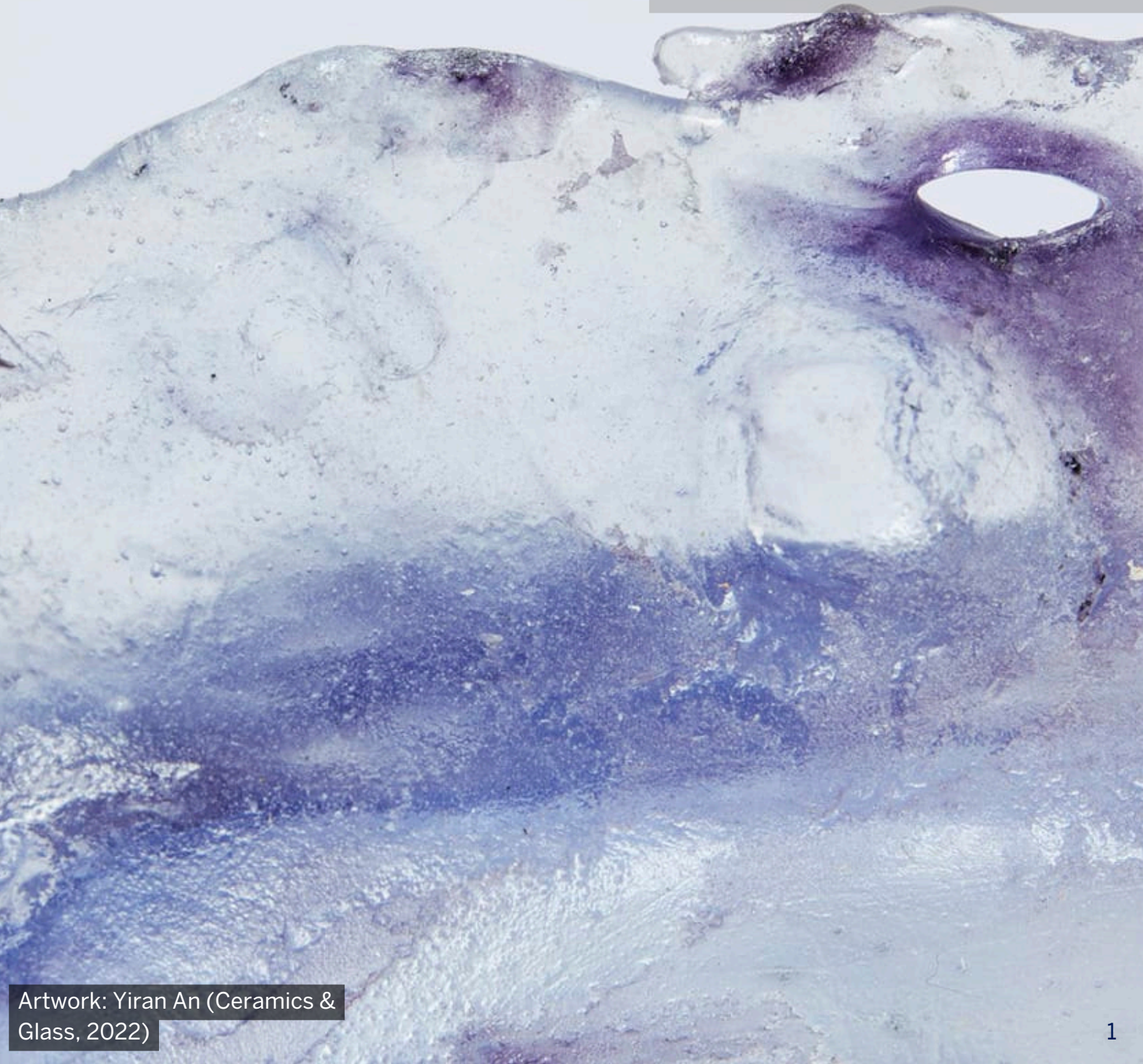


# RCA

# Tutor (research) MA Photography

## October 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.



# 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. 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 degrees 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.

Fostering a unique culture of peer-to-peer learning, our responsive curriculum is developed by expert staff who are both researchers and practitioners. Students benefit from opportunities to collaborate across the School, College, and with London's leading cultural organisations. Reflecting contemporary shifts in global social and ethical dynamics, our ambition is to nurture creative exploration alongside speculative and critical thinking to shape and develop our understanding of how creativity and culture can become the most significant agents of change. Graduates from the School lead influential careers worldwide, making significant contributions across the international cultural landscape.

# Programme: MA Photography



Photo: Richard Haughton

## Programme Info

The MA Photography programme at the RCA comprises a unique, cross-disciplinary community of artists and writers working at the cutting edge of contemporary photographic practice and image-making. We understand photography to be an expansive and evolving practice, which includes the still and moving image, publishing, performance, installation, social practice, sound, synthetic media, text, and writing. Central to our approach is the practising, theorising, and receiving of photography as a field unrestricted by the conventions of material, medium, format, discipline, and genre. Important to our programme ethos is a commitment to process; to the unknown, indeterminate, speculative, and hybrid.

We are committed to probing what the photographic image is, and could be, across contemporary art practices. From diverse perspectives we consider digital and analogue forms of photography in relation to socio-political debates, intercultural discourses, exchanges between theory and practice, and emerging modes of circulation and distribution. Driven by research-led teaching and state-of-the-art technical facilities, students and staff contribute to vital discussions about the future of the image today at an urgent time of ecological crisis and technological change impacted by questions of visibility and representation.



# Tutor (research) MA Photography



Photo: Richard Haughton

## Purpose of the Role

We seek to appoint an artist-researcher with expertise in photography and a practice that engages the relationship between text and image, broadly understood. The postholder will contribute to the MA Photography programme (0.4FTE) and to the MFA Arts & Humanities (0.4FTE), including teaching within the Poetics of Care elective.

They will bring a contemporary understanding of photography's expanded field — including its intersections with AI, ecology, and the politics of representation — and a sensitivity to the ethical, social and imaginative dimensions of care. The postholder will contribute to the intellectual and pedagogical culture of both programmes, supporting students' development through teaching, supervision, pastoral care and participation in the life of the School.

# Tutor (research) MA Photography



Photo: Richard Haughton

## MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### 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 and research activities 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
- 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 (research) MA Photography



Photo: Richard Haughton

## Research

- Disseminate research findings through appropriate channels, and in line with the College's overall strategy
- Complete and keep up to date five-year individual research plan, reviewed and updated annually
- Develop and follow research interests in line with the strategic direction of the College and school, in consultation with the Head of Programme and the Dean
- Determine relevant research objectives and prepare proposals tailored to the appropriate audiences
- Consistently produce research outputs of at least 3\* REF quality to enable submission to the REF
- Ensure that research makes a significant contribution to the overall standing of the school
- Conduct and lead individual research projects, building a programme of research which contributes to the overall standing and reputation of the College and contribute to school research funding targets

## 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 to the annual MA Photography programme and to the MFA Arts & Humanities, as well as design summer short course and other ad hoc short courses designed within the programme
- 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

- Active artist-researcher with an internationally recognised practice engaging photography and its expanded field.
- Expertise in the relationship between text and image, and/or socially or ethically engaged modes of visual practice.
- Evidence of research excellence and a research plan commensurate with the College's standards.
- Proven ability to deliver high-quality teaching at postgraduate level.
- Commitment to fostering inclusive and supportive learning environments.
- Strong communication and collaboration skills, with the ability to work across disciplines.
- A doctorate in relevant field or evidence of appropriate professional practice or academic achievement

### Desirable

- Research or teaching experience related to care, health, ecology, or decolonial practice.
- Interest in AI and the future of photography, and the ability to engage critically with new image technologies.
- Experience of successful grant or project funding.
- Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (or willingness to obtain within two years of appointment).



# Pay & Benefits

## Additional Information:

- Salary working 5 days per week: from £ 55,040 per annum pro rata inclusive of London Allowance.
- Normal hours will total 28 per week over 4 days, 9.30am to 5.30pm with an hour each day for lunch
- 30 days annual leave plus extended breaks at Christmas and Easter pro-rata
- A contributory defined benefit pensionscheme and interestfree season ticketloan are available
- Time to conduct research will be allocated to the person appointed on the basis of the College's Academic Employment Framework. This stipulates a minimum of 20% research time for a research academic.
- The successful candidate will be required to work at our Kensington campus, and across the RCA's other London sites (White City and Battersea) as necessary and reasonably requested.

Post: Tutor (Research)  
School: Arts & Humanities  
Programme: MA Photography programme (0.4FTE) and MFA Arts & Humanities (0.4FTE)  
Grade: 9  
Responsible to: Head of Programme  
FTE: 0.8, Fixed term - maternity cover until 31/3/27



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





**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.