



## Higher National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Contemporary Art Practice: Ceramics Development

**Unit code:** FD67 35

**Superclass:** JR

**Publication date:** August 2011

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

### Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to give candidates the opportunity to investigate techniques and develop concepts for ceramic artworks through a personal line of enquiry and to investigate the potential of the medium. It is specifically designed to give candidates the opportunity to explore ceramics as an expressive medium.

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

- 1 Investigate the potential of ceramic as a creative and expressive medium.
- 2 Develop concepts for ceramic artworks.
- 3 Produce and evaluate developmental artworks.

### Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. Candidates should have an understanding of the creative process having completed HN Units in Contemporary Art Practice or have similar qualifications or experience.

### Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit 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.*

## **General information (cont)**

### **Core Skills**

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving (Planning and Organising and Critical Thinking components), IT and Oral/Written Communication in this Unit at SCQF level 5, 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**

A holistic approach to assessment is encouraged for this Unit although each Outcome may be assessed separately. Summative assessment will be of a portfolio of practical work.

Outcome 1 is assessed by the production of sample pieces that demonstrate an investigation of methods and techniques.

Outcome 2 is assessed by the development of concepts in response to a brief.

Outcome 3 is assessed by the production and evaluation of development artworks.

## 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 the potential of ceramic as a creative and expressive medium

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Ceramic materials
- ◆ Ceramic techniques
- ◆ Studio work practice
- ◆ Health and safety requirements

#### Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ investigate the use of ceramic materials and techniques
- ◆ produce experimental samples which show the potential of the techniques explored
- ◆ produce samples that show competence in working with a variety of techniques
- ◆ identify the properties and best use of ceramic materials
- ◆ use safe studio working practices at all times
- ◆ meet health and safety requirements when working with ceramic materials

Evidence should be presented as samples that show the successful application of individual and combined techniques.

Compliance with safe working practices and health and safety regulations should be recorded on an observational checklist.

#### Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed on its own or as part of a holistic assessment for the whole Unit. Individual candidate progress could be monitored using discussion and direct observation.

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

**Unit title:** Contemporary Art Practice: Ceramics Development

### Outcome 2

Develop concepts for ceramic artworks

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Interpretation of a brief
- ◆ Conceptual development from visual research
- ◆ Ceramic processes
- ◆ Problem solving
- ◆ Critical thinking
- ◆ Materials and methods
- ◆ Safe working 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 brief:

- ◆ interpret the brief for the production of artwork that makes use of ceramic
- ◆ develop a range of concepts from selected sources
- ◆ use a range of appropriate media
- ◆ show consideration of the effects of production process
- ◆ critically reflect upon the range of concepts developed and identify the techniques required to produce concepts
- ◆ demonstrate safe and considerate working practice

Evidence should be presented in a form that contains referenced, annotated visual material or as an oral presentation/commentary with accompanying visual material.

#### Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed individually although it is recommended that all Outcomes be holistically assessed.

Candidates should be encouraged to explore a wide variety of styles and could use both two and three-dimensional methods to explore their ideas. Suitable formats for the presentation of evidence include annotated sketchbook enquiry, digital presentation, and oral presentation with accompanying visual material.

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

**Unit title:** Contemporary Art Practice: Ceramics Development

### Outcome 3

Produce and evaluate developmental artworks

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Selection and use of appropriate media
- ◆ Problem solving
- ◆ Critical thinking
- ◆ Materials and media handling skills
- ◆ Creative development process
- ◆ Evaluation skills
- ◆ Health and safety considerations

#### Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ identify concepts that demonstrate potential for continued development
- ◆ produce developmental artworks that make use of appropriate media
- ◆ demonstrate safe and considerate approaches to studio work practices
- ◆ meet health and safety requirements
- ◆ evaluate developmental artworks and techniques

Evidence should be presented in the form of ceramic experimental artworks that have been constructed using a variety of techniques, and an evaluative commentary with accompanying visual material.

Compliance with health and safety regulations should be recorded on an observational checklist.

#### Assessment Guidelines

Consideration should be given to the scale and complexity of experiments. Candidates may have skills in some but not all areas; therefore assessment should reflect the whole process and weighting may be varied across the Outcomes.

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

**Unit title:** Contemporary Art Practice: Ceramics 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 will allow candidates to investigate the potential of ceramic materials as a creative and expressive medium through handling it and responding to plasticity. It will enable them to recognise and use to advantage the movement of ceramic material from the wet to dry stage. Candidates should also be made aware of the physical and chemical changes that occur during processing.

It would be beneficial for the candidate to possess good creative and practical skills

Useful background information for this Unit can be found in museums, galleries, libraries and online. Online resources should be vetted for accuracy and appropriateness prior to recommendation to candidates.

This Unit may be delivered as a standalone Unit or in combination with other Contemporary Art Practice Units. It is intended to involve candidates in the creative production of ceramic artworks. It would be useful for candidates to research the methods, techniques and concepts used by practising ceramic artists, both traditional and contemporary, and their use of ceramic material as an expressive medium.

Although it is important that the candidates work independently to determine the range and scope of their proposals, individual or group tutorials could promote the use of reflective questioning approaches and assist in the development process. It could also help to ensure that candidates are working to the required standard.

The pieces produced should reflect a refining of the handling of the media but also maintain the immediacy of the initial experimentation and responses to the material.

### **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.

This Unit should be delivered in a suitable workshop/studio environment.

A holistic approach to assessment is encouraged.

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

**Unit title:** Contemporary Art Practice: Ceramics Development

Evaluation could allow candidates to critically reflect on the success of the experiments and also to review the effectiveness of their planning process. Candidates should show an ability to critically reflect upon their concepts and be able to express sound reasons for rejecting some ideas and continuing to develop others.

Evidence of analysis and critical evaluation should be presented either orally, as a short written critique or as annotations to the presentation of the experiments. Candidates should be able to make use of appropriate terminology and to use vocabulary that clearly defines their ideas and concepts.

Works should be of a conceptual and developmental nature. Consideration should be given to the ways that the concept could be carried forward into a finished artwork.

The pieces produced should reflect a refining of the handling of the media but also maintain the immediacy of the initial experimentation and responses to the material.

### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

The Core Skills of Problem Solving, IT and Communication could be developed or further enhanced as candidates undertake this Unit and apply theoretical knowledge to a complex practical task. Candidates could be supported in the use of recognised research techniques to encourage detailed analysis of the working practices and approaches used by artists and/or designers. This would also involve a high level of analytical and communication skills. The process of identifying potential areas for development and in the identification and maximisation of the potential of selected material will involve candidates in high levels of critical thinking. The evaluative processes involved in the development of the experimental samples and the analysis of the working practices and design inspiration will be fundamental in the successful presentation of assessment evidence.

### Open learning

The practical nature of parts of this Unit would make it difficult to deliver via open learning. However, parts could be delivered by distance learning although 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).

### Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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## General information for candidates

### **Unit title:** Contemporary Art Practice: Ceramics Development

This Unit will allow you to investigate the potential of ceramic material as a creative and expressive medium through handling it and responding to its plasticity. This will also enable you to recognise and use to advantage the movement of ceramic material from the wet to dry stage. You will also be made aware of the physical and chemical changes that occur during processing.

In Outcome 1 you will be asked to handle different ceramic materials and investigate their qualities. You will be asked to produce samples by experimenting with ceramic materials and techniques.

In Outcome 2 you will work to a brief. You will investigate ideas and develop these through drawing and experimentation in two and/or three-dimensional media. You will be asked to identify through critical analysis the techniques required to produce the pieces that you may take forward for further development.

In Outcome 3 you will also be asked to produce developmental artworks using experimental techniques and evaluate them.

You will also produce a sketchbook/workbook that clearly documents the stages from initial experimentation through to production of the pieces.

At all times you will be expected to use safe and considerate work practices and to consider health and safety requirements.