

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Contemporary Art: Three Dimensional Practice

Unit code: F1CL 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to gain knowledge and understanding of contemporary three dimensional art practices. It will offer candidates the opportunity to research current practice and develop practical skills associated with the production of three dimensional artworks. Candidates will produce three dimensional solution(s) to a creative brief which will complement their course of study.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Investigate three dimensional practice within contemporary art.
- 2 Develop three dimensional techniques in contemporary art practice.
- 3 Produce and develop concepts.
- 4 Produce three dimensional artwork/s from a developed concept.

Credit points and level: 2 HN credits at SCQF level 7: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. It may be beneficial if the candidate had some prior knowledge of basic sculpture techniques or three dimensional arts practice. Candidates should have an understanding of creative processes. This may be demonstrated by the achievement of Intermediate 2 or Higher level Art and Design or by a practical portfolio of art and design work.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Information Technology, Problem Solving, Communication and Numeracy at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

This Unit can be taught as a stand-alone Unit but there is scope to link Outcomes with one or more Outcomes from other Units (core or optional) in the Contemporary Art Practice Group Award framework.

General information for centres (cont)

Assessment: This Unit is assessed by:

Outcome 1: Written, visual or verbal evidence of collated research in response to an investigation.

Outcome 2: A combination of written/oral responses and evidence of practical experiments.

Outcome 3: Visual evidence of concept development.

Outcome 4: Visual evidence of production of three dimensional artwork.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Investigate three dimensional practice within contemporary art

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Research methods
- ◆ Analysis
- ◆ Comparison
- ◆ Evaluation

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by investigating an area of three dimensional practice within contemporary art through research, analysis, evaluation and comparison of the work of a minimum of **three** contemporary art practitioners who use three dimensional processes.

Evidence should be presented in any suitable format — written, oral or digital, and accompanied by visuals.

Assessment guidelines

Group discussion as well as personal investigation should be used to analyse the work of contemporary art practitioners who use three dimensional processes and production.

Outcome 2

Develop three dimensional techniques in contemporary art practice

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Prepare and use tools, equipment and materials
- ◆ Use safe working practices
- ◆ Produce 3 dimensional experiments
- ◆ Analyse and record results

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Contemporary Art: Three Dimensional Practice

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can, through the development of three dimensional techniques:

- ◆ Prepare and use tools, equipment and materials
- ◆ Use safe working practices
- ◆ Produce 3 dimensional experiments
- ◆ Analyse and record results

Evidence should be presented as experimental maquettes and three dimensional experimental pieces.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome may be combined with Outcomes in other skills-based three dimensional art Units.

It is strongly recommended that a minimum of three techniques including practical handling and manipulation of a range of equipment, materials and techniques are demonstrated and subsequently explored through the candidate's individual experimentation of these processes.

Outcome 3

Produce and develop concepts

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Working to a brief
- ◆ Planning
- ◆ Development of creative concepts
- ◆ Experimental solutions
- ◆ Reflective practice

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can, in response to a given brief:

- ◆ Develop concepts for three dimensional artwork/s
- ◆ Explore a range of creative concepts that could be successfully developed into the production of three dimensional artwork
- ◆ Reflect on concepts produced and select a concept for development

Evidence should be presented in the form of a collection of developmental work in two and three dimensional formats.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Assessment guidelines

A short project in the form of sketchbook drawings, collated visual material and practical experiments could be used to produce evidence for this Outcome.

There is scope in this Outcome to build on development work from both two dimensional and three dimensional Units that may lead to an integrated approach to thematic development.

The assessment of this Outcome may be combined with Outcomes in other skills-based art Units.

Outcome 4

Produce three dimensional artwork/s from a developed concept

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Application of techniques
- ◆ Application of processes
- ◆ Safe working practices
- ◆ Production

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by producing three dimensional artwork(s) from a developed concept, showing that they can:

- ◆ Apply their knowledge of techniques and processes to the production of three dimensional artwork
- ◆ Work through processes in a planned sequence
- ◆ Use safe working practices at all times
- ◆ Successfully develop creative concepts into the production of three dimensional artwork

Evidence should be presented in the form of one or more pieces of three dimensional artwork.

Assessment guidelines

Evidence should be generated by the appropriate use of materials and techniques associated with chosen process and the production of one or more 'pieces' of artwork. Where possible, environmentally friendly materials and methods should be identified and used for the candidate's project.

The number of artworks presented for assessment will be at the discretion of the class tutor but allowances must be made for the scale and complexity of the candidate's work. The Evidence Requirements are for one or more pieces, however, if the work is on a very small scale and/or simplistic in technique, the tutor may encourage the candidate to produce alternative approaches or a higher number of examples. The candidates may focus their hours of study towards intense research and development (ie for a complex conceptual piece) in which case one small piece produced to a high standard and presenting a high level of conceptual/contextual thinking may be acceptable.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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It is strongly recommended that candidates should be given the opportunity to present artwork(s) in chosen context and to justify and evaluate their work by making a presentation to their class tutor and/or peer group. An observation checklist should be used to ensure all aspects contained within the knowledge and skills section have been addressed.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F1CL 34

Unit title: Contemporary Art: Three Dimensional Practice

Superclass category: JB

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Contemporary Art: Three Dimensional Practice

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is designed to enable candidates to gain knowledge and understanding of contemporary three dimensional art practice. It will offer candidates the opportunity to research current practice and develop practical skills associated with the production of three dimensional artworks. Candidates will develop concept(s) and produce three dimensional solution(s) to a creative brief that will complement their course of study.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit has been developed as part of the HNC/D Contemporary Art Practice. It is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Opportunities may be taken to link or integrate with other aspects of the course and a thematic approach adopted for both delivery and assessment.

Outcome 1

The candidate is required to investigate an area or areas of three dimensional contemporary art practice by studying the work of contemporary art practitioners who adopt differing approaches to their work. A range of exemplar resources and case studies could be provided in order that candidates can analyse artworks and processes used by professional artists. Class or group discussion could be used to analyse, compare and evaluate the work. Sources and examples could be supplied by the tutor or candidates can be asked to choose their own subjects for research. This can be supported by lectures, gallery visits and demonstrations by contemporary art practitioners. Creative research methods should be explored and encouraged.

Evidence should be presented either as an illustrated written report using drawings, photocopies, photographs and cuttings to support written material; or as an annotated workbook/file containing examples of the work and methods used by a variety of contemporary art practitioners; or an oral response delivered to the tutor or class supported by visuals. The visuals could be in the form of photographs, display boards with images and annotations, film/video or other appropriate media which show an investigative approach to understanding at least three varying approaches to three dimensional practice as adopted by contemporary artists.

Outcome 2

The candidate should identify the main considerations involved in producing and presenting three dimensional artwork. Candidates should produce a minimum of three practical experiments that explore a variety of techniques.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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The techniques demonstrated could be taken from the following list:

- ◆ Modelling
- ◆ Casting
- ◆ Mould-making
- ◆ Carving
- ◆ Assemblage
- ◆ Installation
- ◆ Performance (where candidate is using the body as a three dimensional art form)
- ◆ Constructed textiles
- ◆ Mixed media
- ◆ Welding/metal manipulation
- ◆ Glasswork
- ◆ Press moulding,
- ◆ Slab construction (or other construction techniques associated with ceramics)
- ◆ Wood work
- ◆ Forging
- ◆ Bronze casting
- ◆ Resin work

This list is not exhaustive and should be tailored to the facilities available at the centre.

Outcome 3

A creative brief should be generated so that the candidate can prepare for the production of a three dimensional artwork. This brief may be provided by the tutor or created by the candidate.

Research in response to this brief should be carried out using a variety of resources appropriate to the type of information the candidate requires. The candidate's chosen research approach may inform the presentation of the piece. For example if footage or vocal recording is used as research to explore a concept, this may become part of the artwork as supporting material and this may be integrated into physical aspects of display of the artwork.

Using their research material as reference candidates will then explore a range of creative concepts that could be successfully developed into a three dimensional artwork. Concept development may be shown in the form of annotated images, sketches/drawings collated in sketchbook /workbook, photographs, film/video, recorded interviews, samples, maquettes, etc. Evidence from Outcomes 1 and 2 may also be used if appropriate. It is expected that sketchbooks and practical experiments would demonstrate an in-depth exploration of potential solutions to the brief and would show conceptual development for a range of possible solutions.

There is scope to develop three dimensional artwork from creative concepts identified in other Units. Integration is to be encouraged as long as all the Evidence Requirements have been met.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Contemporary Art: Three Dimensional Practice

Outcome 4

The candidate is required to produce at least one piece, or a body of work, that is presented as a solution to their 'creative brief'. As this Unit allows for exploration of a wide range of approaches within three dimensional art practice, a variety of media, materials, styles and techniques will be used.

It is inappropriate to state a specific and comparative number of pieces required by candidates — this will be at the discretion of the class tutor. The tutor should ensure that the body of work generated by the candidate equates to the hours of study suggested for this Unit. Film, video, digital media can be integrated into the artwork, used as documentation of artwork (where it is a performance) or used to support presentation of three dimensional solution if appropriate.

An oral presentation of the artwork should be delivered by candidate to tutor or class group allowing for evaluation of the project through discussion and analysis of approach, methods and techniques used. Alternatively a short written presentation, supported by visual material could be used.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Candidates will work in a context which requires the investigation and production of three dimensional art work. Discussions with the class group and/or the assessor focussing on examples of 3D practice in contemporary art would reinforce analytical evaluation of approaches taken to the design process. Accuracy in the interpretation and communication of graphic information underpins competencies as concepts are produced and developed, and some candidates may benefit from formative opportunities to further develop the effectiveness of their application of graphic data. Research undertaken should lead to a consideration of all factors impacting on the initial concepts in the planning stage. Candidates should be able to work unaided in the selection of appropriate software and techniques involving modification or customising of applications to meet identified needs of purpose and context, but peer review will enhance problem solving skills. Consideration for other users and an adherence to practices and procedures impacting on security and safety would be a routine aspect of good practice.

Although skills in communication are not formally assessed, candidates could be provided with checklists detailing criteria for evaluation of information accessed, which could include checks on currency, authority and accuracy. Written work produced should express essential ideas and information accurately and coherently, use industry terminology and check spelling for accuracy. Using up to date software packages for word processing and editing where practical will support the development of writing skills to a professional standard. If evidence is presented orally, candidates could be provided with checklists to remind them of the need to:

- ◆ adapt language and style to the needs of their audience
- ◆ use appropriate pace and tone
- ◆ use effective non-verbal communication
- ◆ use audio visual support confidently
- ◆ respond to in depth questioning confidently and accurately

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Contemporary Art: Three Dimensional Practice

Open learning

Due to the practical nature of parts of this Unit, delivery by distance learning is not recommended. Although some parts of the Unit could be delivered in this way, it would require a considerable degree of planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence

For further information and advice please refer to the SQA document *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* which is available on SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Contemporary Art: Three Dimensional Practice

This Unit will enable you to gain a knowledge and understanding of three dimensional art practice in a contemporary context. It will offer you the opportunity to research current practice and develop practical skills associated with the production of three dimensional artworks.

In **Outcome 1** you will investigate current three dimensional art practice by researching, analysing and comparing differing approaches or methods used by contemporary art practitioners. You will be encouraged to explore creative research methods to access information.

In **Outcome 2** you will learn about the safe use of tools, equipment, methods and sequence of work using a variety of materials. You will produce practical experiments exploring a minimum of three techniques and at all times you will demonstrate that you understand safe working practices.

For **Outcome 3** you will respond to a creative brief and explore a range of creative concepts that could be developed into a three dimensional artwork. After considering the potential of your ideas one or more of these concepts will be taken forward to produce artwork for Outcome 4.

In **Outcome 4** you will produce a piece or pieces of three dimensional artwork that you have developed in response to the brief given in Outcome 3.