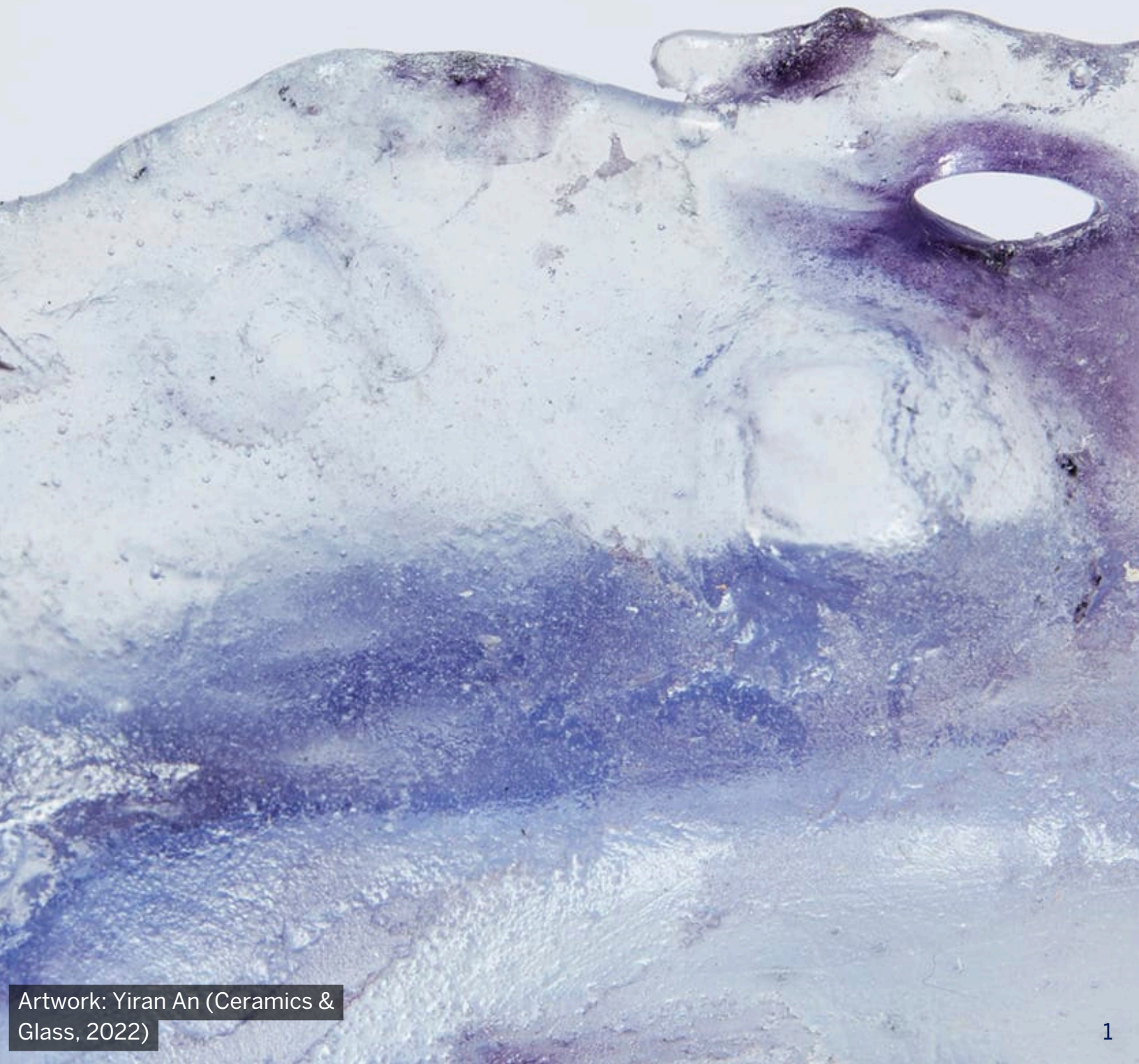


# RCA

## Technical Instructor in Art & Design April 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 eleven consecutive years, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025 – 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:



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.



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.



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.



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.

# Graduate Diploma



## Technical Services:

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

## The Graduate Diploma

The Graduate Diploma Art & Design prepares students for Master's study in Art and Design. The programme focuses on developing proficiency in the discursive languages and independent learning methods and practices of art and design, and on introducing students to the role and influence of art and design in the world today.

The programme aims to make its participants better informed about the study options available to them, as well as the possible career paths that they might follow beyond graduation.

The programme will be interdisciplinary in nature, mirroring the experience of Master's study at the RCA, however Graduate Diploma students will be invited to select a specialism at enrolment from the following areas: Communication; Fine Art; Humanities; Fashion & Textiles, and Product, Interiors & Spatial Design.

# Technical Instructor in Art & Design



Photo: Richard Haughton

## Main Purpose of the Role:

The Technical Instructor will support the Lead Technical Instructor as part of the team, in the day-to-day operation of the Making Space - the dedicated technical facility for the Graduate Diploma programme at the Royal College of Art. This role provides hands-on technical support and instructional guidance across a broad range of processes, enabling students to explore and integrate diverse technical methods into their creative projects. The postholder will contribute to the effective running of the Making Space, ensuring the availability of equipment, resources, and work areas to support academic delivery, student learning, and Research Knowledge Exchange and Innovation (RKEI) activities.



Photo: Richard Haughton

### Main duties:

#### Student Support and Instruction:

- Provide technical support, advice, and demonstrations on a wide range of physical and digital processes relevant to art and design practices within the Making Space.
- Assist students in developing technical skills at an introductory to intermediate level, enabling them to realise their creative projects through diverse fabrication techniques.
- Support students and staff in problem-solving and developing technical solutions that integrate multiple processes.
- Balance multiple student queries and technical processes simultaneously, requiring adaptability and strong communication skills.
- Encourage a learning environment based on guided autonomy, supporting students in developing their own technical abilities rather than fabricating work for them.
- Contribute to the creation and maintenance of learning resources that support student engagement with physical and digital technical processes.
- Promote collaboration and skill-sharing by fostering connections between departments and enhancing interdisciplinary technical learning.

## Main duties (cont):

### Workshop Operations and Maintenance:

- Ensure the effective operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of tools and equipment within the Making Space.
- Monitor student activity, ensuring high standards of health & safety, and housekeeping at all times.
- Daily interaction with and updating of digital booking systems that provide students with fair access to technical support and facilities.
- Support the procurement, research, and implementation of new equipment and services by maintaining industry links and identifying emerging technologies and practices.
- Assist the Lead Technical Instructor in the completion and updating of risk assessments and COSHH reports, ensuring compliance with safety regulations.
- Uphold best practices within the Making Space, including specialist equipment maintenance, safety monitoring, and accurate record-keeping.

### Administrative and Institutional Support:

- Support college-wide teaching, learning, and research activities as appropriate to the role.
- Assist in the preparation and installation of exhibitions and events, including the handling, transportation, and setup of artworks.
- Contribute to the training and induction of new or temporary staff within the Making Space.
- Collaborate with Academic, Professional Services, IT Services, and Research staff to review and enhance technical resource provision and future developments.
- Adhere to all Royal College of Art policies and procedures.
- Undertake any other duties consistent with the role as required and in agreement with the Lead Technical Instructor and Technical Services Manager.



## Technical Processes Supported in the Making Space:

The Making Space provides students with access to a broad range of physical and digital processes. While applicants are not expected to be specialists in all areas, familiarity with a diverse set of skills and a willingness to learn are essential. We also welcome applicants who can bring additional relevant skills, particularly as the Graduate Diploma expands.

### Physical Processes:

- Laser Cutting
- Exposure Unit (primarily for cyanotypes)
- Dye Sublimation Printing and Heat Press
- Canvas Stretching
- Stretcher Bar Cutting and Joining
- Traditional Printmaking Techniques (including Screen Printing and Etching using Laser Engraved Plates)
- Papermaking
- Casting & Mould Making
- Clay Sculpting
- Bioplastics
- Woodworking (Power tools: Drill, Jigsaw, Mitre Saw, Plunge Saw, Router, Dremel; Hand Tools for Wood and Metal)
- Textiles (Bernina Domestic Sewing Machines; Juki Industrial Sewing Machine / Overlocker)
- Basic Leatherwork
- Basic Metal Work
- Book Binding

### Digital Processes:

- Photography (Artwork documentation, studio lighting, Canon DSLR kit)
- Videography
- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Premiere Pro
- Adobe InDesign (for creating portfolios of work)
- Adobe Illustrator (for creating vectors for laser cutting)
- Blender
- Rhino 3D Modeler
- Touch Designer
- Logic Pro
- Sound Recording Equipment

This role provides an exciting opportunity to contribute to an evolving technical environment, supporting students in exploring innovative ways to merge processes and realise their creative ideas.

# Person Specification

## Essential Skills and Experience:

- A strong technical knowledge of diverse art and design processes, with the ability to support multiple students and workflows simultaneously. Adaptable and proactive in managing technical support requests within a fast-paced learning environment.
- Prior experience delivering in-person/online technical instruction, preferably in a creative technical support role.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to work closely with students and staff, including those who may struggle to articulate their technical needs.
- Experience supporting learners from diverse backgrounds, including online students engaging from various locations and circumstances. Confident working with a community that encompasses a wide range of educational experiences, including those new to UK art and design education.
- Ability to use initiative and work effectively as part of a team within a fast-paced, multidisciplinary environment.
- Excellent organisational, time management, and problem-solving skills.

## Desirable Skills and Experience:

- Experience working alongside academic colleagues in a higher education or creative learning environment.
- Experience creating online learning materials to support technical instruction.



Photo: Iwan Baan

# Pay & Benefits

## Additional Information:

- Responsible to: Lead Technical Instructor in Art and Design, Graduate Diploma
- Full time salary: Grade 6 - £38,186 - £42,953 per annum including London Allowance.
- 1FTE, 35 hours per week, permanent role.
- 27 days annual leave plus extended breaks at Christmas and Easter, at the discretion of the College. Pro rata for part time employees
- A contributory defined benefit pension scheme and interest-free season ticket loan are available
- Location: All 3 sites, London
- Department: Technical Services



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

27 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 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





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

QS World University Rankings  
by Subject 2015-25

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