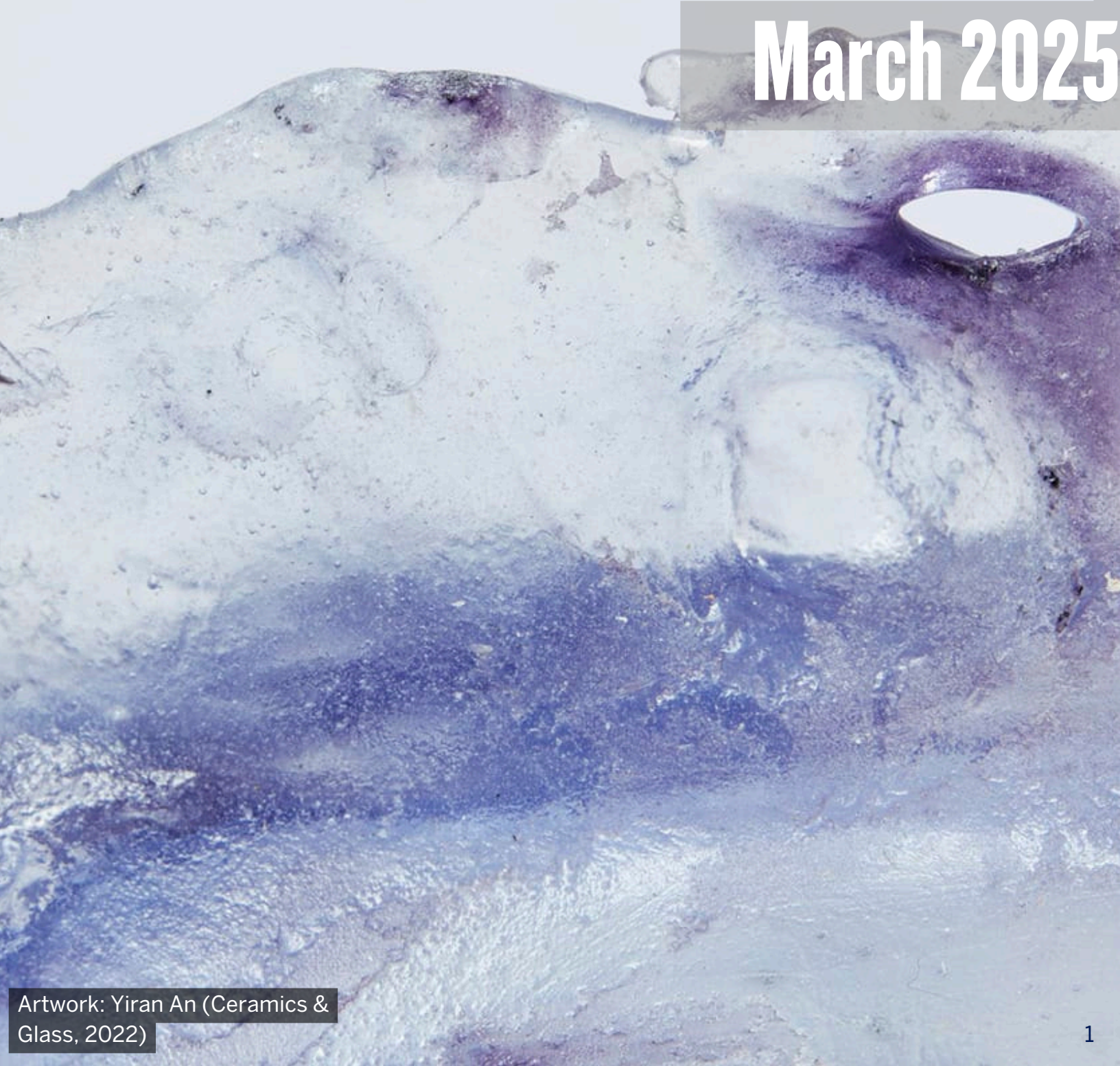


RCA

Tutor (teaching) V&A/RCA MA History of Design

March 2025



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 ten consecutive years, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024 – 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 role of Royal Visitor to the RCA was taken on by The former Prince of Wales – now His Majesty The King – in 2018. The announcement of HM The King's retained Patronage of the RCA marks the first anniversary of Their Majesties' Coronation. As part of the official Coronation Concert in May 2023, the Royal College of Art along with The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera, the Royal Shakespeare Company, and the Royal College of Music came together for the first time ever to create a spectacular one-off performance, with a striking visual backdrop of specially-designed artworks contributed by students from the Royal College of Art.

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 & Vice-Chancellor – the CEO of the institution – is Professor Christoph Lindner who joined the College 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 Arts & Humanities



Photo: Richard Haughton

The School of Arts & Humanities provides transformative learning experiences for our engaged and curious global cohorts through intellectually and conceptually linked postgraduate study from Master's level through to PhD. Art intersects with curating, writing, and the history of design, integrating both traditional and contemporary studio-based making with innovative humanities, fine and applied art programmes.

Each programme fosters a distinctive culture, promoting peer-to-peer learning enriched by the expertise of our teaching staff, who are renowned researchers and practitioners, advancing practice-led knowledge production and shaping the curriculum through ambitious methodologies. Students benefit from opportunities for collaboration and professional development both across the School and the College, and with external partners including leading museums, galleries and cultural organisations in London and beyond. Our dynamic roster of visionary speakers and lecturers offers specialised insights and critical feedback across all aspects of our teaching and learning.

We are responsive to the contemporary world, embracing ongoing global reassessments of societal, ethical, and cultural priorities. We celebrate the vital contributions of imaginative exploration, alongside the critical and speculative thinking nurtured by the arts and humanities, which are essential to shaping and informing emerging global cultures.

Our ethos and heritage is rooted in nurturing original voices who go on to make long-lasting, significant impacts in their disciplines. Graduates from the RCA's School of Arts & Humanities are active worldwide, leading and influencing the international cultural landscape. From artists and ceramicists to curators, gallery owners, and writers, our alumni are prominent figures in their fields. We proudly maintain a broad, global alumni network, with graduates leading diverse and influential careers across the cultural spectrum.

The School supports focused research and study within an environment that is ambitious in generating new practices and insights. We thrive on interaction across the broad areas of fine and applied arts and the humanities, through School-wide lectures, workshops and tutorials delivered by key contemporary artists, writers, curators and thinkers, many of whom form part of our permanent staff base.

Programme: The V&A/RCA History of Design Postgraduate Programme (MA, MPhil and PhD)



Photo: Richard Haughton

Taught MA and MPhil and PhD research degrees in the History of Design are jointly offered by two-world-leading centres for scholarship and creativity: The RCA and the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A). The Programme is co-run and co-delivered by a dedicated academic team based in the V&A Research Institute (VARI) at the V&A and in the School of Arts and Humanities at the RCA. It draws on the facilities and faculties of both institutions. Established in 1982, the Programme attracts over 30 MA and PhD students per year. Many of our graduates go on to teach and research in universities worldwide; others work as curators in museums and galleries, as journalists for print and broadcast media, and in design practice and research, cultural heritage and arts management.

The MA provides a deep training in tools and approaches for studying the role of design and material culture in everyday life, across a global geography from 1400 to the present. It uses artefact analysis – digital as well as material – alongside a range of historical methods to generate new perspectives on historical and contemporary issues. It embraces history that is public facing, experimental and committed to scholarly excellence, as befits its location between public museum and art school.

Tutor (teaching) V&A/RCA MA History of Design



Photo: Richard Haughton

Purpose of Role

The Tutor will deliver and promote the study of expanded History of Design and Material Culture. Working with the Head of Programme and Senior Tutor, the person appointed to the role will be responsible for contributing to high-quality supervision and teaching of the programme. Alongside colleagues in the programme they will support in publications, symposia, exhibitions, and other forms of realisation and dissemination for the programme's projects.

The Tutor will be informed about current issues and developments in higher education and will be up to date with current experience design practices and research nationally and internationally, ensuring that the course is informed by changes in technology and media, education, and the wider socio-political environment, and that it leads to academic innovation in these areas.

We are looking for an outstanding Tutor who has an acknowledged standing as a researcher and/or practitioner in the field of design history and material culture studies. They will have experience of teaching and supervising students of design history and material culture at postgraduate level, including methods and approaches in contemporary history, the use of digital sources, and possess a broad knowledge of the history of design and material culture in the period 1800 to the present. Demonstrable commitment to global design histories and an active engagement with ethical working and equal opportunities within the discipline is also essential.

This post provides 0.4FTE Fellowship teaching cover, 1 April to 31 August 2025.

Tutor (teaching) V&A/RCA MA History of Design



Photo: Richard Haughton

THE ROLE OF TUTOR:

To contribute towards the on-going work of the School of Arts and Humanities and the Royal College of Art more broadly.

Demonstrate enthusiasm for working with students and alongside colleagues with the high levels of commitment and energy required by a world-leading environment.

To be well networked and demonstrably engaged with a relevant international context, from which tutor will be prepared to draw for the benefit of the College.

To support and respond to the work of V&A/RCA History of Design students, including through the delivery of lectures, workshops, seminars and 1:1 tutoring.

To contribute to discussions about the development of the curriculum and be prepared to pioneer new ways of teaching.

To undertake administration around teaching and assessment as required by the established structures present across the School.

To promote the College and its staff and students, acting always as a positive advocate for the Royal College of Art.

Tutor (teaching) V&A/RCA MA History of Design



Photo: Richard Haughton

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Across the following areas of focus and delivery the tutor is expected to:

Learning & teaching

- Provide academic, pastoral and technical (as appropriate) tutorial support to students, including regular one to one meetings as agreed
- Provide regular feedback to students to help them develop their skills and improve the quality of their work
- Participate in the assessment of student work, including through participation in the assessment board as required, ensuring a rigorous and fair assessment of the work
- If directed by the head of programme, lead a designated high quality project, ensuring delivery on time and on budget
- Contribute to, deliver and where appropriate lead on cross-college, cross-school and cross-disciplinary teaching as appropriate
- Keep abreast of innovation and best practice in learning and teaching in own subject
- Continually update own knowledge and understanding in academic specialism
- Supervise research students (MPhil or PhD as appropriate)
- Contribute to teaching, delivering high quality teaching content that meets the needs of individual students
- Actively engage in broader educational issues, such as external examining and attending conferences
- Contribute to curriculum design and supporting material to help ensure high quality academic content and innovation in learning and teaching, and assessment

Tutor (teaching) V&A/RCA MA History of Design



Photo: Richard Haughton

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Across the following areas of focus and delivery the tutor is expected to:

Academic management, administration & citizenship

- Participate in student recruitment, including assessing student ability and potential to inform recruitment decisions
- Promote the College to potential students, through speaking engagements, attendance at promotional events, or other relevant activities
- Lead 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
- Participate in college committees as appropriate, contributing to sound decision making

Knowledge transfer & executive education

- Contribute towards proposals for funding and manage any individual grants awarded to ensure delivery of objectives
- Seek to develop links with industry in area of specialism to promote the College and its students

Person Specification

Characteristics of the Post Holder

Essential

- First degree in a relevant specialism.
- A doctorate in relevant field or evidence of appropriate professional practice or academic achievement
- Evidence of the ability to supervise academic work at masters.
- Experience of devising and teaching courses, and setting and assessing written work, project work and self-directed work at undergraduate or postgraduate degree level.
- Demonstrable commitment to high quality teaching and fostering a positive learning environment for students. Awareness of quality assurance and enhancement frameworks in Higher Education.
- Demonstrable commitment to continuous professional development.
- Demonstrable commitment to diversity and equality of opportunity and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and students of all cultures and backgrounds.
- Experience of working around themes and discourses that will further the diversity of the RCA community.

Desirable

- A postgraduate certificate (PGCert) in higher education and/or accredited fellow of the Higher Education Academy.
- Experience of supervising MPhil and PhD students.

Pay & Benefits

Additional Information:

Additional information

- Salary working 5 days per week: G9 from £53,954 per annum pro rata inclusive of London Allowance.
- Normal hours will total 14 hours per week over 2 days, 9.30am to 5.30pm with an hour each day for lunch.
- Location: The successful candidate will be required to work at our Kensington campus and at the V&A Museum, and across the RCA's other London sites (Battersea and White City) as necessary and reasonably requested.
- 30 days annual leave plus extended breaks at Christmas and Easter, on a pro rata basis.
- A contributory defined benefit pension scheme and interest free season ticket loan are available.
- The College requires newly appointment academic staff who are not in possession of a recognised qualification in learning and teaching in higher education to obtain an appropriate qualification in learning and teaching.

Post: Tutor (Teaching)

School: Arts & Humanities

Programme: V&A/RCA MA History of Design

Grade: 9

FTE: 0.4

Responsible to: Head of Programme



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 six weeks' paternity leave entitlement at full pay.

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 three 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.



Equality, diversity and inclusion - Disability and neurodiversity

Disability Confident

RCA is a Disability Confident Committed employer. You may recognise the logo from our job adverts.

Disability Confident is a government scheme designed to encourage employers to recruit, retain, and develop disabled people. RCA was originally awarded the Disability Confident certificate in October 2022, which broadens and deepens our existing commitment as an employer.

As a Disability Confident Committed employer, we commit to the below core activities:

- ensure our recruitment process is inclusive and accessible
- communicating and promoting vacancies
- offering an interview to disabled people who meet the minimum criteria for the job
- anticipating and providing reasonable adjustments as required
- supporting any existing employee who acquires a disability or long-term health condition, enabling them to stay in work
- at least one activity that will make a difference for disabled people



10 YEARS

as the world's N°1
University for Art & Design

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2015-24

Together, the RCA community can generate change now for a sustainable future everywhere.