

## Higher National Unit specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Contemporary Art Practice: Lens-Based Media Development

**Unit code:** F1D2 35

**Unit purpose:** This Unit is designed to provide candidates with the opportunity to use online and traditional study skills to research the practice of lens-based media within contemporary art. Candidates will use their skills and knowledge to produce a range of creative still and moving image experiments using lens-based media and evaluate lens-based media as a creative medium.

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

- 1 Research lens-based media as a contemporary artform.
- 2 Produce a range of creative lens-based media experiments using both moving and still images.
- 3 Evaluate lens-based media as a creative medium.

**Credit points and level:** 2 HN credits at SCQF level 8: (16 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. It would be beneficial if candidates had some prior knowledge of analytical, creative and problem solving skills within an artistic context. Prior vocational experience or having completed relevant HN Units may evidence this.

**Core Skills:** There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Information Technology 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:** Outcome 1 is assessed by a research project which is evidenced by sketchbooks or similar, containing visual research evidence and analysis.

Outcome 2 is assessed by the production of a range of creative experiments using both moving and still lens-based media.

Outcome 3 is assessed by an evaluation of lens-based media.

## **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.

### **Outcome 1**

Research lens-based media as a contemporary artform

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Research and study methods
- ◆ Online resources
- ◆ Traditional learning resources
- ◆ Movements and genre in contemporary art practice

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can, with reference to a research task:

- ◆ employ research and study skills
- ◆ use both online and traditional resources for related research
- ◆ provide examples of practice in lens-based media
- ◆ relate the selected examples to contemporary art practice
- ◆ understand movements and genre in contemporary art practice

Research should be presented as a collection of visual examples accompanied by written/oral commentary.

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

Work could be presented as annotated sketchbooks or similar containing visual research evidence and analysis.

Oral commentary could be given in response to oral questioning or provided in a recorded format.

It is recommended that all Outcomes be holistically assessed, although each Outcome in this Unit could also be assessed individually.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Contemporary Art Practice: Lens-Based Media Development

### **Outcome 2**

Produce a range of creative lens-based media experiments using both moving and still images

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Interpretation of a brief
- ◆ Applied research and study skills
- ◆ Experimental techniques
- ◆ Use of lens-based media
- ◆ Producing still images
- ◆ Producing moving images
- ◆ Time management

#### **Evidence Requirements**

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

- ◆ respond creatively and effectively to the brief
- ◆ use lens-based media experimentally
- ◆ produce experimental responses using still image lens-based media
- ◆ produce experimental responses using moving image lens-based media
- ◆ meet defined deadlines

Evidence should be presented in more than one format.

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

Either the tutor or the candidate could provide a brief for this Outcome.

As the approach to this Outcome is entirely experimental, either traditional or digital lens-based methods could be used.

It is recommended that candidates present evidence in more than one format.

By definition a range of creative experiments would require candidates to produce three or more experiments.

It is recommended that all Outcomes be holistically assessed, although each Outcome in this Unit could also be assessed individually.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Contemporary Art Practice: Lens-Based Media Development

### **Outcome 3**

Evaluate lens-based media as a creative medium

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Evaluation techniques
- ◆ Creative practice in lens-based media
- ◆ Lens-based media techniques using both still and moving image

#### **Evidence Requirements**

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

- ◆ evaluate creative practice in lens-based media
- ◆ evaluate still and moving image techniques in lens-based media
- ◆ relate own concepts/experiments in context within contemporary practice

Evidence should be presented in any suitable format — oral, written or digital.

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

Written commentary could be in the form of annotations. Oral commentary could be given in response to oral questioning.

It is recommended that all Outcomes be holistically assessed, although each Outcome in this Unit could also be assessed individually.

## Administrative Information

<b>Unit code:</b>	F1D2 35
<b>Unit title:</b>	Contemporary Art Practice: Lens-Based Media Development
<b>Superclass category:</b>	JB
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### History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

**Source:** SQA

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## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes**

### **Unit title:** Contemporary Art Practice: Lens-Based Media Development

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 practical in nature and should be delivered in a manner which allows candidates to produce:

- ◆ a sketchbook or similar which provides evidence for Outcome 1
- ◆ a range of creative experiments which provides evidence for Outcome 2
- ◆ a completed evaluation which provides evidence for Outcome 3

Content should be delivered through candidate centred practical activity with the emphasis on tutors supporting individual learning activity within a planned format.

Tutors should introduce candidates to the broadest possible range of lens-based media, forms and genre through structured lectures and/or online learning presentations. These sessions should serve as the foundation for the candidate's own research based activity. As a minimum, the candidates should be exposed to concepts of practitioners in, and current trends of lens-based media in contemporary art practice.

It is recommended that the project brief should be themed and emphasise the development of creative experimental responses in still and moving image using lens-based media.

The Unit should be delivered in a creative artistic studio environment with the provision of the most appropriate equipment possible. It is suggested that the approach to this Unit is entirely experimental and that both traditional and digital lens-based methods may be used. For example, should a candidate elect to experiment with 8 mm cine using commercial processing this would be equally as valid as a candidate experimenting with digital video equipment. Candidates could be encouraged to experiment with the analogue/digital boundary, for example shooting still images using 'Polaroid'/film-based image-making and digitally scanned images taken from the original. An experimental surveillance based installation using domestic security video or a photo journalistic work using digital equipment would both be valid approaches.

Candidates should have access to traditional library and online learning resources. Individual research should be supported by group discussion and tutor direction.

Candidate's assessment material could be submitted as the creative products of this Unit. This may be supported by sketchbooks, logs or notebooks. Candidates could make their evaluation through written or oral material.

The folio of material could form the basis of further project work undertaken for other HN Units in lens-based media within the Contemporary Art Practice award.

## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)**

### **Unit title:** Contemporary Art Practice: Lens-Based Media Development

The completed works should be compiled and archived in a manner that allows the candidate to:

- ◆ provide a copy to the tutor/centre for record purposes
- ◆ include the work in their personal portfolio of work

Candidates and centres may consider additionally presenting work as part of an end of course exhibition or screening and or web based promotion or group DVD/CD.

### **Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit**

This Unit has been developed as part of the HND Contemporary Art Practice Group Award. 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. For example common thematic studies and research.

As this Unit is about the developmental processes involved in the creation of a piece of artwork, candidates will be expected to produce experimental pieces.

Candidates should present appropriate evidence, usually in more than one format, to show that they have reached a reasoned decision about a concept that they could carry forward to develop into a finished lens-based artwork.

Evidence of analysis and critical evaluation should be presented either orally, as a short written critique or as annotations to the presentation of the solution. Evaluation could also be recorded or documented by production of a video documentary, videocast or web log.

Candidates should be able to make use of appropriate terminology and to use vocabulary that clearly defines their ideas and concepts.

#### ***Opportunities for developing Core Skills***

Candidates have to conduct in depth research, accessing and studying a range of on line and complex source materials. They should make effective and responsible use of equipment and software applications, and use appropriate methods for keeping all research data secure and well organised. Analytical examination of information accessed is essential, and criteria for evaluation could be identified to support this process. Efficient systems of recording and storing research findings should be developed. Findings may be presented orally or in writing and candidates should express complex ideas and information accurately and coherently, using appropriate terminology. Centre designed checklists for self assessment may be helpful to enhance communication skills development. Oral work should demonstrate the use of effective verbal and non-verbal techniques, including the ability to present materials to a professional standard and provide confident, in depth responses to detailed questions from others.

## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)**

**Unit title:** Contemporary Art Practice: Lens-Based Media Development

### **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](http://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](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).



## **General information for candidates**

### **Unit title:** Contemporary Art Practice: Lens-Based Media Development

This Unit is designed to allow you to develop the skills and knowledge required to research the practice of contemporary art with lens-based-media, produce a range of creative still and moving image experiments using lens-based media and reflect upon your experimental work and lens-based media as a creative medium.

In Outcome 1 you will research the practice of contemporary art with lens-based media.

In Outcome 2 you will produce a range of creative experiments, using both still and moving lens-based media, based on a given brief.

In Outcome 3 you will evaluate lens-based media as a creative medium placing your own concepts/experiments in context within contemporary practice.

The Unit may also provide you with opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving (Planning and Organising, Critical Thinking), oral/written Communication, IT skills.