BA Fine Art
Programme Specification

1. **Programme title**	BA (Hons) Fine Art BA (Hons) Fine Art with Foundation Year
2. **Awarding institution**	Middlesex University
3a. **Teaching institution**	Middlesex University London
3b. **Language of study**	English
4a. **Valid intake dates**	Autumn Term
4b. **Mode of study**	Full-time or Part-time
4c. **Delivery method**	☒ On-campus/Blended ☐ Distance Education
5. **Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body**	n/a
6. **Apprenticeship Standard**	n/a
7. **Final qualification(s) available**	BA Hons Fine Art BA Hons Fine Art with Foundation Year BA Fine Art BA Fine Art with Foundation Year DipHE Fine Art CertHE Fine Art
8. **Year effective from**	2024/25

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

An assessment of an applicant's portfolio is the single most important criterion for admission to the programme. We provide all applicants with guidance of what we are looking for in a portfolio, which includes evidence of self-motivated experimentation across media, research into the field of fine art broadly defined, and contextual awareness. Despite a requirement of a minimum of 112 UCAS points (or equivalent), we welcome applicants from Foundation, HND, or BTEC courses, with relevant experience

from industry, as well as those without evidenced work experience or formal qualifications, as long as they demonstrate an aptitude for learning and a commitment to do so on BA Fine Art. We conduct a great number of portfolio interviews because we believe in their unique capacity to assess potential and suitability for the programme.

10. Aims of the programme
The programme aims to:

•   Support students to fulfil their creative potential, through a variety of teaching methods and opportunities for hands-on experimentation across the histories, theories, media, and contexts of contemporary art.
•   Equip students with the knowledge, skills, experience, and resilience required to establish a sustainable career in the field of contemporary art and adjacent disciplines post-graduation.
•   Promote social responsibility and an ethical orientation within art's complex ecologies, in recognition of the socio-political roles of art and its capacity for positive social change.
•   Produce informed and articulate graduates who are skilled communicators and able to work both independently and in collaboration with others.
•   Produce well-rounded graduates who combine practical and technological skills, visual and digital literacy, and intellectual agility.

11. Programme outcomes*

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of:

1. The practice of art, incorporating a hands-on understanding of its media, techniques, and discourses (PRACTICE).
2. The place of art practice in the context of its histories, the contemporary field, and current critical theories and discourses (HISTORY AND CONTEXT).
3. The role of art in contemporary social, political and cultural formations, and particularly its tested capacity for positive social change (SOCIAL ROLE).
4. Research processes and methodologies and their relationship to fine art practice (RESEARCH).

Teaching/learning methods
Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

• An individual art practice and other self-directed learning (including outreach work, gallery visits, library & archive research).
• Practice and theory-based briefings, interactive presentations and seminars.
• Individual tutorials.
• Group tutorials, student-led presentations and critiques (peer group learning).
• Workshop inductions to a broad range of technologies and social strategies as appropriate.
• Set and negotiated project work.

- Work-based learning through placements.

Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:
- The sharing of their practice in a formal and purposeful way, through oral presentation, exhibition, or other methods of making public.
- Reflective documentation of own art practice in different formats, including oral and scriptovisual.
- Writing, including extended writing and short text statements at exhibition.

B. Skills

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:
1. Demonstrate competence, integrity, and professionalism in the choice and use of a range of appropriate media, processes, and strategies in the making, facilitation, and curation of creative practice (CREATE).
2. Negotiate, organize and manage art projects within specific defined temporal, spatial and resource parameters, individually and in collaboration with others (DELIVER).
3. Evidence a capacity for continuous learning and adaptability, further developing their digital literacy and methodological, technical, and conceptual toolkit (LEARN TO LEARN).
4. Clearly articulate and communicate complex ideas and arguments through appropriate means (COMMUNICATE).

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn skills through:

- An individual art practice and other self-directed learning (including outreach work, gallery visits, library & archive research).
- Practice and theory-based briefings, interactive presentations, and seminars.
- Individual tutorials.
- Group tutorials, student led presentations and critiques (peer group learning).
- Workshop inductions to a broad range of technologies and social strategies as appropriate.
- Set and negotiated project work.
- Work-based learning through placements.

Assessment methods

Students' skills are assessed by:

- The sharing of their practice in a formal and purposeful way, through oral presentation, exhibition, or other methods of making public.
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- Writing, including extended writing and short text statements at exhibition.

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

Foundation Year
Level - 3
Semester 1
ADM0001 Creative London
ADM0002 Skills and the Creative Process
Semester 2
ADM0003 Exploring Creative Directions
ADM0004 Major Project and Portfolio

Full time mode

Level 4, Year 1

Semester 1

FNA1203 Intro to Media, Sites & Situations (Practice: specialisms and media)
FNA1903 Art and Visual Culture (Visual Culture)

Semester 2

FNA1103 Establishing a self-directed practice (Practice: self directed)

FNA1303 Art Ecologies: Orientation (Professional development)

Level 5, Year 2

Semester 1

FNA2203 Media, Sites & Situations (Practice: self directed)

FNA2303 Art Ecologies: Placement (Professional development)

Semester 2

FNA2103 Developing a self-directed practice (Practice: self directed)

FNA2903 Research and Critical Analysis (Visual Culture)

Level 6, Year 3

Semester 1

FNA3103 Self-Directed Practice (Practice: self directed)

FNA3903 Self-Directed Research & Thesis (Visual Culture)

Semester 2

FNA3203 Self-Directed Practice & Making public (Practice: self directed)

FNA3303 Working in the Arts (Professional development)

Part time mode

Level 4, year 1 and 2

Semester 1

FNA1203 Intro to Media, Sites & Situations (Practice: specialisms and media)

FNA1903 Art and Visual Culture (Visual Culture)

Semester 2

FNA1303 Art Ecologies: Orientation (Professional development)

FNA1103 Establishing a self-directed practice (Practice: self directed)

At levels 5 and 6 students are to choose one of the two modules running in each semester, giving them the agency to organise their modules around their commitments and the preference to either focus on practice or something more theoretical in each semester.

Level 5, year 3 and 4

Semester 1

FNA2203 OR FNA2303 (Professional development)

FNA2203 OR FNA2303 (Professional development)

Semester 2

FNA2103 or FNA2903 (Visual Culture)

FNA2103 or FNA2903 (Visual Culture)

Level 6, year 5 and 6

Semester 1

FNA3103 (Practice: self directed) or FNA3903 (Visual Culture)

FNA3103 (Practice: self directed) or FNA3903 (Visual Culture)

Semester 2

FNA3203 (Practice: self directed) or FNA3303 (Professional development)

FNA3203 (Practice: self directed) or FNA3303 (Professional development)

Exit awards:
BA Hons Fine Art (with 360 credits, i.e. upon successful completion of all modules listed above in either FT or PT mode) BA Hons Fine Art with Foundation Year (upon completion of all modules listed above, plus 120 credits from Foundation, Level 3)
BA Fine Art (ordinary degree, with 300-359 credits)
BA Fine Art with Foundation Year (as above, plus 120 credits from Foundation, Level 3)
DipHE Fine Art (upon completion of all Level 4 and Level 5 modules)
CertHE Fine Art (upon completion of all Level 4 modules)

Pass/fail modules:
All Level 4 modules (FNA1103, FNA1203, FNA1303, FNA1903) are pass/fail rather than graded, to encourage experimentation and ease pressure during our students' transition to HE learning. Students receive qualitative feedback as well as an indication of attainment.

Note on module codes: the first digit designates year of study in FT mode, the second digit stands for different programme threads, while the last two digits represents the credit weighting if flipped (i.e. xx03 = a 30-credits). The programme threads are as follows:
1: independent/self-directed practice
2: practice specialisms and media
3: professional awareness, development and employability
9: visual culture, incl. research, contextualisation, and analysis

In Fine Art, all practice is 'independent' by definition. However, since a growing number of our applicants come directly from A-Levels, we support them to initiate and sustain their own art projects from conception to completion, without themed briefs or prompts, through thread 1, which will help equip them with the necessary skills, experience, and confidence to develop their practice in a self-

directed way. Thread 1 will emphasise workshop inductions and one-to-one tutorials. Thread 2 is likewise practice-focused but will also include seminars on different media and practices and will emphasise group crits. At level 6 the distinction between threads 1 and 2 is no longer relevant, as students will have either developed a post/cross-media self-directed practice or will be working in particular media; either way, level 6 students will be assigned tutors in alignment with their evolving practice.

Visual culture modules will focus on the development of research, critical, and communication skills with emphasis on the production of illustrated text, broadly and inclusively approached. They will be carefully planned alongside thread 2 so that they're mutually supportive and enriching: for example, students will be introduced to social art practice in both threads and have the opportunity to approach it from different perspectives, from historical research to hands-on experimentation.

The professional development thread will start off with an orientation in art's contemporary ecologies, move on to researching particular institutions, organisations, and ways of working, culminating in a purposefully chosen short placement in Y2, and conclude with a consolidation of professional skills and employability in Y3, which may be evidenced and assessed by the production of a professional website, for example, which our students can continue to build on and use post-graduation.

12.2 Levels and modules

Level 4

COMPULSORY - Students must take all of the following:
- FNA1103: Establishing a self-directed practice
- FNA1203: Introduction to Media, Sites and Situations
- FNA1303: Art Ecologies: Orientation
- FNA1903: Art and Visual Culture

OPTIONAL – None

PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

Students must pass at least 90 credits to progress to Level 5.

To achieve Honours, failed credit will need to be repeated.

Level 5

COMPULSORY - Students must take all of the following:
- FNA2103: Developing a self-directed practice
- FNA2203: Media, Sites and Situations
- FNA2303: Art Ecologies: Placement
- FNA2903: Research and Critical Analysis

OPTIONAL - None
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

Students must pass at least 210 credits to progress to Level 6.

To achieve Honours, failed credit will need to be repeated.

Level 6

COMPULSORY - Students must take all of the following:
- FNA3103: Self-Directed Practice
- FNA3303: Working in the Arts
- FNA3903: Self-Directed Research and Thesis
- FNA3203: Self-Directed Practice and Making Public

OPTIONAL - None
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS - None

12.3 Non-compensatable modules

Module level - 6

Module code - FNA3203 – Self-Directed Practice and Making Public

13. Information about assessment regulations

This programme will run in line with general University Regulations:
FINAL-Regulations-2023-24.pdf (mdx.ac.uk)

14. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

FNA2330: Art Ecologies (Placement) is the 2nd year module in professional studies and employability, which will involve a short placement between 1 and 4 weeks, to be sourced by each student. Placements will be supported by MDXWorks, who have extensive relevant experience, as well as academics with relevant expertise. This new module is specific to the field of Fine Art and introduces students to the history and practices of artists' placements broadly defined, including the work of the Artists' Placement Group (APG) and Dr Loraine Leeson, as well as supporting them in finding, holding and critically reflecting on their own placement.

15. Future careers / progression

It is widely recognised that global communications and community-building on- and off-line show a growing reliance on visual culture. BA Hons Fine Art furnishes graduates with visual literacy, creative competence, and resourcefulness, all of which are highly valued by a great range of employers. In addition to a list of professional roles for which BA Hons Fine Art prepares its graduates (https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/fine-art), our graduates secure various mainstream graduate jobs and training in a range of industries, such as banking, insurance, media and public relations, where a BA Fine Art degree makes them stand out as creative and resourceful candidates.

Our recent graduates are gainfully employed across the creative industries, art therapy, and secondary schools, while some go on to further study at world-class institutions including the Royal College of Art. Others, like Dr Hayley Newman (https://www.ucl.ac.uk/slade/people/academic/profile/HJENE78), have gone on to be successful practising artists who combine their practice with teaching in Higher Education. Our graduate Kelvin Okafor is a celebrated portraitist and entrepreneur who has received art commissions by the House of Commons (UK Parliament), among other prestigious institutions (https://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/our-people/made-in-middlesex/portrait-of-success). Another recent graduate, Joe Hill, is the director and CEO of Towner Gallery in Eastbourne (https://townereastbourne.org.uk/), which was awarded the title of Museum of the Year by Art Fund in 2020.

16. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

The programme relies on regular access to the university's world-class production facilities in the Grove (notably 3D, print rooms, dark room) to deliver its learning outcomes, as well as daily use of an allocated studio space for each student. We will also continue to rely on our virtual learning environment My Learning, with regular support from CAPE; the library and our subject librarian; and Academic Writing and Language tutors.

17. HECos code   100059
18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s)   Art and Design (2019)

19. Reference points
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Art and Design, https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-art-and-design-17.pdf?sfvrsn=71eef781_16
- Middlesex University Regulations, Our policies | Middlesex University London (mdx.ac.uk)

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

21. Curriculum map for *BA Fine Art*

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

A1 - PRACTICE: The practice of art, incorporating a hands-on understanding of its media, techniques, and discourses.

A2 - HISTORY & CONTEXT: The place of art practice in the context of its histories, the contemporary field, and current critical theories and discourses.

A3 - SOCIAL ROLE: The role of art in contemporary social, political and cultural formations, and particularly its tested capacity for positive social change.

A4 - RESEARCH: Research processes and methodologies and their relationship to fine art practice.

Skills

B1 - CREATE: Demonstrate competence, integrity, and professionalism in the choice and use of a range of appropriate media, processes, and strategies in the making, facilitation, and curation of creative practice.

B2 - DELIVER: Negotiate, organize and manage art projects within specific defined temporal, spatial and resource parameters, individually and in collaboration with others.

B3 - LEARN TO LEARN: Evidence a capacity for continuous learning and adaptability, further developing their digital literacy and their methodological, technical, and conceptual toolkit.

B4 - COMMUNICATE: Clearly articulate and communicate complex ideas and arguments through appropriate means.

Programme outcomes: A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4

Highest level achieved by all graduates: 6 (all outcomes)

Module Title - Establishing a self-directed practice

Module Code by Level - FNA1103

Outcomes – A1, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4

Module Title - Introduction to Media, Sites and Situations

Module Code by Level - FNA1203

Outcomes - A1, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4

Module Title - Art Ecologies: Orientation

Module Code by Level - FNA1303

Outcomes – A2, A3, A4, B3, B4

Module Title - Art and Visual Culture

Module Code by Level - FNA1903

Outcomes – A2, A3, A4, B3, B4

Module Title - Developing a self-directed practice

Module Code by Level – FNA2103

Outcomes – A1, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4

Module Title - Media, Sites and Situations

Module Code by Level – FNA2203

Outcomes – A1, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4

Module Title - Art Ecologies: Placement

Module Code by Level – FNA2303

Outcomes – A2, A3, A4, B2, B3, B4

Module Title - Research and Critical Analysis

Module Code by Level – FNA2903

Outcomes – A2, A3, A4, B3, B4

Module Title - Working in the Arts

Module Code by Level – FNA3303

Outcomes – A2, A3, A4, B3, B4

Module Title - Self-Directed Research and Thesis

Module Code by Level – FNA3903

Outcomes – A2, A4, B3, B4

Module Title - Self-Directed Practice

Module Code by Level – FNA3103

Outcomes – A1, A4, B1, B3, B4

Module Title - Self-Directed Practice and Making Public

Module Code by Level – FNA3203

Outcomes – A1, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4