

Summer Study Abroad - Art History, Criticism and Communication



Module Overview

This course is for students who are looking to enhance their engagement with and understanding of contemporary visual practice and theory. The course assists you in contextualising and developing your ideas about art through an array of visual and critical lenses, from modernist art history to contemporary cultural theory and conceptual practice. A series of informal seminars and tutorials will help focus your research. The group will engage with a stimulating array of activities to trigger creative links with London’s rich contemporary visual and material culture, from gallery and museum visits to sessions working alongside professional artists, curators, writers and publishers. Students will build a deeper understanding and working knowledge of contemporary artistic practice, with confidence as well as a key network of cultural resources and connections.

Class hours:	75 hours
Non-class hours:	15 hours
Course level:	Open
Entry requirements:	The course is open to students with varying experience and will help those looking to study Art History, Criticism and Communications in the Arts. Non-native English speaking students need a minimum English score of IELTS 6.0 (or equivalent) in order to join the course.

Project Description

This course will explore the relationship between art, language and criticism in applied and conceptual contexts. You will work alongside a number of London based galleries, artists, critics and curators in order to develop your critical practice in a way that embeds the link between art and theory.

Week 1: Through modern and contemporary art history seminars, gallery visits and dialogues with researchers, curators, and gallery directors, you will engage with theoretical, historical and practical approaches to the understanding and display of artworks.

Week 2: This section of the course is dedicated to experimentation and the development of key skills for thinking, writing and speaking about art. The week will open with a series of criticism and communications workshops. These will act as preparation for your final major project, a short-term residency at a London gallery. Throughout the residency you will have the opportunity to undertake artist-led and curator-led workshops, which use the gallery's exhibition as a starting point. Experimenting with and processing ideas and discussions emerging from the week's workshops, and other experiences throughout the course, you will be invited to produce a personal and critical response to the exhibition at this gallery. Your project will involve two outputs: a contribution towards a group publication and a related project towards a group exhibition.

Week 3: This week is dedicated to furthering your critical, communications and production skills through your individual and group contributions to the making, editing and design of the final publication and group exhibition. Through workshops with visiting curators, designers and publishers, you will develop a critical and professional awareness with regards to the presentation and distribution of ideas.

Aims

- Explore the fields of art history, criticism and communication in a fine art domain
- Cultivate resourcefulness necessary for critical and theoretical inquiry
- Engage with real individuals and contexts outside of the classroom
- Provide experience of and connections with a professional gallery setting
- Enhance one's sense of self and creative capabilities

Learning Outcomes

As a consequence of successfully completing this course it is expected that you will be able to:

- Locate and evaluate information from a range of sources (Analysis, Research)
- Communicate your process, findings and conclusions (Communication, Presentation)
- Engage with the working methods of the disciplines of Art History, Criticism and Communication (Personal and Professional Development, Subject Knowledge)
- Produce a body of self-generated, informed work, which substantially demonstrates a critical and contextual understanding of art practice (Subject Knowledge)
- Demonstrate a considered and coherent approach to the gathering, organisation, use and critical evaluation of relevant research material, to contextualise your work, and that of others, effectively (Analysis, Research)

Requirements

- Research journal with notes about art history seminars, presentations and exhibition visits
- Critical review of an exhibition
- Self-generated body of research in residency context
- Individual and group contributions to published residency publication
- Related individual contribution to group exhibition

Materials Required

- A notepad and pen
- Oyster card, for visiting galleries around London

Reading/Resources List

The following reading is recommended to support your studies on this course:

- Andre, Carl, Robert Barry, Douglas Huebler, Joseph Kosuth, Sol Lewitt, Robert Morris and Lawrence Weiner (1968), *The Xerox Book*; New York: Siegelau/Wendler
- Barthes, Roland (1977), *Image Music Text*; London: Fontana Press
- Danto, Arthur (1992), *Beyond the Brillo Box: The Visual Arts in Post-Historical Perspective*; New York: Fabrar
- Elkins, James and Michael Newman, ed. (2008), *The State of Art Criticism*; London/New York: Routledge
- Harrison, Charles, and Paul Wood (2003), *Art in Theory, 1900-2000: An Anthology of Changing Ideas*; London: Blackwell
- Kaprow, Allan (1993), *Essays on the Blurring of Art and Life*; London: University of California Press
- Lomax, Yve (2000), *Writing the Image: An Adventure with Art and Theory*; London/New York: I.B. Tauris

Tutors

The course will be taught by Claire Nichols and invited guest lecturers.

Claire Nichols is an artist and a curator. Exhibitions include Barbican Arts Group Trust, arebyte gallery, Florence Trust, David Roberts Art Foundation, Centre Cultural La Mercè, Girona and Despina, Rio de Janeiro. She leads the BA Fine Art Study Abroad course at Central Saint Martins and previously taught on the BA Part-Time Programmes at the London College of Fashion.

