



VISUAL CULTURES

[gold.ac.uk/
visual-cultures](http://gold.ac.uk/visual-cultures)

Undergraduate

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Study the fascinating topics of history of art and curating in our Department of Visual Cultures. You'll investigate the artefacts you might see in galleries and museums, but also those that make up our everyday environment - from adverts to architecture and street style.

Goldsmiths is ranked 6th in the UK for Art.

(Guardian University Guide 2018 league tables by subject)

Our students run the Goldsmiths Students' Union's Visual Cultures Society - find out about their activities at www.facebook.com/goldsmithsvcs

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Why choose Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths?

We're modern. You'll focus on modern and contemporary art, art theory and visual culture from around the world, in the context of present-day cultural, social and political concerns.

2

We're innovative. You'll take a thematic approach rather than a chronological approach to the discipline, which means you'll have the opportunity to examine changing historical conceptions of art and the artist. And you'll challenge traditional assumptions about the history of art.

3

We're active. You'll be able to take part in the discussions and debates offered through our Visual Cultures public programme and other university-wide events. And you'll learn how to source, select and handle works for display by getting involved in our student-run gallery space and other curatorial projects at Goldsmiths.



OUR DEGREES

BA (Hons) History of Art

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

At Goldsmiths, visual culture includes artefacts you might see in museums and art galleries, plus those that make up our everyday environment: architecture, city and landscapes, adverts, TV and film, websites, the body, and street style. On this degree you can explore them all.

Much of your learning will take place in London's galleries, art spaces, museums, cultural facilities and specialist libraries.

In your first year you'll start with four compulsory modules. These will develop your independent critical involvement with works of art and visual culture:

Modernities

You'll discuss the concept of modernity and how it has arisen. How has its meaning varied and evolved in recent history, in terms of art, ideas, events and technological change?

Seeing and Showing

You'll explore how the meaning and effect of a work depends on the way we see it. What factors are at play in terms of subjectivity, aesthetic ideas and concepts of realism?

Space and Time

How have space and time and their interaction come to play a central part in modern and contemporary practices? You'll consider this question under different headings: the photographic instant, memory, the present time of everyday experience, and imaginary dimensions of space and time.

Beyond Boundaries

You'll consider how contemporary art has gone beyond the limits of traditional practice. How and why has this come about? How can we make sense of and evaluate these innovations?

In your second year, there is one compulsory module, Contemporaneities, in addition to which you'll choose up to six options, at least four of which will be from the Department of Visual Cultures.

In your third year, you'll take up to six modules, including at least four from Visual Cultures. You will also produce a supervised dissertation on a topic of your choice.

Some students take a wide-ranging mix of modules, while others prefer to specialise along thematic pathways, choosing modules linked by theme. The five thematic pathways are: Space and Place, Sound and Image, Art and Philosophy, The Curatorial, and Embodiment. Our current modules are listed on pages 8-9.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:
 Modernities
 Seeing and Showing
 Space and Time
 Beyond Boundaries

Year 2

Compulsory module
 Contemporaneities
Plus

Up to six options from a wide range available (see page 8)

Year 3

Up to six options from a wide range available (see page 8)
 Dissertation

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.

TYPICAL MODULES

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 (see page 8)

Year 3

Studio Practice 3

and either

Two History of Art Special Subjects (see page 8)

or

History of Art Dissertation *and*

One History of Art Special Subject (see page 8)

BA (Hons) Curating

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

Do you want to advance your knowledge of contemporary curating and pursue a professional career in the field of curatorial practice?

The term 'curating' is used to refer to a wide range of activities including organising art exhibitions, festivals and professional events, staging of lecture series, public conversations, reading groups, and even the management of our lives on social media.

This course explores how curating allows us to stage culture and put knowledge into circulation in multiple ways, and to place its practices in a historical and critical context.

Throughout this degree you will:

Study core modules in the history and theory of curating, alongside electives in art history and visual culture.

Gain practical experience of working on a group project with one of several public sector partner organisations.

Have the opportunity to join historical and theoretical study with curatorial practice in the contemporary public realm.

At the end of the degree you will take part in an exhibition of group projects with partner institutions.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Modernities

Curating and the Public Sphere

Art Artefacts and Archives

Plus one module from:

Seeing and Showing

Space and Time

Beyond Boundaries

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

Museums, Galleries, Exhibitions

Curating after the Educational Turn

Plus four History of Art options (see page 8)

Year 3

Compulsory modules:

Curating the Contemporary Dissertation

Plus two special subjects such as:

Film Fables

Animating Architecture

The Truth in Painting

Popular Modernism

Fashion as a Dialectical Image

Fact of Blackness

Philosophy and...

Archive and Spectacle

STUDIO PRACTICE

If you study BA Fine Art & History of Art, you'll be allocated a studio space to suit your needs, where you can develop your practice in a range of media including:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Constructed textiles
- Printmaking
- Sculpture
- Stitch
- Fabric
- Photography
- Printed textiles
- Video
- Installation
- Performance

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.

VISUAL CULTURES MODULES

Year 2

Options include:

Beckett and Aesthetics 1 & 2
Contemporaneities (Double module, worth 30 credits)
Cohabitations
Emancipating Images and Sounds
Electronic Resistance
Feminist and Queer Technoscience
Inhabitations
Materiality
Museums, Galleries, Exhibitions 1 & 2
Objects of Difference: Race and Capital
Ornamentation
Patterns of Perception 1 & 2
Popular Modernism 1 & 2
Radical Imaginations and Speculative Voyages 1 & 2
The Arts of Surveillance
The Fact of Blackness: Subjects of Difference

Year 3

Options include:

After the Internet
Animalities
Animating Architecture
Archive and Spectacle
Autobiographies 1 & 2
Curating and the Curatorial
Curatorial Events and Affects
Documentary Lives
Fashion as a Dialectical Image 1 & 2
Fictioning 1 & 2
Film Fables
Landscape and Power 1 & 2
Philosophies of Nature
Sensing the Commons
Sexual Poetics
The Aesthetics and Politics of the Face
The Truth in Painting 1 & 2
Theorising the Commons
Urban Revolutions and Spatial Biopolitics
Utopias
Visual Cultures as Public Practice (placement module)

YOUR FUTURE

Talk the talk...

Our degrees will help develop your critical and analytical skills as they relate to modern and contemporary art, ideas and visual culture. You'll be able to express ideas clearly and have expertise in gathering insights from a range of subjects.

These are skills that are appropriate to careers in museums and galleries as administrators or curators, as artists or art historians, in journalism and the media, teaching, and research, and the commercial world.

...and walk the walk

Many of our alumni are active in the contemporary art world, working for major art and cultural institutions. Many have set up cultural initiatives of their own.

Employers of our recent graduates include Tate Modern, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and Edinburgh Castle.

Explore our Google map featuring Visual Cultures graduates around the world at: goo.gl/Wq4YCV



Kat (BA History of Art, 2011), Editorial Director at Saatchi Gallery

“My studies helped me to approach projects creatively and analytically, and I feel lucky to have been able to choose from the modules which were more diverse than other History of Art courses and to learn from

the specialist tutors, a combination which I feel is very unique and special to Goldsmiths.

Since graduating, the research and open-mindedness I developed at university has helped in my career, as I'm mainly researching and having to think creatively and quickly every day. Also being immersed in everything going on in South-East London, from the friends I made to the opportunities to get involved with local art projects, prepared me for the busy and vibrant art world.”

Emily (BA Fine Art & History of Art, 2009), freelance artist and MA student

“Since graduating I have continued to make work, exhibit and curate. This year I have completed two residencies - one in Harlow New Town (UK) and one in Rotterdam. In the past two years I have shown work at Bold Tendencies, South London Gallery and TENT. I'm now studying for an Art Science MA at The Royal Academy of Art in The Netherlands.”

Watch Goldsmiths graduates talk about how their experiences at university have given them a real advantage in their career: vimeo.com/channels/career



FIND OUT MORE

Find out more about the
department and the degrees at:
gold.ac.uk/visual-cultures

Watch our departmental film at:
[vimeo.com/goldsmiths/
visual-cultures](http://vimeo.com/goldsmiths/visual-cultures)

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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