

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

Congratulations on securing a place on the Fine Art Degree Course!

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 with independent study on Wednesdays, LifeWorkArt study trips on Fridays and Art History 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).

In addition to the strand's, I hope to be introducing an exciting Performance week during the semester. More information to follow.

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. This year we are doing something different. The Fine Art department is celebrating its 100-year anniversary since it launched Britain's first ever Batchelor of Art in Fine Art at Newcastle University (1923 - 2023). The adoption of the Batchelor of Arts in Fine Art by Senate in 1923 was a radical step in its time that placed Fine Art education and research on an equal footing with other academic disciplines within the University setting.

To mark and celebrate this milestone in the history of Art Education, and to look ahead to the next 100 years Fine Art are organizing a series of events, exhibitions & creative activities across the next 4 years (2023-27) involving current students, staff and alumni and taking place in and beyond the Fine Art department under the banner of Fine Art 100. We thought it would be great if our new cohort of students were part of the celebrations.

The Fine Art 100 will launch in September 2023 with a large-scale exhibition of postcards titled ***Right Here, Right Now*** in the XL Gallery in the Fine Art department. The aim of this inaugural exhibition is to bring together all current staff and students in one space, offering a snapshot of the Fine Art department as it exists now. So, we are asking **ALL** Fine Art Students and staff to take part in this exciting exhibition.

Right Here, Right Now

What to submit:

We are asking everybody to submit an A5 size postcard that represents the work they are making at the moment. This could be as simple as a drawing, painting print or collage, photograph or text. Some of you may have experimented with sound, film or performance – you could submit film stills, photographic documentation or a QR code with a link to digital work. Those working more sculpturally could make something in the proportion of A5 that could fit easily on a shelf. Be as experimental and challenging as you want to be. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate work larger than A5 in size but we can except smaller work!

I would really encourage you all to make something for the exhibition.

Could you please bring your work with you when you arrive for your induction on **Monday 18th September**. This is very important if you wish to be part of the show.

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

Looking forward to meeting you soon

Best wishes

Paul

Paul Merrick
BA Stage 1 Module Leader
School of Arts and Cultures.
Newcastle University