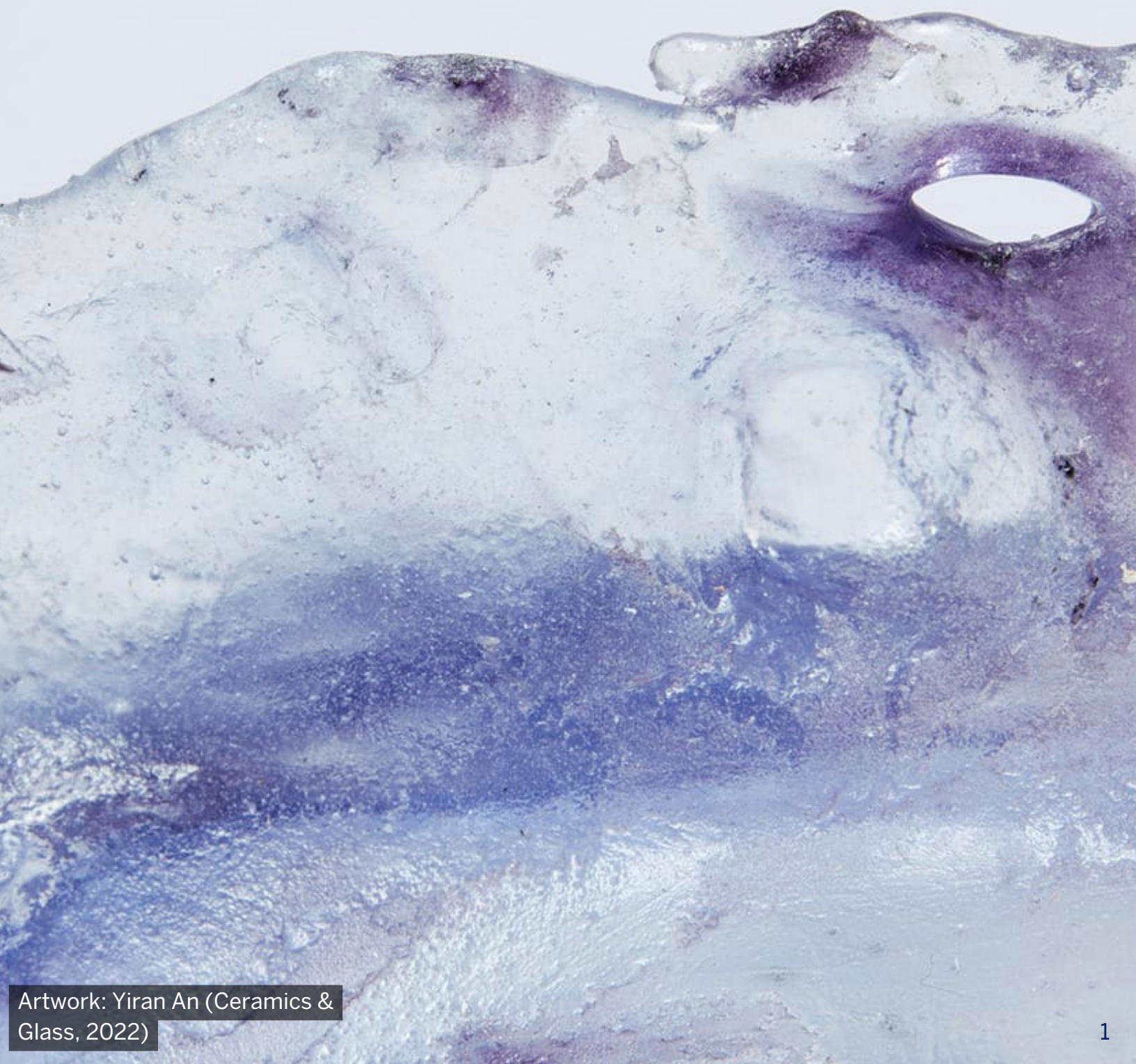


RCA

PGR Biennale Curator (casual) August 2026



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 postgraduate-only community of art and design students. It has been ranked number one in the world 12 consecutive years (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2015-2026).

Studying at the RCA is the starting point for UK and global creative leaders. With more than 30,000 RCA alumni all over the world, the College's graduates form a diverse international network of artists, designers, creators and innovators.

Around 2,500 students are spread across three schools – Architecture, Arts & Humanities, Communication & Design - and in the RCA's Research Centres. The College creates an environment that champions exploration, collaboration and interdisciplinary learning - using art and design to reframe the possibilities of the humanities, technology, and ethics; and equipping graduates for new futures and opportunities

Research is at the heart of the RCA's impact. In active discussion with the world, the College brings interdisciplinary researchers and partners together in vital areas such as climate and sustainability, technology and society, and leads the field in practice-based research. As a result, the RCA is ranked as one of the most research-intensive specialist art and design universities in the UK [under the Research Excellence Framework 2014 and 2021].



Photo: Richard Haughton

The RCA champions exploration, collaboration and interdisciplinary learning - using art and design to reframe the possibilities of the humanities, technology, and ethics. We experiment, question and discover, putting research and practice at our heart, to equip students for new futures and opportunities and build on current knowledge.

Current 'real world' practices of our disciplines are fully integrated into our teaching delivery and student learning. The RCA model also consciously uses both the high research active levels of faculty, and the absence of undergraduate provision, to provide concentration and focus, in order to use research to creatively 'disrupt' the learning experience.

Our People



Photo: Richard Haughton

The strength of the RCA lies in its people: our students, academic community, researchers, technical specialists, professional services teams and our global network of alumni and partners.

The RCA's Chancellor is Sir Jony Ive, one of the world's most influential designers. The Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council is Sir Peter Bazalgette, and the President & Vice-Chancellor — the College's Chief Executive — is Professor Christoph Lindner, who joined the RCA in 2024.

The RCA's academic faculty bring world-leading expertise and industry knowledge to the College's model of teaching. All faculty are actively engaged in their relevant industries and professional practice beyond academia, and the RCA is the only specialist art and design university where all of our permanent academic staff are also research active and included in the RCA's submissions to the UK Research Excellence Framework.

The RCA has a total academic and research workforce of over 400 people, which includes Associate Lecturers, Visiting Professors and Guest Lecturers who bring 'live industry' experience into the taught curriculum

The RCA also employs a team of over 100 highly skilled technicians, many of whom themselves have postgraduate qualifications and are well established and recognised practitioners in their fields of specialism. Our skilled technical staff and technical resources are integral to delivering an interdisciplinary approach which is a key part of the student experience.



OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION: TOWARDS THE RCA AT 200 (2026–2030)

The RCA's new Strategic Plan sets out a transformational five-year phase as we begin our journey towards our bicentenary in 2037. Our ambition is to become the world's most influential art and design community, with a global footprint and a renewed approach to research, education, partnerships and organisational culture.

By 2030:

- The College will operate across two revitalised central London campuses, including a reimagined Darwin Building at Kensington.
- We will establish research and education hubs outside the UK for the first time.
- We will strengthen our global partnerships, increase access to scholarships and widen participation for students from all backgrounds.
- We will be recognised for leadership in emerging creative technologies, especially AI, and for our contribution to sustainability, regenerative practice and public good.

Our work is underpinned by the RCA's four values — Collaboration, Curiosity, Inclusion and Integrity — and by commitments to long-term resilience, financial sustainability, staff and student wellbeing, and a culture where creativity and innovation thrive.



The College's ambitions will be delivered through three Strategic Pillars:

Strategic Pillar One

Creating and delivering the best art and design education, dialogue and research.

Strategic Pillar Two

Championing a community with outstanding potential who are diverse, inclusive and connected.

Strategic Pillar Three

Convening transformational exchanges of art and design expertise and ideas.

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.



Research and Knowledge Exchange Office

The RCA's Research and Knowledge Exchange (RKE) Office provides central infrastructure, expertise and support across the strategically important areas of research, knowledge exchange, executive education and research degrees. The Research and Knowledge Exchange office at the RCA is led by the Director of Research and Innovation, who is also responsible for the RCA's Research Centres and InnovationRCA and is a member of the College's Senior Management Team.

The RKE Administrative team provides key administrative support across the diverse areas of research development, research information and governance, knowledge exchange, executive education, and postgraduate research students and programmes.



Role Purpose

The RCA Research Biennale Curator will curate and deliver the RCA research Biennale of PGR student work, reviewing submissions, developing the exhibition vision, overseeing the publicity material, and leading on the installation. The role is designed to be flexible in the hours required across the engagement period at different phases of the role.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Core Responsibilities

- Work with the PGR Biennale Exhibition planning team to help conceive a dynamic vision for the exhibition that aligns with goals of the [Doctoral Training Programme](#) and [Biennale](#).
- Work with the PGR Biennale Exhibition planning team and Technical Services staff to plan and manage the PGR Biennale Exhibition.
- Review PGR student submissions following TS risk assessment and ethics clearance, and provide curatorial assessment of suitability for the space and liaise with them on the work to be submitted.
- Liaise with exhibiting students on presentation requirements and any curatorial adjustments needed.
- Oversee the logistics of the install and de-install of the PGR Biennale Exhibition, including lighting, gallery prep, and safety standards, working with the AV Store and installation technicians.
- Oversee the exhibition planning in line with established budgets, and ensure that the exhibition stays within budget.
- Support delivery of the exhibition, including the private view or public-facing launch event.
- Work with the Communications and Marketing team to promote and publicise the exhibitions and run related public events, i.e. panel discussions, artist talks, and private view.
- Oversee the logistics of student delivery and collection of their work. Ensure safe handling, display and storage during the exhibition.
- Maintain clear communication with The Technical Services Team throughout, flagging any risk, timeline, or resourcing issues promptly.



Main Duties and Responsibilities

Key Skills & Requirements

- Education: A postgraduate degree (Masters or Ph.D.) in Curating, Art History, Museum Studies, or a related academic discipline.
- Experience: Proven track record in exhibition planning, managing budgets, and project management.
- Knowledge: Deep knowledge of Contemporary Art, understanding of health & safety standards, art handling best practices, and exhibition installation.
- Soft Skills: Excellent interpersonal skills to liaise with academics, artists, technicians and university leadership.
- Strong organisational skills and ability to manage a variable, part-time schedule with varying and intensifying demands.

Additional Information:

- Responsible to: Head of Doctoral Programme
- Responsible for: RCA Research Biennale Exhibition Delivery
- Location: Battersea
- Grade: 7 (paid hourly at £25.48 inc holiday pay)
- Casual Worker





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

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2015–26