



ART

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Undergraduate

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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Why choose Art at Goldsmiths?

You'll form an integral part of the environment that is the London art scene, following in the footsteps of some of the most recognised names in art today.

2

You'll be allocated a tutor and a studio space to suit your needs. It's where you'll work, share and spread ideas and experience, and have tutorials.

3

We bring together students and researchers from all over the globe in a network of artists, curators, galleries and museums both in London and internationally.

4

Since 1990, former Goldsmiths students have been nominated for the Turner Prize more than 30 times, and have won the prize on seven occasions.



OUR COURSES

BA (Hons) Fine Art

BA (Hons) Fine Art
& History of Art

BA (Hons) Fine Art
(Extension Degree)

BA (Hons) Fine Art

3 years full-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-fine-art

On this programme you'll learn how to make art and evaluate different critical approaches to your own practice. The programme has two elements:

Studio Practice (75% of the course)

You'll have your own studio space from day one, and will have access to excellent facilities and technical advice. Studios are not divided by year or discipline, so you will be studying alongside students from all stages of the programme working in a wide variety of media (see page 8 for further details). You'll have regular individual and group tutorials with your own tutor, with other tutors, and with visiting artists. You will also present your work for discussion with a larger group of students each term.

Critical Studies (25% of the course)

The lecture and seminar series in Year 1 offers a space for exploring and examining the historical and critical context in which art is made, seen and understood. The seminar options from which you can choose in Year 2 engage and extend your critical skills, enabling you to develop your ability to analyse, judge and write about contemporary art. Tutorials will guide your essay writing in Years 1 and 2, and will support the completion of your dissertation in Year 3.

All staff on the programme are practising artists, curators and writers, here to respond to the work that you make and to help you understand how it contributes to and challenges the critical debates that exist in the study area and beyond. We support your development and creativity and help you acquire independent learning skills. This approach requires you to be committed, to thrive on constructive criticism exchanged between staff and students, and to participate in discussing your own work and that of others.

TYPICAL MODULES

BA (Hons) Fine Art & History of Art

3 years full-time

gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-fine-art-history-of-art

On this degree you'll navigate your way through theory and practice, various fine art media, and thematic strands within the study of art history and visual cultures.

Your studies will draw from our wide-ranging expertise that crosses our strengths in the creative and visual arts as well as the humanities.

You'll learn under the guidance of practising artists, curators, academics and writers who are here to help you develop your practice and focus your research.

You'll be provided with specialist advice to complement your studies from artists, curators, gallerists, administrators and funders visiting Goldsmiths.

Your programme is made up of two elements:

Fine Art Studio Practice (50%)

You'll develop your work through experimentation, achieving a thorough understanding of your chosen media and its relevance within contemporary culture. Three years of intensive studio and workshop practice culminate in a final year exhibition which is assessed and then opened to the public. This element is taught by the Department of Art.

History of Art and Theory Modules (50%)

Your fine art studio practice will be complemented by the lectures, seminars and tutorials in your history of art compulsory and option modules, taught by the Department of Visual Cultures.

The **Link Seminar**, taught across both departments, explores the dynamic relationships between art history, theory and practice in large seminar and small workshop formats.

BA (Hons) Fine Art (Extension Degree)

1 year full-time, followed by

3 years full-time BA (Hons) programme

gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-fine-art-extension

This degree allows you to work independently as an artist, to generate and develop your own ideas and to undertake further study by progressing to Year 1 of the BA (Hons) Fine Art or the BA (Hons) Fine Art and History of Art degrees.

Studio Practice

You will be allocated a studio space, which forms the focal point of your activities, and are assigned a studio practice tutor who will support and assess your progress. You'll take part in regular tutorials (one-to-one discussions) and studio seminars with staff and other Extension Degree students. You will also be introduced to a range of technical laboratories to support your work.

Critical Studies

In this module, you'll attend lectures and seminars that introduce you to the key issues and debates in the world of contemporary art, alongside tutor-led visits to museums and galleries. You'll then understand the context within which the work you make is seen and understood. You'll also familiarise yourself with the various modes of writing that are used to discuss contemporary art.

English language classes or portfolio of art writing

If your first language is not English, the Extension year includes three hours a week of English for academic purposes in classes tailor-made for art students. For those students whose first language is English or whose English proficiency allows, the Extension year includes a Portfolio of Art Writing module. You must pass all modules and exams to proceed to one of the BA programmes.

Year 1

Studio Practice 1

Compulsory module:

Modernities

Plus one module from:

Seeing and Showing

Space and Time

Beyond Boundaries

Year 2

Studio Practice 2

Two History of Art options such as:

Beckett and Aesthetics

Popular Modernism

Patterns of Perception

Year 3

Studio Practice 3

History of Art Dissertation
and

One History of Art Special Subject

Or

Two History of Art Special
Subjects

History of Art Special Subjects may include:

Autobiographies

Curating

Film Fables and

Documentary Lives

Sexual Poetics

Philosophy and...

Each year you'll be allocated a studio space to suit your needs, where you can develop your practice in a range of media including:

- Painting and drawing
- Wood and metalwork
- Casting and 3D printing
- Printmaking
- Stitch and constructed textiles
- Printed textiles
- Photography
- Video and sound
- Ceramics
- Performance and writing
- Digital animation
- Installation

Studio teaching is supported and complemented by workshop areas, which will introduce you to the techniques and skills relevant to the practical development of your work.

You'll be assigned a Studio Practice Tutor each year who'll support you throughout the programme.

OUR ALUMNI



Steve McQueen
(BA Fine Art, 1993)

Outstanding British artist Steve McQueen made his first films at Goldsmiths, graduating from the BA Fine Art course in 1993. In the same year he made *Bear*. Documenting an ambiguous encounter between two naked men, one of whom is McQueen himself, the film raised issues about violence, homoeroticism and race. In the years that followed he made more short films, often projecting them onto the walls of an enclosed gallery space for heightened intimacy.

In 1999 he won the Turner Prize for his original and uncompromising approach to film installation and his innovative presentation of work in other media.

The organisers commented on McQueen's ability to "take a simple incident or image and evoke complex emotions and ideas from them".

During his varied career he has also worked as an official war artist in Iraq (2006), and represented Britain at the Venice Biennale in 2009. In 2013 he exhibited his largest ever show at the Schaulager in Switzerland to rave reviews. In recent years McQueen

has gained critical acclaim for filmmaking. In 2008 he won a BAFTA and the prestigious Camera D'Or Award at the Cannes Film Festival for *Hunger*, his feature film about the 1981 Irish hunger strike. He co-wrote and directed *Shame* (2011), "a powerful plunge into the mania of addiction affliction".

And his most recent film, three-times Oscar-winning *12 Years a Slave*, is based on the 1853 autobiography of Solomon Northup, and brings to life the true story of a free man who was forced into slavery. It has been described by the *New Yorker* as "easily the greatest film ever made about American slavery".



Ben Pimlott Building

Julian Opie (BA Fine Art, 1982)

Julian Opie graduated from Goldsmiths in 1982 and his first solo show opened at the Lisson Gallery the same year, as he was quickly recognised as part of "the first coherent group of British artists to have an international reputation, rather than one within the London art scene." Subsequently, his work was bought by collector Charles Saatchi as well as Tate. Opie's creative practice is famous for its combined elements of graphic portraiture and computer design. His work has been exhibited internationally in prestigious institutions (MoMA, New York; Art Tower Mito, Japan; MAK, Vienna; to name a few) and can be seen in the UK at the British Museum, the V&A and the National Portrait Gallery.

However, Opie is perhaps more renowned for utilising public spaces for installations and altering our perception of what constitutes an artistic environment. Some examples include his Best of Blur CD sleeve, the LED display for a U2 world tour, and various installations in



Heathrow's Terminal 1 and at the Eurostar Terminal. In 2008, five animated LED installations of large figures 'walking' appeared in City Centre in Dublin, and later Opie's Promenade was installed in downtown Calgary, Canada where it is now a permanent feature. Opie lives and works in East London and continues to work closely with Lisson Gallery.



Cara Nahaul (BA Fine Art and History of Art, 2009)

"At Goldsmiths I was able to combine my interest in critical theory with pursuing a studio practice. The diverse number of electives that were available introduced me to many important writers and thinkers, and I developed a strong research-based

method that remains important to my work.

The regular studio visits with my tutors and peers encouraged me to be experimental and gain wider perspectives on what art could be. I built an invaluable support network during my time at Goldsmiths, many of whom have become lifelong friends."



Lisa Zhang (BA Fine Art (Extension Degree) 2013)

"While Goldsmiths grounds itself on a highly independent and self-motivated way of learning, friendly tutors and support groups means there is always someone to consult.

The sheer diversity of the student body is also incredible, just walk along Goldsmiths' corridors and you'll see people from just about everywhere!"



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- 1 Chris Calderwood
- 2 Duncan Loudon
- 3 Yasmine Taherbeigi
- 4 Eleanor Flynn
- 5 Alex Margo Arden

FIND OUT MORE

Find out more about the
department and degrees at:
gold.ac.uk/art

Visit our BA Fine Art
Facebook page at:
facebook.com/goldsmithsbafa

Get in touch with our
Enquiries team:
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The information in this booklet reflects the 2017-18 programme specifications and was correct at the time of print in June 2017. It is intended as a guide only and the information here is not intended to be binding. You can download the most up-to-date programme specifications from our degree pages by visiting gold.ac.uk/course-finder

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