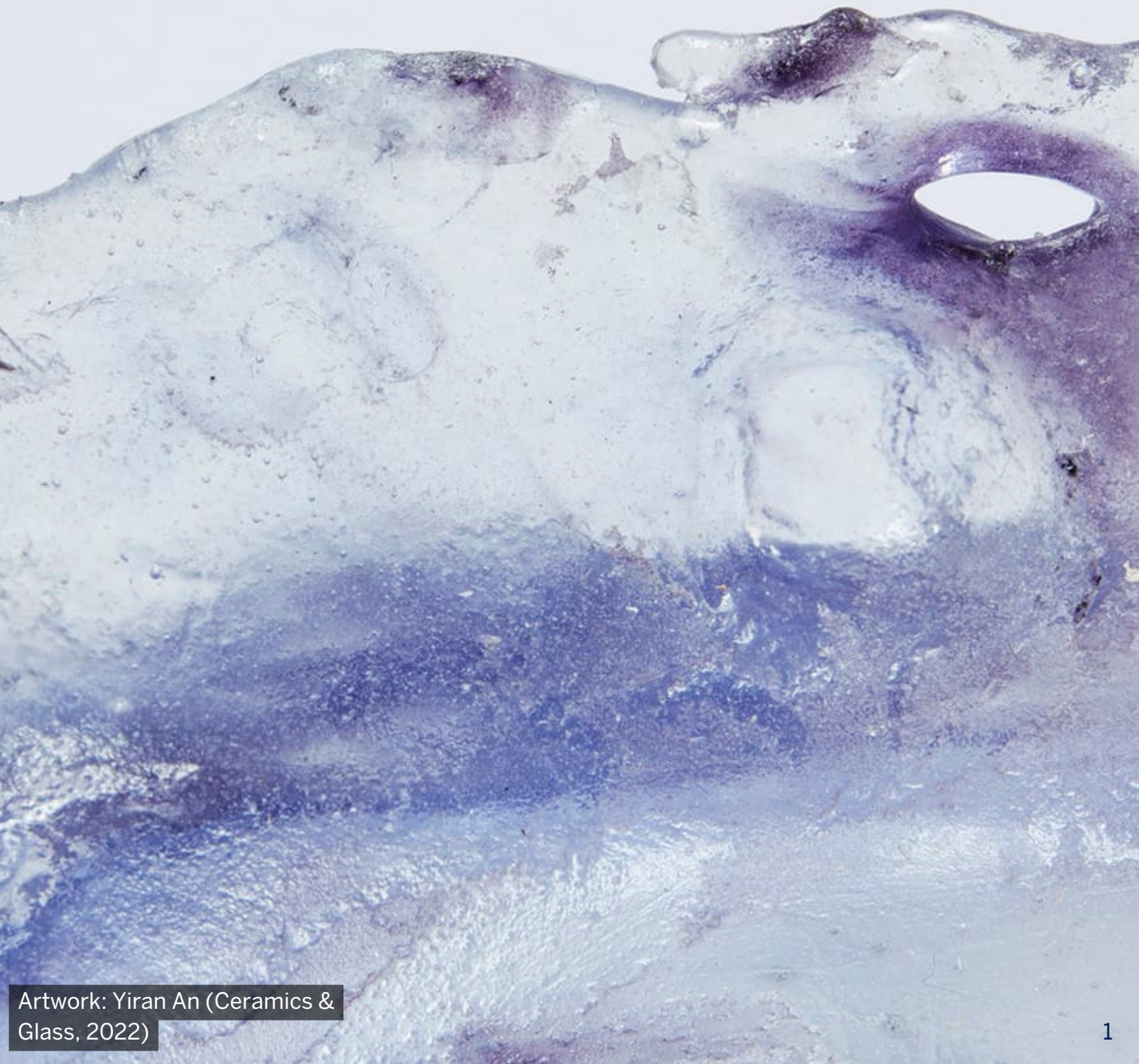


RCA

Associate Lecturer January 2024



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-level institution 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 2021.

Studying at the RCA is the starting point for the world's creative leaders. With more than 25,000 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 2,800 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. 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

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 President and Vice-Chancellor – the CEO of the institution – is Dr Paul Thompson, who joined the College in 2009, but will be leaving in May 2024. The incoming President and Vice-Chancellor is Professor Christoph Lindner, who will be joining the RCA in April 2024.

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 196 FTE, supported by around 215 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.

School of Communication



Photo: Richard Haughton

In the RCA's School of Communication, we are interrogating the fundamental ways in which communication shapes our lives and using this knowledge to develop new ways of communicating and shaping the world through experimental and sometimes radical communication practices.

The School offers students and researchers the opportunity to develop their practices and careers as artists, communicators, curators, designers and writers. All are encouraged to focus in depth on the particularities of their own work while also being exposed to critically diverse positions across the School and to wider contexts and issues beyond, both across the College and in relation to challenges of societal, environmental, economic and cultural importance. We also work across media to experiment boldly with outcomes that take many forms, from graphic novel to VR experience, animated film to sound shower.

As a School, we are inspired by practices of communication that are culturally informed and historically aware, that encourage dialogue and are robust enough to celebrate and make space for new ideas, different voices, and other ways of thinking and making. We have a distinctive research and knowledge exchange culture based upon a dynamic interplay between communication practice and theory, encompassing a broad range of subjects and approaches. Research projects in the school range from highly individuated scholarly and creative enquiry to projects concerning public policy and social justice, to speculative practice-focused enquiry.

Digital Direction



Photo: Richard Haughton

Digital Direction addresses our urgent need for inclusive and relevant storytelling. Our programme examines the emergence of new technologies for telling stories, such as VR, AR and mobile platforms, alongside the future of storytelling itself. Our purpose is to inspire communication practitioners to approach contemporary communication critically, and to discover new and meaningful ways to tell stories in our world today. The programme is not just open to practitioners from the arts but aimed at journalists, writers, musicians, theatre makers and anyone who wants to experiment creatively and collectively with new narrative approaches driven by ethical, environmental, epistemological and social imperatives. It is for students who want to use emerging storytelling tools and technologies critically, working with others to assemble and amplify stories that should be told and heard.

Associate Lecturer



Photo: Richard Haughton

Role Profile:

Associate Lecturers (ALs) at the Royal College of Art (RCA) contribute high-quality, postgraduate teaching and tuition to complement and enhance core teaching delivery of Programmes across Schools and Directorates. ALs bring leading industry expertise and specialism, often from diverse disciplines and sectors, ensuring students receive depth and diversity in their Programme learning and multi-disciplinary input during their studies. Depending on the specific scope of your employment you will be required to fulfil elements of the below as appropriate, directed by your Senior Tutor, Assistant Dean, or Dean.

Purpose of Role

The Associate Lecturer will be responsible for contributing to high-quality teaching and tuition to complement and enhance core teaching delivery of the study of digital storytelling, including ecological and environmental concerns and intersectional practices. Applicants should demonstrate knowledge and experience of current approaches to addressing ecological and environmental issues within the global context and within the field of digital storytelling, including working critically with emerging digital technologies (e.g. AI/ML, XR, games).

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

Learning & teaching:

- Contribute to teaching, delivering high-quality digital storytelling and related content, that meets the needs of individual students.
- Contribute to delivering cross-school and cross-disciplinary teaching and related activities as appropriate.
- Provide academic, pastoral and technical (as appropriate) tutorial support to students, including regular on-to-one meetings as agreed.
- Provide regular feedback to students to help them develop their skills and improve the quality of their work.
- Provide up-to-date knowledge of the subject of digital storytelling and professional contexts.
- Keep abreast of innovation and best practice in learning and teaching.
- Continually update own knowledge and understanding in academic specialism.
- Participate in the assessment of student work[1].

Note:

1. ALs are not expected to participate in research but are expected to deliver research-based postgraduate teaching
2. ALs may contribute to (but will not be responsible for) summative assessment. The role of ALs in summative assessment remains subject to further review.

Academic delivery, administration & citizenship:

- Attends (as appropriate to their fraction) some School Wide or Programme Level planning events as part of Academic delivery, administration & citizenship.
- Participate in field trips in line with programme requirements, supporting student learning and helping to ensure pedagogic value from such trips.
- Undertake risk assessments for work as necessary, complying with the necessary policies and procedures and ensuring the safety of students and colleagues.
- Contribute to curriculum design and supporting material to help ensure high quality academic content and innovation in learning and teaching, and assessment.
- Participate and contribute to Staff Student Consultative Committees in the review of Unit delivery.
- Be committed to the College objectives for Equality and Diversity and participate in mandatory College training, including Unconscious Bias training and Diversity Awareness development.

Person Specification

Essential characteristics of the postholder:

- First degree in a relevant digital storytelling specialism.
- Commitment to high quality teaching of ecological and environmental concerns including intersectional practices in digital storytelling and fostering a positive learning environment for students.
- Commitment to continuous professional development.
- Commitment to equality of opportunity and evidence of the ability to work harmoniously with students of all cultures and backgrounds.
- Experience of one to one and group teaching and tutoring on-line and through blended learning modes.
- Experience of the industry context relevant to the field of digital storytelling.

Desirable characteristics of the postholder:

- ·A Masters degree in a digital storytelling discipline.
- ·Evidence of the ability to supervise academic work at Masters levels as appropriate to the role.
- ·Experience of devising and teaching courses at Masters level informed by quality imperatives for the student experience.



Photo: Richard Haughton

Pay & Benefits

Additional Information:

- Salary working 5 days per week: £53,436 per annum pro rata inclusive of London Allowance.
- 30 days annual leave plus extended breaks at Christmas and Easter pro-rata for part-time staff
- A contributory defined benefit pension scheme and interest-free season ticket loan are available
- The successful candidate will be required to work at White City Campus as well as across the RCA's other London sites (Kensington and Battersea) as necessary and reasonably requested.
- Grade: 8, Fixed term for 8 months, 0.14FTE



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

30 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 shared parental pay

Qualifying employees are entitled to enhanced shared parental pay: up to 24 weeks' paid at the full rate of the employee's normal pay (only in the first 26 weeks following the start of maternity/adoption leave), followed by 13 weeks Statutory Shared Parental Pay. This compares to the statutory provision of up to 37 weeks paid at the statutory rate or 90% of average weekly earnings, whichever is lower.

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.