

Introduction

Hello, I'm Paul Merrick - Head of the Year 1,

We are all busy preparing for your arrival. You will shortly receive some communication from the university about induction but I just thought I would write with some information about Year 1, Semester 1 in Fine Art.

As a Year 1 student you will have your own designated studio space.

- The main studio (practical making) teaching days are Tuesday and Thursday 9am – 5pm
- Independent study is on Wednesdays
- LifeWorkArt study trips are on Fridays
- Art History is on Mondays

You will have full access to the facilities, including studios and workshops. Our practice-based modules will be structured around face-to-face tutorials and crits, with demonstrations and workshops held in the studios, technical workshops and seminar rooms.

In the first semester you will take 3 Strands (workshops) in Printmaking, Painting and Sculpture, each three weeks long. We will let you know which strand you will start with when you arrive. You will be provided with some tools and materials but you will also need to provide some tools and art materials yourself (please see materials list attached).

I'm also sending you a collage project to complete before the start of term and information on how to keep a 'Digital Notebook'. This will help prepare you and provide research and ideas for your first project.

Looking forward to meeting you soon

Paul Merrick

BA Stage 1 Module Leader
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Excavating the Future

Project for the Summer: Every year we ask the incoming First Year to work on a short project in the weeks before starting here in the department. It's not assessed in any way; we use the work you produce as an introduction between students in the first week of the semester.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly - Paul.Merrick@newcastle.ac.uk

THE BRIEF

We would like you to make at least 1 collage or assemblage by following the set of instructions below and using fragments of found objects and gathered material. The idea is to make a piece of work that if discovered in an attic or buried preserved underground in 50 years' time, could be exhibited in a museum as an artefact, a work that reflects a personal response to your particular place and time.

INSTRUCTIONS.

1. Go for a walk, respond instinctively to time and space, record your findings using a combination of methods of your choice, sound, photography, film, drawing etc. Explore different senses, audio, visual, movement, smell, even gut reaction.
2. Collect fragments of found objects and images.
3. Return to your place of work and use the collected material to make a collage:
 - It can be a 2-dimensional work no bigger than A1.
 - A sculptural collage no bigger than 50 x 50 x 60 cm
 - a film no longer than 3 minutes.
 - or a combination of medium including: sculpture, drawing, painting, print, performance,
 - photography, film, sound, text etc.

Use your imagination. Trust your instincts 100%. Do not be concerned about perfection or 'finished' work. Favor ambiguity over definition, value mystery over 'meaning'; try and get a sense of atmosphere.

Also, bring your collage with you to the induction session on the 20th September where we will be putting together an exhibition of all the works in our Long Gallery during induction week - imagining a museum of artefacts 50 years in the future.

DIGITAL NOTEBOOK

Please upload images of your collage and any research made alongside it as the first few 'pages' of your '**digital notebook**'. Instructions about how to keep a digital notebook on a word doc are below.

As a formal part of the programme, we will be asking you to keep an on-going DIGITAL NOTEBOOK of your studio practice. The purpose of the digital notebook is two-fold: first it should act as a tool to help you monitor and reflect on the development of your practice; second it will provide a ready source of visual documentation of your studio work as it develops along with reflective commentary that assists the research, contextualization and critical reflection of the practice as it unfolds. It can also be used as a point of reference for tutorials, discussions and reviews of your creative work, whether held remotely or in person.

It is not designed to replace other forms of critical reflection, note-taking, researching or contextualization and we very much encourage you to continue with physical forms of writing, drawing, planning, information and image gathering in the form of sketchbooks, drawings and journals. Indeed, it may well be that material from those more physical forms of working ideas through are what get documented and included in the on-going digital notebook.

What form should the digital notebook take?
It can be in any of the following:

- **An on-going Word document:**

HYPERLINK "<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uL-gEtDkmWY>" Link to instructions to insert images into a Word Doc.

- **An on-going PowerPoint presentation:** (this must be put together as advised in the attached instructions with images resized before being inserted into the PowerPoint).

- **An on-line blog or website.**

The Digital Notebook would typically include: visual documentation of various stages of a body of work from inception to resolution; links to rough edits or preparatory/developmental work for time-based practice; research and contextual information including links to relevant texts and other information including visual material; critical reflection of work at various stages; reflection on discussion of your work with tutors, friends and peers; plans for what to do next; visualisations of next steps of development; pages from sketchbooks etc.

Whichever form or application you choose, you can include links to other material that is located on-line. For example, you may choose to keep a simple Word document as your digital

notebook but and you can link it to pages on a personal website etc, or to time-based work on Vimeo / YouTube.

As the digital notebook will be an important component of tutorials and review & feedback it is essential that you keep it regularly backed-up. It is University policy that IT failure cannot be taken into account at assessment when the material has not been backed up separately.

You should keep an up-to-date copy of your digital notebook on the University OneDrive platform (we will talk you through how to do this when you arrive).

Please establish your digital notebook straight away by recording the summer micro project.