



## National Unit Specification: general information

**UNIT** Art and Design: Introduction to Contemporary Art Practice  
(SCQF level 5)

**CODE** F51K 11

### SUMMARY

This Unit has been designed to provide the candidate with an introduction to contemporary art practice. It will develop the candidate's awareness of the range and diversity of contemporary art practice from 1960s onwards. The emphasis of the Unit is on the application of this knowledge in the development of ideas and/or concepts for contemporary art work to a given brief

This Unit is suitable for candidates who:

- ◆ have a basic understanding of general art practice
- ◆ wish to develop a greater awareness of contemporary art practice
- ◆ wish to develop ideas and concepts through the application of contemporary art practice

### OUTCOMES

- 1 Research contemporary art practice.
- 2 Develop ideas and/or concepts for contemporary artwork for a given brief.

### RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would benefit from previous experience of an art or design course or Units.

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#### Administrative Information

**Superclass:** JB

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## **National Unit Specification: general information (cont)**

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### **CREDIT VALUE**

1 credit at Intermediate 2 level (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5\*).

*\*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.*

### **CORE SKILLS**

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills in this Unit.

The Unit provides opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the following Core Skills:

- ◆ Information and Communication Technology (SCQF level 4)
- ◆ Communication (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ Problem Solving (SCQF level 5)

These opportunities are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards**

### **UNIT        Art and Design: Introduction to Contemporary Art Practice (SCQF level 5)**

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit Specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

#### **OUTCOME 1**

Research contemporary art practice.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify examples of contemporary art practice.
- (b) Describe the content of the selected examples of contemporary art practice.
- (c) Analyse the context of the selected examples of contemporary art practice.
- (d) Present the collated research material.

#### **OUTCOME 2**

Develop ideas and/or concepts for contemporary artwork for a given brief.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify the main requirements of the given brief.
- (b) Develop initial ideas and/or concepts for contemporary artwork in response to the given brief.
- (c) Explore and use a range of media, materials and techniques for contemporary artwork in response to the given brief.
- (d) Develop a variety of creative approaches and techniques for contemporary artwork in response to the given brief.

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)**

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### **EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT**

Written and/or oral recorded evidence and product evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

This Unit includes work which is both practical and conceptual and the folio of evidence will include:

#### **Outcome 1**

- ◆ collated research material including a brief description of a minimum of three contemporary art practice examples from 1960 onwards. The candidate will then identify and select a minimum of two practising artists, and provide visual examples of their artwork. These examples will be described and analysed with reference to both descriptive content and context. All collated research material should be presented in a logical and structured format in either traditional or electronic format.

#### **Outcome 2**

- ◆ the identification of the main requirements of the contemporary art practice brief and the subsequent development of two initial explorative ideas and/or concepts. The initial ideas and/or concepts should be informed by research carried out during Outcome 1. The ideas and/or concepts should be suitable and relevant for the defined contemporary art practice application in the given brief.

The folio of evidence may be presented in any suitable format and may incorporate a sketchbook, worksheets, logbook or electronic workbook format with annotated commentary. All practical work should be kept in sketchbook or folio. Assessment evidence will be produced in open-book conditions.

## **National Unit Specification: support notes**

### **UNIT            Art and Design: Introduction to Contemporary Art Practice (SCQF level 5)**

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 an optional Unit of the National Certificate in Art and Design, but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit will develop the candidate's awareness of the range and possibilities within the context of contemporary art from 1960 onwards. The candidate will research a variety of contemporary art practice. This may include for example installation art, digital artwork, video, 3D design/fine art, 2D design/fine art, photography etc. The emphasis of the Unit is on acquiring knowledge and understanding of the processes and media used by contemporary artists as well as the theoretical/conceptual content in the artist's work. A minimum of two artists should be studied in greater detail, after the more general identification of a variety of contemporary art practice, ensuring that the candidate can develop an in-depth understanding of key selected examples of work.

In Outcome 2 the candidate will be given the opportunity to develop contemporary artwork in response to a given brief. The emphasis will be on the conceptual development of ideas and/or concepts in conjunction with an experimental approach to the use of media and techniques. The candidates should be encouraged to make connections wherever possible between the earlier research and their practical work.

#### **GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT**

Outcome 1 should direct the candidate to collect research material of a variety of contemporary art practice, followed by a more detailed description and analysis of a minimum of two artists work. This process could be effectively supported through class discussions and presentations, gallery visits, or through completing guided analysis of printed and visual material. Each candidate could present their research to the teacher/lecturer individually or as part of a peer group session which would allow for the collective sharing of knowledge. This process will help to develop the candidate's critical awareness and thinking skills.

Outcome 2 will encourage the candidate to work independently exploring media, method and application in response to their interpretation of the given contemporary art practice brief. The candidate should be supported through one to one or group discussion to critically review the potential of their ideas and/or concepts. There is also an opportunity for candidates to develop self-reflective skills and this should be encouraged throughout the artistic process. This will lead the candidate towards the development of ideas and/or concepts that demonstrate an individual and creative response to the identified requirements of the given brief.

## National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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### OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Candidates may have the opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Information and Communication Technology* if they use the Internet for research purposes.

Through participation in classroom based tutorials and discussions relating to contemporary art practice and in the development of ideas and/or concepts for the given brief candidates may have the opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Communication* and *Problem Solving*.

### GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

A suitable instrument of assessment for this Unit is a practical exercise.

Outcome 1 requires the candidate to collate and present a variety of visual and text based research. Formative assessment of this research could be supported by candidate feed-back in written or oral recorded format. Teacher/lecturer questioning could be used to help direct candidates to become more critically aware and to develop their own opinions and thoughts in response to their collated research. Group presentation could also be useful here, allowing for the benefits of shared group learning.

Outcome 2 could include both formative and final assessment. Teacher/lecturer and/or peer critiques could be used throughout the process, which would help the candidates to critically explore their developing ideas and/or concepts in an individual and creative manner. All of the ideas and/or concepts should be retained as part of an ongoing folio of work. This work should be assessed with reference to the personal enquiry made by the candidate and their ability to develop ideas and/or concepts that meet the identified requirements of the given brief. Materials and methods used in the development process should demonstrate an inquisitive, exploratory mind. It would be expected that all experiments and approaches may not always be successful and the ability of the candidate to self-reflect and comment on their learning should be taken into account.

The teacher/lecturer must be satisfied that the evidence submitted is the work of individual candidates. Although group work may be used as a learning and teaching approach, any work that contributes to a candidate's assessment evidence must be carried out on an individual basis to ensure authenticity.

#### Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by information and communications technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

## **National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)**

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### **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)).