

Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Contemporary Art Practice: Project

Unit code: F1D5 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to provide candidates with the opportunity to generate an original brief for a contemporary art project, develop creative concepts and produce individual contemporary artwork.

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

- 1 Develop a brief and concepts for a contemporary art project.
- 2 Produce contemporary artwork from selected concept(s).
- 3 Present and evaluate contemporary artwork.

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. It may be beneficial if the candidates had some prior knowledge of working within contemporary art practice. This may be evidenced by possession of relevant HN Units in the Contemporary Art Practice award or prior vocational 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: This Unit will be assessed by a project brief that provides evidence for all Outcomes.

Outcome 1 is assessed by the production of a self generated brief and a range of annotated developmental concepts.

Outcome 2 is assessed by the production of contemporary artwork from selected concepts.

Outcome 3 is assessed by oral and/or written critical analysis of the finished 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

Develop a brief and concepts for a contemporary art project

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Development and interpretation of brief
- ◆ Contemporary context
- ◆ Visual research
- ◆ Time management
- ◆ Conceptual and visual development from research

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ produce a structured brief for a contemporary art project
- ◆ research and develop a range of concepts from selected sources
- ◆ manage time effectively

Evidence should be presented as a brief, time plan and developed concepts which may be in a form that contains referenced, annotated visual material or as an oral presentation/commentary with accompanying visual material.

Assessment Guidelines

It is recommended that the brief and time plan be presented in a structured format.

It is recommended that the brief is approved before candidates proceed to Outcome 2. This will ensure that the brief is suitable in both scope and content to allow candidates to meet all the Evidence Requirements for Outcomes 2 and 3.

This Outcome could be assessed on its own or as part of a holistic assessment for the whole Unit.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Contemporary Art Practice: Project

Outcome 2

Produce contemporary artwork from selected concept(s)

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Critical reflection
- ◆ Selecting concept(s)
- ◆ Media
- ◆ Materials and techniques
- ◆ Tools and equipment
- ◆ Interpretation
- ◆ Safe studio practice
- ◆ Time management

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ analyse and select concept(s) for development
- ◆ select and use media, methods, materials, tools and equipment appropriately
- ◆ produce contemporary artwork from selected concept(s)
- ◆ demonstrate safe studio practice and effective time management

Evidence should be presented in the form of a contemporary artwork.

Assessment Guidelines

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.

This Outcome could be assessed on its own or as part of a holistic assessment for the whole Unit.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Contemporary Art Practice: Project

Outcome 3

Present and evaluate contemporary artwork

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Presentation
- ◆ Methods and materials
- ◆ Contemporary context
- ◆ Evaluative techniques
- ◆ Critical analysis

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ present their artwork in a suitable format
- ◆ evaluate their artwork in relation to the choice of materials and the methodology employed in the development and production
- ◆ evaluate and justify their artwork in relation to its success in response to the brief

Evidence should be in the form of a visual presentation to the tutor, peers or other audience, with oral/written commentary.

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed on its own or as part of a holistic assessment for the whole Unit.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F1D5 35

Unit title: Contemporary Art Practice: Project

Superclass category: JB

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Contemporary Art Practice: Project

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 provide candidates with the opportunity to apply skills in the development of individualistic contemporary artwork. Candidates will develop concepts and produce contemporary artwork which meets the requirements of an appropriate self-initiated brief.

Useful background information for this Unit can be found in museums, galleries, catalogues, artists' monographs, art theory texts relating to contemporary art and its practitioners. Additional information may be available online. Online resources should be vetted for accuracy and appropriateness prior to recommendation to candidates. Tutor's judgement should be utilised in the assessment of an appropriate brief, to ensure that it does not act as a barrier to candidate's progression and also challenges the candidate. Tutors should also exercise judgment as to what is achievable in the time frame and with resources available.

In **Outcome 1**, candidates should develop a brief that is suitably themed and emphasises the development of an individual project through techniques of personal investigation and creative processes. Briefs should be seen as a means to stimulate and challenge the candidate to think both laterally and expressively. Candidates should develop a range of initial responses to the brief before selecting the most appropriate concept for development.

In **Outcome 2**, candidates should produce artwork that reflects the main aims of the brief. Candidates should demonstrate an understanding of method and media. The production of the artwork should be carried out in compliance with the given time plan. Support should be given to develop technical aspects as well as the conceptual ideas. Evaluation of the work should be ongoing and candidates should show the ability to adapt and develop their concepts in response to the challenges or limitations of the initial idea. Candidates should work safely in the studio or workplace.

In **Outcome 3**, candidates will make a critical evaluation of their artwork. The candidate's evaluation should describe to what degree the artwork has met the original aims of the brief, with specific reference to use of media, content, concept and context. Candidates should reflect on how well solutions have met the requirements of the brief and be encouraged to discuss potential improvements and developments. Observation checklists could be used to evidence individual candidate responses, or the group discussion could be recorded.

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.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Contemporary Art Practice: Project

The Unit is practical in nature, although the candidates will acquire greater understanding of contemporary art theory and context through their personal investigations and the practical work that they undertake. It is fundamental to the delivery of this Unit that the tutor is aware of the theory and context of contemporary art practice in its current forms and the potential for investigation and expression therein. The delivery of the Unit should reflect the workflow and processes of a professional or practising contemporary artist. The Unit should be delivered within an artistic studio environment wherever possible. Content should be delivered through candidate-centred practical activity with tutors supporting individual learning activity within a planned format.

As project briefs are self-generated by the candidates the opportunity exists to develop projects which utilise any appropriate media, method and technique. This will allow candidates to work to their strengths and develop an individual artistic construct.

Tutors should ensure that briefs are suitably themed and emphasise the development of an individual project through techniques of personal investigation and creative processes. Briefs should be seen as a means to stimulate and challenge the candidate to think both laterally and expressively. Appropriate sample briefs could be used to demonstrate variety of scope, structure and standard required.

Material and technical options should be explored in a variety of ways with an emphasis on the non-traditional, unless conceptually appropriate. Provision of a wide range of up-to-date equipment is encouraged; as a minimum this should include, depending on individual needs, appropriate access to a suitably equipped sculpture workshop, drawing and painting studio, performance space, or suitable AV and IT equipment.

Candidates should have access to both traditional and contemporary learning resources, which should be used and supported by group discussion and tutor direction. Contemporary learning resources should be checked for reliability.

In the event that the artwork is a single action or performance or similar, the candidate should produce extensive research and development work supporting the outcome as well as high quality documentation.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Elements of the Core Skill of Problem Solving should be naturally developed and enhanced as candidates undertake the practical work for the Unit. Candidates have to produce a brief for a contemporary art project, select and develop concepts and produce and evaluate original work. This will require that they analyse, select and justify media, methods and equipment. As they work they must demonstrate safe and considerate working practice and time management.

Researching and assessing the importance of all factors impacting on the interpretation of a brief including budget and time considerations will involve a high level of critical thinking and creativity. Applying and demonstrating knowledge and understanding models will necessarily require accuracy and skill. A detailed critical analysis of process and product is assessed. Candidates may benefit from formative group discussion and peer review to reinforce analytical and evaluative approaches to working practice.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Contemporary Art Practice: Project

Research work should involve critical analysis of an extensive range of complex relevant information. Project work should be presented effectively and to professional standards. Centre designed checklists for self assessment may be helpful to communication skills development. Written work should be technically accurate and use industry terminology. Oral work should demonstrate the use of effective verbal and non-verbal techniques, including the ability to provide confident, knowledgeable responses to detailed questions.

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: Contemporary Art Practice: Project

This Unit will allow you to develop the skills and knowledge required to generate an original brief for a contemporary art project, develop creative concepts and produce and evaluate individual artwork.

In **Outcome 1** you will:

- ◆ produce a brief for a contemporary art project
- ◆ select and develop concept(s) for the production of contemporary artwork
- ◆ analyse concepts and select an idea for production as a completed artwork

In **Outcome 2** you will:

- ◆ produce artwork
- ◆ demonstrate through your artwork a significant understanding of contemporary art practice
- ◆ select and use appropriate materials, methods, tools and equipment
- ◆ demonstrate safe and considerate working practice and time management

In **Outcome 3** you will:

- ◆ present and evaluate your artwork