



Royal College of Art

Postgraduate Art & Design

ROLE PROFILE

Post: Tutor (Research) Contemporary Art Practice (Critical Practice)

School: Arts & Humanities

Programme: Contemporary Art Practice

Grade: 9

FTE: 0.6

Responsible to: Head of Programme

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART

The Royal College of Art is the only entirely postgraduate university devoted to research and knowledge exchange, and teaching and practice in art, design, communication and humanities. Located in South Kensington and Battersea, its excellence in teaching and research has been consistently recognised as being of the highest standing. The REF 2014 results cemented the RCA's position as the UK's leading university of art and design, and for the last two years, the College has been ranked as the world's number one art and design University. In March 2016, the UK government announced a commitment to help fund a £100 million development of the College's Battersea site to create a flagship centre for design and innovation.

The College has a long history of achievement in art and design education, numerous eminent graduates and a remarkable record of graduate employment.

The School of Arts & Humanities

The new School of Arts & Humanities brings together programmes and research previously located in the Schools of Fine Art, Humanities and Materials, in order to enhance opportunities for collaboration and interdisciplinary activity and to enrich the experience of our students and researchers.

The School is concerned to examine the means by which the arts are made, critiqued, displayed and engaged with– the rich array of positions, methods, contexts and materials that artists, designers, curators and writers use and have used, as well as the subjects, ideas and issues that are successfully articulated by these disciplines. We pay attention to the arts within the everyday, and to the everyday as site of practice, and as archive. We maintain close and productive links with numerous arts and culture organisations to ensure that our work is relevant and public facing.

The School of Arts & Humanities offers students and researchers the opportunity to develop their own practices and careers as artists, makers, historians, theorists, writers and curators. All are encouraged to focus in depth on the particularities of their own work while also being exposed to more critically diverse positions across the School.



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The School has a distinctive research culture, based upon a dynamic interplay between theory and practice, and encompassing a broad range of subjects and approaches, from highly individuated scholarly and creative enquiry to projects concerning public policy and evaluation; from collections-based research to speculative practice-focused enquiry.

The School enables focused research and study within an environment that is ambitious to generate 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.

MA Contemporary Art Practice

Contemporary Art Practice, with its studio-based pathways in Critical Practice, Moving Image, Performance and Public Sphere is a new programme that launched in September 2016. The programme marks an historic moment at the RCA, seeing an extension in our range of specialisms, in both material terms and also in how we consider our approach to history and tradition. It enhances our intellectual scope and enables us to embrace and test important contemporary discourses including post-colonialism, exhibition studies and archival studies. The school is committed to exercising an influential role in its capacity as the largest concentration of post graduate Fine Art students and researchers in the world.

While many artists successfully evolve their work from recognised material traditions, a growing number of practitioners are now generating work rooted in more diverse and ubiquitous platforms such as the internet, social media, institutional structures and other academic and creative disciplines. The Contemporary Art Practice programme is flexible and adaptive to new and emerging interests and potential areas of research, and is designed to work alongside the existing Fine Art programmes in an integrated and collaborative structure.

The programme is delivered through four distinct pathways, operating within the programme as a way of supporting students to develop their practice alongside other students, researchers and academics with whom they share some material and philosophical concerns. The pathways provide opportunities for the formation of focused peer groups and the establishment of a supportive learning framework.

The role of Tutor: Contemporary Art Practice (Critical Practice)

We are seeking an outstanding practitioner and researcher in the field of Contemporary Art, and with particular expertise in Critical Practice, to contribute towards the on-going work of the School of Arts & Humanities and the Royal College of Art more broadly. The successful candidate will demonstrate enthusiasm for working with students and alongside colleagues with the high levels of commitment and energy required by a world-leading environment. They will be well networked and demonstrably engaged with the international context of contemporary art, from which they will be prepared to draw for the benefit of the college.



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As well as being able to support and respond to the work of MA and PhD students, the successful candidate will also be expected to teach from their own research by delivering lectures, workshops, seminars and crits across the pathways of Contemporary Art Practice and the other programmes in the school.

They will be expected to contribute to discussions about the development of the curriculum and be prepared to pioneer new ways of teaching. They will also be expected to undertake administration around their teaching as required by the well established structures present across the school.

Their research will be expected to operate at a high level, consistently producing research outputs of at least 3* REF quality to enable submission to the REF. They will also be expected to pursue funding opportunities for their research and where possible to involve colleagues in collaborative projects and contributing to the rich research culture and environment of the school.

The successful candidate will seek always to promote the college and its staff and students, acting always as a positive advocate for the Royal College of Art.

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 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
- 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

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



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- 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 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

The RCA is seeking a recognised practitioner in the field of Contemporary Art and specifically Critical Practice, with an international reputation supported by a portfolio of art work, exhibitions, academic research and publications. The successful candidate will be critically informed and ambitious for the work of the College in developing the Contemporary Art Practice programme and graduates internationally and will also understand the changing nature of higher education in an international and UK context. They will have an energy and enthusiasm for the student experience, and be able to work well across teams within the RCA and the School of Arts & Humanities.

The successful candidate should also be able to demonstrate:

Essential Criteria

- First degree in a relevant specialism.
- A doctorate in relevant field or evidence of appropriate professional practice or academic achievement.



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- A postgraduate certificate (PGCert) in higher education and/or accredited fellow of the Higher Education Academy, or willingness to undertake appropriate training to achieve such within two years of appointment.
- If supervising research students, have completed research supervision training or willingness to undertake and complete appropriate training within two years of appointment.
- Commitment to high quality teaching and fostering a positive learning environment for students.
- Commitment to continuous professional development.
- Commitment to equality of opportunity and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and students of all cultures and backgrounds.
- Evidence of the ability to supervise academic work at masters and doctoral level.
- Evidence of, or clear potential to produce, research outputs of at least 3* REF quality in line with the strategic direction of the College.

Desirable Criteria

- Experience of devising and teaching courses, and setting and assessing written work at undergraduate or postgraduate degree level.

Additional information

- Salary working 3 days per week: £26,575 - £29,704 p.a. per annum inclusive of London Allowance.
- Normal hours will total 21 per week over 3 days, 9.30am to 5.30pm with an hour each day for lunch.
- 18 days annual leave plus extended breaks at Christmas and Easter.
- The successful candidate may be required to work across the RCA's three London sites (Kensington, Battersea and White City).
- The appointment is permanent subject to a two-year probationary period.
- 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 or research degree supervision.
- 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.

It is expected that the successful candidate will be able to take up the post by the start of the 2017-18 academic year or as soon as possible thereafter.

JULY 2017



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PAY & BENEFITS

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

6 weeks' (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 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 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.

Cycle to Work Scheme

The Royal College of Art has signed up to the Cycle to Work Scheme – part of the government's Green Transport Initiative – which allows employees to make significant savings on purchasing new bikes and safety equipment.



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Childcare Vouchers

The Royal College of Art enables staff to purchase childcare vouchers, through its partner Edenred, as a salary sacrifice scheme.

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.

Professorships and readerships

The College awards professorships or readership to academic staff based on published criteria through an annual application process. Any award is subject to successful completion of probationary period, which is normally one year from first appointment.

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.