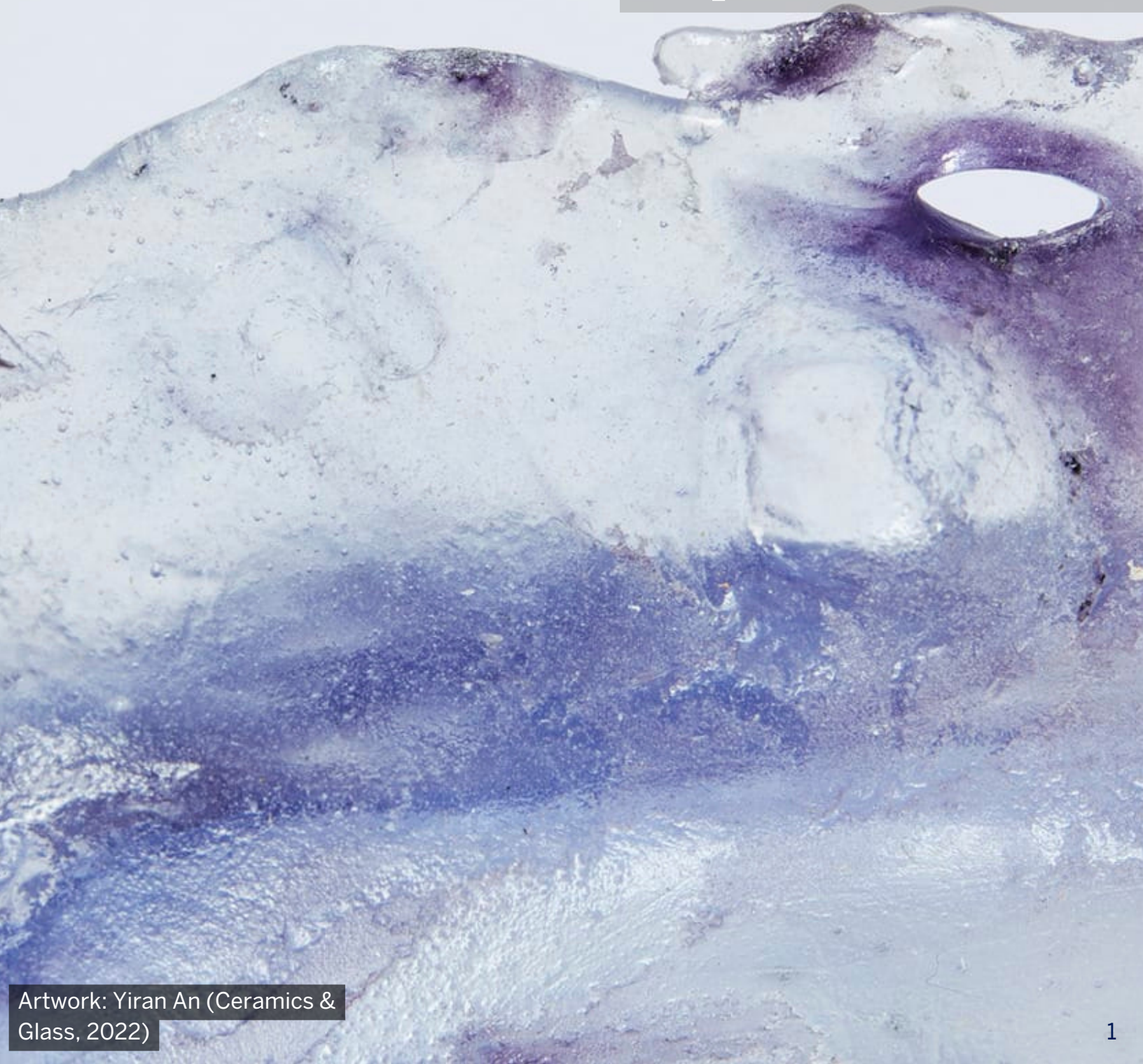


RCA

Specialist Technical Instructor Making

September 2023



Artwork: Yiran An (Ceramics &
Glass, 2022)

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Photo: Richard Haughton

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WELCOME TO THE RCA



Photo: Iwan Baan

Founded in 1837, the Royal College of Art is the world's largest community of postgraduate art and design students. It is also the oldest art and design university in continuous operation and has been ranked as the world's number one art and design university for a remarkable nine consecutive years, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023 – the worldwide survey of academic and industry opinion.

The RCA is research-led, and recognised in the UK-wide REF (Research Excellence Framework) as the UK's most research-intensive institution – with an increased proportion of the College's outputs classed as 'internationally excellent' and 'world-leading' in the most recent REF assessment of 2022.

Studying at the RCA is the starting point for the world's creative leaders. With more than 20,000 RCA alumni across the globe, the RCA's graduates form a unique international network of artists, designers, creators and innovators. Every year, RCA alumni are recognised as leaders in their discipline, making national and international headlines for their work, which shapes the world we live in. Its graduate start-up incubator, InnovationRCA, is one of the most successful in the country with a high proportion of female start-up founders and a high 'survival' percentage after five years of trading.

More than 2,700 students are spread across four schools and research and academic departments, studying at Graduate Diploma, MA, MFA, MDes, MArch, MEd, MRes, MPhil and PhD levels, with plans for this to rise to 3,300 by 2027. The College's mix of professionalism and creative freedom, together with its renowned academic community and rigorous academic framework provides the ecosystem in which students flourish and achieve their highest potential.



Photo: Richard Haughton

In addition, the RCA has a number of established and planned research centres: the Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design; the Material Science Research Centre (which includes the Materials Futures Research Group and the Textiles Circularity Centre); the Intelligent Mobility Design Centre, Computer Science Research Centre, and a future centre in Drawing. The RCA is also home to one of the UK's most successful university incubators, InnovationRCA.

The RCA espouses a hybrid approach, supporting 'traditional' making and technical skills in fine and applied art and design alongside the foundational sciences, engineering and technology which underpin designers' ability to solve today's global challenges. The RCA champions the value of interdisciplinary learning and was the first art and design university in the world to implement a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Design and Mathematics) academic vision, with investment in new faculty posts in Materials Science; Computer Science and Robotics alongside art and design disciplines. By applying creative insights to evidence-based science, its staff, students, researchers and start-ups are addressing major global challenges such as rapid urbanisation and transport; loss of biodiversity; ageing populations; unsustainable consumption and production; and the rise of AI.

Our Strategy

The RCA's strategic vision is to increase its influence on the world stage of globally ranked universities, punching significantly above its weight, and attracting, supporting and convening the world's most talented faculty, students, artists, designers and creative leaders. For more information on The RCA's Strategic Plan 2022–27, please click on this link: [Strategic Plan 2022–27](#).

Our People



Photo: Richard Haughton

His Majesty King Charles III is Royal Visitor to the RCA (ie Patron). The RCA's Chancellor is Sir Jony Ive, and the Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council is Sir Peter Bazalgette (please see link to Council independent members' biographies). The RCA's Vice-Chancellor – the CEO of the institution – is Dr Paul Thompson, who joined the College in 2009.

The RCA's academic faculty bring world-leading expertise and industry knowledge to the practice-based model of teaching. There is a core academic and research workforce of 230 FTE, supported by around 170 Associate Lecturers and a wide range of Guest Lecturers who bring 'live' industry experience into the taught curriculum – for example, Amin Taha of GrantOn design, whose work was twice shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize, in 2017 and 2021, teaches in the School of Architecture; and Yao Yingjia, who is Vice President and Chief Designer at Lenovo teaches in the School of Design.

The RCA combines contemporary and industry-focused teaching perspectives. It also employs a team of 95 highly skilled technicians, many of whom themselves have postgraduate qualifications in their fields of specialism, which range from rapid prototyping and subtractive manufacturing to film and sound engineering, and from digital modelling to metal fabrication and jewellery making.

Our Values



Photo: Shaun James

The RCA community operates in line with four agreed values:

Curiosity

We have a tenacious commitment to innovation and openness to change. We positively interrogate ideas, assumptions and plans and welcome the honest scrutiny that is alive in a learning community.

Inclusion

We celebrate diversity and embrace difference as a source of strength. We strive for an inclusive RCA community, removing barriers and challenging exclusionary and discriminatory practices.

Collaboration

We value what happens together and we help and support each other to achieve our collective goals. We work in partnership with our students, staff, alumni, institutions and communities across the globe to make a lasting difference.

Integrity

We are always willing to listen, we offer constructive feedback and we promote accountability, building relationships of mutual trust and respect. We are resilient in the face of challenges, pursuing outcomes with individual, cultural, societal and economic impact.

Information, Learning & Technical Services (ILTS)



Photo: Richard Haughton

ILTS (IT, Library, and Technical Services) is a cross-College directorate that supports staff and students to meet their academic objectives through a broad range of services. We provide leadership and expertise in implementing digital systems to enable more efficient working practices across the College. We have skilled and specialist staff on all three RCA sites.

Technical Services:

Technical Services is a cross-college department of technical specialists that support all Teaching, Learning, Research & Knowledge exchange at the RCA.

Specialist Technical Instructor Making



Photo: Richard Haughton

Purpose of the post:

- Take a lead in ensuring the effective provision and availability of specialist equipment and work areas in order to facilitate academic delivery, student learning, research and knowledge transfer activities.
- Provide highly skilled technical assistance, guidance and instruction to all users, demonstrating equipment and processes as appropriate.
- Provide support to the Lead Technical Instructor in the day-to-day function of technical services within the area of Making.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Plan, organise and provide technical support, advice and demonstrations in the Making workshops.
- Take a lead in delivering the Making Technical provision covering bench, wood, metal, and plastics.
- Actively support the growth of Making technical spaces, equipment and resources across the College.
- Be responsible for the Making technical spaces, contribute to the creation of learning materials and operate and maintain tools, equipment and processes in the Making workshops.
- Monitor work being carried out in the Making technical spaces, ensuring high standards of health & safety and housekeeping at all times.
- Support the research, buying and setting up of new equipment and services by maintaining industry links and identifying new and relevant technologies and practices.
- Ongoing learning of Making processes as part of a dynamic team.
- Assist students and staff of all abilities in problem solving and finding technical solutions.
- Promote best practice within the Making technical spaces, maintain specialist equipment, monitor safety and keep accurate records. Actively support the Lead Technical Instructor in the completion of risk assessments, ensuring all assessments are suitable, sufficient and remain up to date.
- Support college Teaching, Learning & Research activity that may require support in the development of Making, as appropriate for the role.
- Develop, create and maintain learning and promotional material.

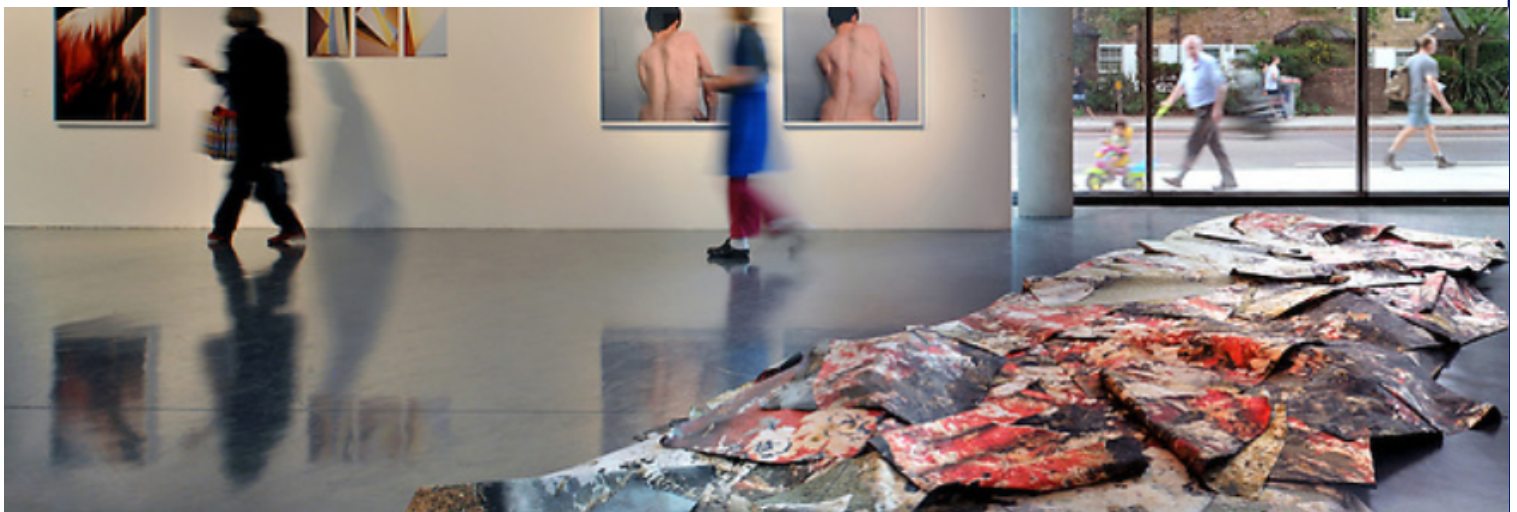


Photo: Philip Vale

- Participate in the reviewing and monitoring of technical facilities. Liaise with Academic, Professional Services, IT Services, Research staff and all other service providers and users with regards to the current resource provision and future developments.
- Represent Technical Services and the Making team by attending appropriate meetings as agreed with the Lead Technical Instructor.
- Comply with all Royal College of Art policies and procedures.
- Support events and exhibitions as required including the handling, transportation and installation of art works.
- Assist in the selection, training, induction and supervision of new and temporary staff.
- Undertake any other duties consistent with the role as required and in agreement with the Technical Coordinator and or Technical Services Manager.



Photo: Iwan Baan

Person Specification

Essential characteristics of the postholder:

- Significant, highly skilled, specialist knowledge and experience with a variety of processes for working with wood, metal and plastics.
- Experience of planning and delivering in person technical workshops.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills in a dynamic, fast paced environment.
- The ability to use initiative and work as part of a team.
- Excellent organisational, time management, planning and problem solving skills.
- Excellent user focus and a flexible approach.
- Experience of creating online learning materials is essential.
- Knowledge of Health and Safety issues and Risk Assessment procedures.



Photo: Richard Haughton

Pay & Benefits

Additional Information:

- Grade 7 salary working 35 hours per week: £41,847 - £45,374 per annum inclusive of London Allowance.
- 25 days annual leave plus extended breaks at Christmas and Easter at the discretion of the college (pro rata for fractional posts).
- Contributory final salary pension scheme and interest free season ticket loan are available.
- 1FTE, permanent role based in London - White City, Kensington & Battersea



Photo: Philip Vale

Pension

The Royal College of Art is a member of the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL) which is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme. The college will contribute a sum equal to 16% of your salary while you pay 6%.

Holiday

25 days paid leave a year plus bank and public holidays normally observed in England and Wales. In addition, the college is normally closed for six days a year, one day on either side of Easter and the remainder between Christmas and New Year. Part-time staff will be entitled to the pro rata equivalent.

Season ticket loans

Interest-free loans are available for staff to purchase annual season tickets.

Enhanced maternity and adoption pay

Qualifying employees are entitled to enhanced maternity/adoption pay: 26 weeks' full pay, 13 weeks Statutory Maternity/Adoption Pay. This compares to the statutory provision of 90% of average pay for 6 weeks followed by Statutory Maternity/Adoption Pay for 33 weeks.

Enhanced paternity pay

Qualifying employees are entitled to two weeks' paternity leave entitlement at full pay. This compares to the statutory provision of two weeks' pay at the statutory rate.

Enhanced sick pay

Occupational sick pay after six months' service is three months full pay/three months half pay.

24/7 confidential support

Staff and family members in their household have access to a free, external confidential support service for work, financial, legal, family and personal problems 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Occupational health

Occupational Health support for the College is provided by Imperial College's occupational health service at their South Kensington Campus.

Life Cover

Active members of the SAUL pension scheme automatically receive life cover. A lump sum of four times your salary together with a refund of your contributions and a 2/3 pension for your dependent/spouse is payable should you die whilst in employment.

Library

All staff are welcome to join the college library.

Events

All staff are welcome to attend exhibitions, lectures and private views held by academic schools and programmes.