On Visual Documentation and Making Practice', *Journal of Modern Craft* 5:1, pp. 9 – 24.

Oliver, Valerie Cassel (2010) *Hand+Made: The Performative Impulse in Art and Craft*. Houston: Contemporary Art Museum, Houston.

Pye, D. (1995) *The Nature and Art of Workmanship*, Revised Edition. London: Herbert Press.

Sennett, R. (2009) *The Craftsman*, Harmondsworth: Penguin.

Snodin and Styles (2001) *Design and the Decorative Arts: Britain 1500-1900*, London: V&A Publications.

Zilber, E. (2015) *Crafted: Objects in Flux*, Boston: MFA Publications.

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?

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Written submission	100%	Week 10
Total	100%	

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes assessed
Written submission	Learning outcomes 1, 2, and 3

Students submit a 3,000 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.

7. Feedback, results and grading

Assessment will be made using [NCAD Grade Descriptors](#) (see the Visual Culture handbook). Written feedback will be given within 20 working days of the submission.

8. 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.

9. When and where is this module offered?

Delivered in lecture and seminar rooms in Harry Clarke House, in Weeks 1-11 of Trimester 2.

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 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**