

Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Painting: Exploratory Techniques

Unit code: F1N0 35

Unit purpose: This painting Unit is designed to help candidates develop skill and ability in handling a variety of paint media. It will encourage the exploration of transparent and opaque painting techniques.

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

- 1 Research a range of painting techniques
- 2 Produce experimental studies in a range of media
- 3 Produce painting from a brief

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 8: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8*).

**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. However, it would be beneficial if candidates have completed Higher Art or have a similar level of qualifications of experience.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving and Communication 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.

Assessment: The candidates will be assessed on the production of the following:

- Outcome 1: sketchbook research evidence
- Outcome 2: experimental painting studies
- Outcome 3: final painting

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

Research a range of painting techniques

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Identification of painting techniques
- ◆ Research methods
- ◆ Media
- ◆ Materials and techniques
- ◆ Colour
- ◆ Content
- ◆ Analysis of exemplars

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ Collect and collate a range of examples of painting techniques and styles
- ◆ Provide examples of painting styles from a variety of artists
- ◆ Comment on the content and composition of paintings
- ◆ Analyse the examples in terms of the use of media, materials, techniques and colour

Evidence should be presented as a sketchbook/notebook or equivalent that includes examples of paintings with commentary, either oral or in the form of annotations.

Assessment guidelines

It is recommended that candidates collect eight or more examples.

This Outcome can be assessed independently or with Outcomes 2 and 3.

This work could be linked thematically to the practical work that will follow in Outcomes 2 and 3.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Painting: Exploratory Techniques

Outcome 2

Produce experimental studies in a range of media

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Application of paint techniques
- ◆ Opaque media
- ◆ Transparent media
- ◆ Use of compositional devices
- ◆ Use of colour
- ◆ Critical analysis of work

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ Produce experimental studies that show exploration of media and techniques
- ◆ Critically analyse painting examples with reference to the use of techniques, colour and compositional devices

Evidence should be presented in the form of exploratory paintings demonstrating the use of a range of techniques and media.

Assessment guidelines

It is recommended that candidates produce four or more examples that cover both transparent and opaque media. This Outcome can be assessed independently or together with Outcomes 1 and 3.

Outcome 3

Produce painting from a brief

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Personal interpretation
- ◆ Application of media
- ◆ Use of supports
- ◆ Compositional devices
- ◆ Safe working practices

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Painting: Exploratory Techniques

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ Produce painting/s that show competent handling of media and preparation of supports
- ◆ Demonstrate good use of composition and colour and show a personal response to the subject
- ◆ Show confidence in the handling of paint and a selective response to the subject matter developed from the brief
- ◆ Demonstrate safe, tidy and considerate approaches to studio work practice

Evidence should be presented as a final painting in any chosen medium or combination of media that fulfils the requirements of the brief.

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome may be assessed independently or with Outcomes 1 and 2. This will allow the tutor to see how the final painting has developed and the extent to which the candidate has explored each medium.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F1N0 35

Unit title: Painting: Exploratory Techniques

Superclass category: JB

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Painting: Exploratory Techniques

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 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is designed to give candidates the opportunity to research, explore and develop skills in painting using a range of transparent and opaque media. Briefs should encourage candidates to work from first hand sources and to work in a supportive studio environment.

Outcome 1

Each candidate should be encouraged to collect and analyse examples of painting in a range of media. This may be supported in a variety of ways through gallery visits, slide presentation, group discussion etc. Written notation of findings should be presented alongside relevant examples in a sketchbook or equivalent. Alternatively, candidates could give an oral commentary on the examples that they have collected, or take part in a group discussion. The type of notation made should support the candidate's learning by focusing on areas such as paint application, methods used, the painting subject and the overall effect or mood created.

Outcome 2

Candidates should be encouraged to explore the potential of each paint medium and produce a variety of first hand studies. Demonstrations on applying media and techniques may be given initially to support candidates' learning. Emphasis for the candidate should be on developing acquired skills and discovering the potential of each medium. Techniques such as wet in wet, resist, washes, adding texture, ink and wash, masking or lifting out should be explored and selectively used in transparent painting. Opaque painting could include techniques such as broken colour, impasto, glazing, scumbling. Ideally, candidates would be expected to gain experience of handling acrylic and oil based paints.

Instruction should be given to ensure candidates use and dispose of equipment and materials in a safe manner. Candidates would be expected to produce at least four studies to ensure that they properly explore a good range of media and techniques. An evaluation of the work produced could be made at this point to help candidates select their preferred medium for Outcome 3.

Outcome 3

Working from a given brief the candidate should select appropriate subject matter, media and supports to develop and produce a final painting. Emphasis should be placed on composition, the application and use of colour and the application of media. Candidates should be encouraged to think creatively and develop an individual response to the brief. Support should be available from the tutor on a one to one level to assist candidates. Presentation of the final piece could take the form of a group critique, as this helps to develop candidates' confidence in critical reflection.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Painting: Exploratory Techniques

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit has been developed as part of the HNC/HND Contemporary Art Practice Group Award and the HNC/HND Art and Design Group Award. It is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the group awards 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.

It is expected that the delivery of Outcome 1 should be the catalyst for the whole Unit. It is likely that this Outcome is initiated through class discussion, visual presentation or gallery visit but the majority of the research would be carried out in the candidate's own time.

Outcome 2 is based on practical research that has been informed by work carried out in Outcome 1. This should be studio based and encourage candidates to develop studies in paint through first hand investigation of their subject. Demonstrations should be made where appropriate to help candidates explore the potential of a range of opaque and transparent paint media.

Through discussion and analysis candidates will identify their preferred painting medium and be encouraged to explore this further through the production of a final painting.

Final paintings should be personal responses from the candidates that show an individual approach to the subject matter and an ability to handle the chosen media and techniques.

Consideration should be given to the scale and complexity of final work. If, for example, the work is simplistic in technique, candidates could be asked to produce alternative finished concepts or a greater number of exploratory pieces.

Assessment should take place at the end of the Unit. Candidates should be given the opportunity to develop paintings in a supported environment.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

All elements of the Core Skill of Problem Solving will be naturally developed and enhanced to a sophisticated level as candidates undertake the investigation and practical work needed to produce experimental studies and painting to a brief. They have to research media, materials and techniques to support the creative process. Access to and evaluation of a range of complex on line information on arts practice should ensure awareness of how artists apply materials and methods to achieve their aims. Information should be summarised and collated using accepted conventions and formats.

Timescales, available resources will be factors critically considered in planning the final painting. Use of methods which take account of health and safety will be routine. Identifying and justifying the use of techniques, forms and materials to the tutor or class group could provide opportunities to develop both problem solving and oral communication skills. Evaluation of all aspects of the process could be used to reflect on influences to be considered for future work.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Painting: Exploratory Techniques

Open learning

The practical nature of parts of this Unit would make it difficult to deliver via open learning. Although parts of this Unit could be delivered by distance learning, 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: Painting: Exploratory Techniques

This painting Unit will develop your skills and ability in handling a variety of paint media. It will encourage you to explore the potential of both transparent and opaque painting media and a variety of techniques and methods.

On completion of the Unit you will be able to:

- ◆ Research a range of painting techniques
- ◆ Produce experimental studies in a range of media
- ◆ Produce painting from a brief

This Unit is split into the three areas but the work for each Outcome should have an influence on the final painting that you produce.

For Outcome 1 you will research a variety of artists' work that demonstrates a range of painting techniques. This research will be collated, usually in sketchbook format and include analysis of how the artist has used materials and methods in each painting.

For Outcome 2 you will produce experimental paintings using a variety of media. You will be encouraged to use a range of media, including those that you are unfamiliar with, and explore a variety of techniques and styles. You will critically reflect upon your experiments and use this practical research to help you to select the media and techniques that you will use for your final painting/s.

For Outcome 3 you will work directly from a brief to produce your final painting/s, demonstrating a personal interpretation of the subject and a competent use of media and materials.

At all times throughout the Unit you will use safe and considerate studio work practices.