



School of Art

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Undergraduate studies in

**Art History, the Creative Arts,  
Fine Art and Photography**

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## Important information

The programme information published in this brochure was correct at time of going to print (June 2022) and may be subject to change. Prospective students are advised to check the definitive programme information, including entry requirements, that is available on our website before making an application, to ensure that the programme meets their needs.

# Welcome

Welcome to the School of Art at Aberystwyth University. As one of the highest-ranking art departments in the UK, our aim is to introduce you to the best scholarship in the arts, to assist you in reaching your learning potential and to gain the knowledge, confidence and skills to forge a career in today's market.

The School of Art is not just an academic institution. It is a caring community of staff and students from different backgrounds and nationalities. With that diversity in mind, we offer a range of stimulating, creatively challenging courses in Fine Art, Photography, Art History and/or Creative Arts - degree schemes that provide you with the opportunity to combine the practical, historical, theoretical and curatorial study of art.

While numbers cannot tell the whole story, the success of our specialised and combined courses in drawing and painting, book illustration, photography, printmaking, new media as well as our vocation-oriented, hands-on education in art history is borne out by statistics. We continue to perform exceptionally well in the National Student Satisfaction survey (NSS) and other league tables. In the NSS 2021, the School of Art at Aberystwyth was ranked overall in the Top 10 of UK providers. The relevance and currency of our schemes are reviewed in light of such feedback.

We also perform considerably ahead of national sector-wide averages. In The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020, Art at Aberystwyth was ranked No. 8, while our Art History programme stood at No. 2 in the UK. We have been No. 1 in Wales since 2017.

At the School of Art, you have access to state-of-the-art teaching facilities. You will be studying art and/or its histories surrounded by works of art from our internationally renowned museum collection. The School and its museum are housed in one historic, Grade II\*-listed building.

The research of our staff of exhibiting artists, publishing art historians and practising curators actively informs our teaching. It promotes critical and interdisciplinary thinking and provides you with an inspiring learning environment. The practical and transferable skills you learn here opens up a wide range of career options.

99% of our graduates are in work or further study within six months of graduating (HESA 2018). Our former students are entering careers in the creative industries as artists, children's book illustrators, graphic designers, university educators, researchers and curators. Since 2015, five of our graduates have featured on Sky Arts Landscape Painter of the Year - including the 2017 winner Tom Voyce - and on Sky Arts Portrait Painter of the Year.

Alumna Edwina Ellis has designed several coins for the Royal Mint, including four £1 coins depicting Welsh, English, Scottish and Northern Irish bridges, a £2 coin marking 150 years of London Underground, and, in 2019, a 50p coin commemorating Stephen Hawking with a design inspired by his theories on black holes.

I recommend that you book your place on one of our Open Days to meet with our staff and students, and to experience the School of Art, university and town for yourself. Those who visit us usually choose to study with us, to live and learn in a vibrant coastal town surrounded by countryside of outstanding beauty.

A warm welcome awaits!

**Professor Robert Meyrick**  
Head of School of Art



# Student Profiles

## Kirsten Jones

### Art History V350

For an Art History student such as myself, studying at the School of Art at Aberystwyth University offers many unique opportunities compared to other larger institutions. I've learnt about many different aspects of art history, spanning from the Italian Renaissance to contemporary art practice. The modules on offer have also allowed me to question traditional modes of art history and to apply my knowledge and research skills to more practical assignments. A lot of the teaching in the School of Art takes place in quite an informal setting.

For example, seminars are an important part of many modules and generally take place in smaller groups than the lectures. Seminars focus on discussion and collaboration between students and staff, which makes them more engaging than traditional lectures. There is a high level of contact between students and staff. Each student is assigned a personal tutor, with whom we meet on a regular basis. Outside of this, members of staff are always willing to help in any way that they can.

Unlike many other university art schools, Aberystwyth's School of Art is also an accredited and functioning museum with its own collection and exhibition spaces. Students are afforded the opportunity of regularly working with the collection, which is introduced in the first-year module "Exploring the School of Art Collections." This is something that made Aberystwyth stand out when I was choosing which university to attend.

As a third-year student, I have also had the opportunity to curate an exhibition using works from the collection, which will then be open to the public over the summer.

I feel that all this has provided me with a solid basis on which I can build when continuing my studies as a postgraduate. I have been able to cultivate skills that I would not have developed elsewhere.

## Jonathan Retalick

### Fine Art W100

Though most of my fellow students came to Aberystwyth University direct from school or foundation course, I was home educated. I experienced some art tuition before university but had primarily explored painting and drawing on my own. Aberystwyth's unique location has much to offer those like me who are inspired by nature. I came to Aberystwyth wanting to paint, but I have enjoyed the opportunity to try other disciplines such as printmaking, photography and life drawing. These in turn have fed into my painting.

Since my second year, I have a dedicated studio space that gives me the freedom to create in a stimulating environment surrounded by fellow students. I have been amazed by the generous feedback and encouragement my tutors have given me - even outside scheduled class times. The School of Art staff has enabled me to explore ideas in far more depth than I could have imagined. The lecturers here are really passionate about their subjects and that rubs off on to the students. I came to Aberystwyth with an open mind, and I soaked up everything like a sponge. I am here not just to study art but to continue living it. The School of Art has given a massive boost to my artistic endeavours.

## Amelia Jenkinson

### Fine Art W100

The lecturers are really passionate and knowledgeable about art and their own disciplines. I feel like I am always growing and improving as an artist, as my tutors take time to give me good constructive feedback.



## Maria Tilt

### Fine Art W100

Everyone comments on how much I have improved over the last few years and I can see it in myself as well. I've learnt so much over my uni time - in particular how to deal with constructive criticism and use it to actually help me! Throughout my GCSE and A-Level years I never really received much criticism, my teachers were always so impressed with my work that I never really pushed myself to the next level. Their teaching left me used to being complimented, it was a massive shock at first coming to university and going from the top in my class at school to just one amongst so many talented students. And although it was initially frustrating being faced with constructive criticism, I appreciate it so much now, if I wasn't told the truth and pushed to be the best that I can be then I would never have improved at all. Thank you so much! I hope I will continue improving and achieving things!

## Amy Barson

### Art History V350

I love that Art History is so many courses rolled in to one. It is not just looking at art. It is about social and political history, social anthropology, studying different cultures and learning about how artists communicate their ideas and thoughts through their own mediums. It has helped me to get a much greater grasp of history in general and to understand how to enjoy looking at art and comprehend its messages. Learning about art history has also taught me a lot about how to research and the importance of maintaining and appreciating our shared cultural heritage.



# The School of Art

The School occupies one of the finest examples of architecture in Aberystwyth. Opened in 1907, the Edward Davies Building has been adapted to meet today's educational needs yet retains many of its original features. It is an elegant symbol of the School's aim to bridge past and present by relating the tradition to contemporary practices.

Set in its own grounds, the building houses spacious, well-lit painting and drawing studios, print workshops, darkrooms, a Mac suite, as well as a lecture theatre and seminar rooms. The ability to move with ease from one area of study to another and to remain in close contact with staff and postgraduates fosters a sense of community and collaboration.

The Edward Davies Building also accommodates a museum, public galleries, and extensive collections of art. Within easy reach and used extensively in our teaching, these resources set the School of Art apart from most Fine Art and Art History programmes in Britain.

Unique in Wales, and of international importance, our collections offer primary research material for staff, students and external scholars. Students may gain hands-on experience of exhibition preparation, installation and curation, as well as cataloguing and digitisation of the collections, through opportunities for volunteer work under the guidance of our museum professionals.

The School of Art collections include European prints from the fifteenth century to the present day, as well as drawings, watercolours and photographs. The George Powell collection of books, manuscripts, Pre-Raphaelite drawings and watercolours, bronzes and objets d'art is an invaluable

resource for the reconstruction of the worldview of a nineteenth-century collector.

In addition, our collections comprise fine art prints representing the Etching Revival since Whistler, the Gulbenkian Collection of Welsh art, an extensive collection of photography dating from the nineteenth century to the present day, School of Paris prints and contemporary printmaking, as well as some 5,000 illustrations from 1860s periodicals.

Of international importance, the School's ceramics collection comprises some 2,300 examples of contemporary British, European, American, and Japanese ceramics, eighteenth and nineteenth-century slipware, as well as Swansea and Nantgarw porcelain. A major strength of the collection is its representative holdings of early twentieth-century British Pioneer Studio Pottery.





# Teaching facilities









# Galleries



# Our courses

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## Art History

### BA (Hons)

As students of Art History you will examine the products of cultures, trace their origins, chart their development and debate their significance. To this end, our BA Art History degree promotes critical thinking and equips you with essential research and writing skills, ensuring that you not only gain knowledge but will be prepared to make use of whatever you learn.

Our Art History degree introduces you to the fundamentals of research, analysis and argumentation. It provides you with rare opportunities to conduct original research using our museum’s extensive collections of fine and decorative art.

In addition to providing a survey of Western art from the Renaissance to the present day, the course offers a range of optional modules such as Art in Wales, Gothic Imagination, Rethinking Impressionism, and Curating an Exhibition. You will have the opportunity to research and stage an exhibition for our public galleries, and to experience creative practices at first hand as part of the Methods and Materials for Art Historians module. Aberystwyth is the only university in Wales offering undergraduate degrees in art history.

Opportunities for Art History students at Aberystwyth include:

- skills development and research training tailored to your individual interests
- training grounded in the fundamentals of research, analysis and argumentation
- vocation-oriented modules and the curatorial study of art
- access to our museum’s internationally renowned collections of fine and decorative art.

### Employability

In an image-driven world such as ours, the ability to understand the language of visual culture is becoming increasingly important. The study of art history has many practical applications. It provides a sound foundation for careers in education, publishing and advertising, as well as in curating, conservation and arts administration. Alumni employers include the Arts Council, Royal Academy of Arts, Tate, Victoria & Albert Museum and the Royal Collections Trust.

### Module list

Below is an indicative list of modules that you may study on this course.

#### First year:


- Pleasure, Power, and Profit: Art in the Long Eighteenth Century
- Looking into Landscape: Reading, Researching, Responding
- Art in Europe 2: Revolutions and Modernities 1814-1900
- Representing the Body.


#### Second and final year:

- Methods and Materials for Art Historians
- Modernisms: Art in the Early Twentieth Century
- Dissertation Preparation and Professional Practice for Students of Art History
- Postmodernism and Contemporary Art
- Dissertation.

See our website for the optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests.

### Key Facts

 Degree type: BA.

 UCAS Code: V350.

 Duration: 3 years.



# Creative Arts

## BA (Hons)

Our Creative Arts degree offers a unique learning experience that allows you to cross traditional disciplinary boundaries and draw on the breadth of your creative potential. It enables you to follow a self-directed pathway through and across the following strands of creative activity: fine art, creative writing, performance, scenography and film.

Through the degree’s core interdisciplinary practice modules, you will develop a portfolio of self-directed creative projects, and present your work in an annual public event at the RIBA award-winning Aberystwyth Arts Centre, staging site-specific intervention projects in and around the centre.

The Creative Arts degree has a strong vocational dimension which provides for practical learning and a direct engagement with Aberystwyth’s creative community. As well as learning from practising artists, authors, arts administrators and performers, you will be taught between three departments (the School of Art, the Department of English & Creative Writing, and the Department of Theatre, Film & Television Studies), each offering a wide range of optional creative modules.

Opportunities for Creative Arts students at Aberystwyth include:

- a stimulating, creatively challenging, transdisciplinary range of modules
- access to our researchers and practitioners drawn from across the creative disciplines
- the superb facilities of our internationally renowned Arts Centre.

### Employability

The interdisciplinary approach of our Creative Arts degree promotes problem-solving, develops interpersonal skills and improves your ability to respond to and succeed in a changing jobs market. These skills include the ability to conduct research and interpret information, communicate ideas, develop critical and interdisciplinary thinking, work independently or as part of a creative team, and to stay focused, motivated and goal-orientated. Our students establish themselves as professional artists, curators, educators and arts administrators.

## Key Facts

# Fine Art

## BA (Hons)

Our Fine Art degree is designed to develop, broaden and deepen your skills in a variety of media. Disciplines taught at the School of Art include painting, printmaking, drawing, photography, book illustration, experimental film, sound, installation and site-specific performance. Our modular degree structure allows you to move between practices and choose pathways, curricula, modes of assessment and learning opportunities that best reflect your interests and aptitude.

As well as offering you a solid grounding in techniques and materials, the Fine Art degree encourages the rethinking of traditional skills in the context of contemporary, conceptual practices. Drawing is fundamental to your training. Accordingly, it occupies a central position in the curriculum, particularly in the first year of studies. For those who choose to enrol in them, weekly figure drawing classes run at all levels of study.

Your ability to apply your knowledge and skills is important to us. A solid grounding in materials and techniques in the first year is followed by a specialised or a more broad-based pathway through the course. This assists you in exploring your interests and positioning yourself as an art practitioner in today’s market. Your art practice will be informed by art history. In addition, teaching at the school actively draws on our museum collections and visiting exhibitions to develop your understanding of the contemporary art world.

Opportunities for Fine Art students at Aberystwyth include:

- entry to the degree scheme directly from school or from an art foundation course
- training that connects traditional skills with contemporary practice and theory
- vocation-oriented modules and engagement with the curatorial study of art
- access to our museum’s internationally renowned collections of fine and decorative art
- participating in public exhibitions as part of your degree scheme.

## Key Facts



# Photography (only available as Joint Honours)

## BA (Hons)

Our joint honours degree scheme encourages a practical, critical, theoretical and historical engagement with photography. You will investigate the photograph as a staged medium, as document, as fine art, as a carrier of ideas and an instrument of power and resistance. Beyond simply recording what lies in front of the lens, you will explore the language of photography – whether gallery, commercial or editorially focused.

Vocation-oriented modules offer a wide variety of analogue and digital workshops in the studio and field, demonstrations, lectures, seminars, and tutorials. While exploring themes such as identity, environment and tradition, you are encouraged to work independently on tutor-negotiated projects. You will develop bodies of work on subjects or issues of your choice, giving you the confidence to express your ideas and develop a distinctive voice.

As well as offering a solid grounding in essential techniques, our degree promotes the rethinking of traditional darkroom skills in the context of contemporary conceptual practices. You will experiment with a variety of lens-based media, historic and hybrid analogue-digital processes, photocollage and photoetching.

Through the study of original photographs in our museum collection, you will learn to identify a wide range of materials, techniques and approaches to photography as well as place your own practice within contemporary and historical contexts.

Opportunities for Photography students at Aberystwyth include:

- entry to the degree scheme directly from school or from an art foundation course
- the study of photography without having to demonstrate an aptitude for drawing and painting (as in the Photography pathway of BA Fine Art)
- superb photo-historical archives at our School’s museum as well as the nearby National Library of Wales
- the study of two subjects, thereby widening your outlook, expanding your knowledge, acquiring an interdisciplinary skill set and enhancing your employability.
- 

## Key Facts

 Degree type: BA.

 Duration: 3 years.

## Core module list

Below is an indicative list of modules that you may study on this course.

- First year:**
- Photographic Practice I: Presence/ Place
  - Photographic Practice II: Identity/ Face
  - Photography Begins: European Genius and the Birth of New Aesthetic.

- Second year:**
- Photographic Practice III: Out of the Dark
  - Photographic Practice IV: Documents and Narratives
  - Documentary Photography.

- Final year:**
- Photographic Practice V: Self-directed Practices
  - Exhibition: Graduation Show.

In all years you will also take modules from your other joint honours subject.

**Employability**

On completion of this degree, you will emerge with real-world capabilities, enabling you to pursue careers as photographers, curators and educators. Our graduates are professional photographers, university educators, secondary school teachers, art gallery managers and exhibition curators.

# Joint Honours and Major/Minor

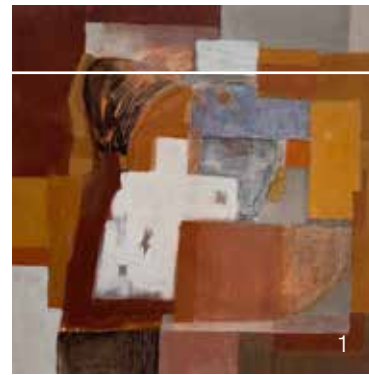
Subject	Available with...	Joint Honours	Major/Minor
Fine Art	Art History	WV13	W1V3
	Creative Writing	WW18	
	English Literature	WQ13	
	Film and Television Studies	WW16	
Photography	Art History	WV63	
	Creative Writing	WW68	
	English Literature	WQ63	
	Film and Television Studies	WW66	





# Student works

Claire Murray



1. Constance Hebeton
2. Anastasia Wildig
3. Annabelle Aston
4. Stephanie Rogers
5. Creative Arts Installation

6. Emma Jane Holmes
7. Megan Elsey
8. Judit Boor
9. Sian Evans



# Research

## at the School of Art

Our teaching staff are exhibiting artists, publishing scholars and curators whose work provides a stimulating learning environment. Staff research informs our teaching and ensures that the skills you learn and the knowledge we impart are practice orientated and current. Our researchers regularly collaborate with museums, galleries and professional associations to exhibit artworks and publish research of national and international significance that has impact, scope and relevance.

Our research on the twentieth-century artist-collector Hugh Blaker and the paintings at one time in his possession, for example, has led to the positive identification of a previously disputed portrait by Amadeo Modigliani as well as new insights on a canvas recently discovered by the Louvre Museum to be St Joseph the Carpenter – a master work by French Baroque painter Georges de La Tour – and provenance on an earlier version of Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa.

A significant aspect of our research in art history is concerned with the reassessment of artistic careers and the recuperation of traditional practices, especially those that have been marginalised or neglected: our staff have published on the French nineteenth-century painter, collector and horticulturist Gustave Caillebotte, the twentieth-century German photographer Erich Retzlaff, once renowned for depicting the land and people of Germany, and now lesser known Royal Academicians. More than a record of the past exhibitions, our catalogues raisonné on painter-printmakers such as Sydney Lee, Stanley Anderson and Charles Tunnicliffe now serve as standard references.

Not restricted to visual and material culture, our interdisciplinary research also concerns music, spoken word, and sound.

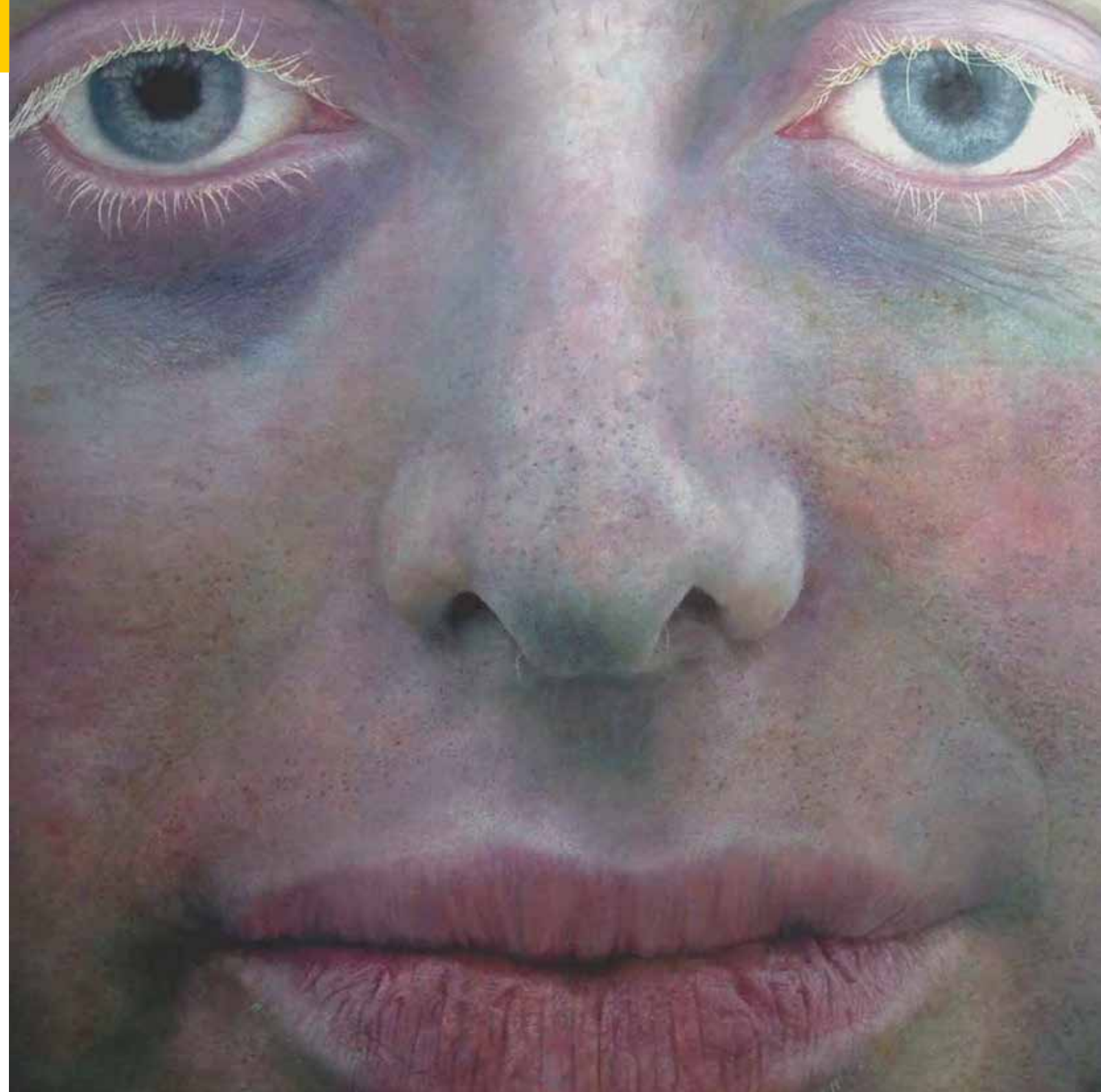
Through conference papers and publications, exhibitions and performances, workshops and collaborations, our researchers are contributing to emerging fields such as audionarratology and audiovisuology (ie experimentation by visual artists with noise, music and text). Our research in the history and practice of photography concerns historic and alternative photographic processes as the basis for fine art practice and art historical research. It engages with the study of lens-based processes as well as the photograph as a mode of image-making through which notions of identity and memory can be explored.

Our Fine Art research has led to the formation of an international network of artists, print workshops and universities aiming to increase the profile of lithography and attract collaborating artists to Aberystwyth. Our Collaborative Fine Art Printmaking project develops meaningful links between the practice and teaching of printmaking, as well as research in traditional, digital and cross-disciplinary media.

Interdisciplinary and collaborative practice has resulted in multi-faceted outcomes – including drawings, photographs, poetry, video and sound to publications, performance and panel discussions – that engage diverse audiences in exciting new ways with current debates surrounding issues such as conservation, sustainable land management, wildlife protection and biodiversity.

As the only institution in Wales offering degrees in Art History, we are also mindful of our special commitment to the visual culture of Wales. As well as exhibitions and monographs devoted to twentieth-century Welsh artists George Chapman, John Elwyn, Nicholas Evans, Gwilym Prichard, Christopher Williams and Claudia Williams, our research in this field includes the collecting habits of queer Welsh Victorian dilettante George Powell of Nant-Eos, near Aberystwyth, and the wildlife art and forensic animal studies of renowned Anglesey-based artist and Royal Academician Charles Tunnicliffe.

The world-renowned collections of the School of Art Museum and Galleries are a significant resource and provide a focus for staff and student projects. Through publication, exhibition, conference, residencies, public speaking, broadcasts and online databases our staff reach an ever-wider range of beneficiaries, including students and academics, curators and collectors, art dealers and auctioneers, publishers and broadcasters, art critics and the general public.





# Museum highlights

Graham Sutherland (1903-1980) *Evening the Black Rabbit* / Chalkpit on the Arun, Sepia ink, watercolour, pencil on paper, 1922-1923. Courtesy of the Trustees of the Artist's Estate



1



2



3



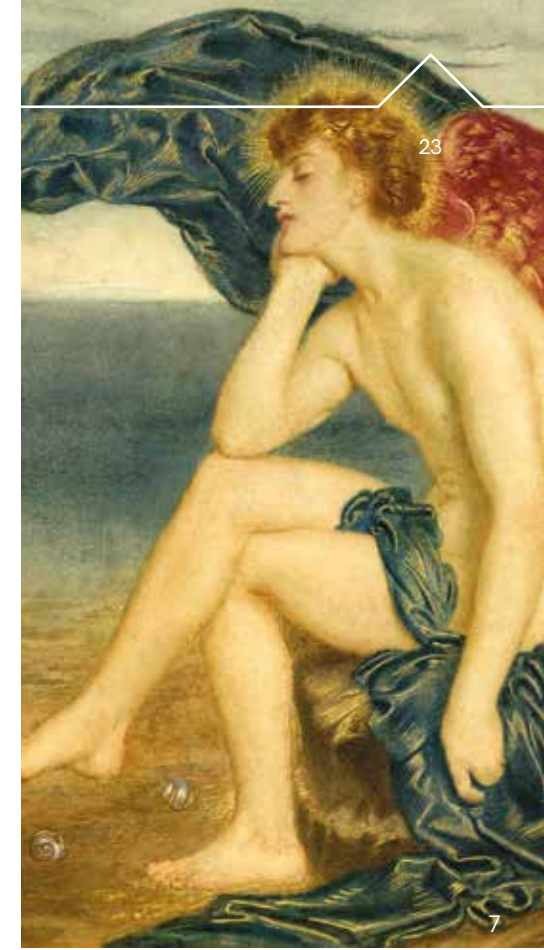
4



5



6



7

1. Angus McBean (1904 -1990) Audrey Hepburn Silver gelatin print, 1951. Courtesy of the Trustees of the Artist's Estate. ACE/V&A Purchase Grant Fund & The Art Fund
2. Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669) The Raising of Lazarus, Etching, 1642
3. Keith Vaughan (1912-1977) The Woodman / Blue Boy, Lithograph, 1949. Courtesy of the Trustees of the Artist's Estate. ACE/V&A Purchase Grant Fund
4. J. M. W. Turner, (1775-1851) Folly Bridge, Oxford, Watercolour on paper, 1794. Bequest: George Powell 1882
5. Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828-1882) Clara Vaughan Morgan, Pencil on paper c.1874. Bequest: George Powell 1882
6. Keith Vaughan [1912-1977] Lotus Eater, from Dick's Book of Photos. Courtesy of the Trustees of the Artist's Estate. V & A Purchase Gran
7. Simeon Solomon (1840-1905) Love Dreaming by the Sea, Watercolour on paper, 1871



# Career opportunities

The study of art and art history is creatively and intellectually stimulating. Aside from being personally rewarding, it also has many practical benefits. It promotes problem solving, develops interpersonal skills and improves your ability to respond to and succeed in a changing marketplace.

Highly sought after in today's economy, transferable skills are actively promoted by us during your studies at the School of Art. These skills include the ability to conduct research and interpret information, communicate ideas, develop critical and interdisciplinary thinking, work independently or as part of a creative team, and to stay motivated and focused on your goals.

Guest curators, visiting artists, and former students will share their experience and introduce you to a wide range of career possibilities. Exhibition openings and visiting days provide volunteer roles and paid ambassador opportunities. They give you the chance to interact with the public and communicate your knowledge and expertise.

Evidence shows that the majority of our graduates build careers in their chosen field. They establish themselves as professional artists, art historians, curators and administrators. Our graduates are professional painters, book illustrators, photographers, university educators, secondary school teachers, art gallery managers, exhibition curators, and conservators of easel painting, ceramics and works on paper. Their employers include the Arts Council, Royal Academy of Arts, Tate, Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Royal Collections Trust.

To enhance their career prospects, our graduates often enrol on Master of Arts degree schemes at Aberystwyth University and elsewhere.





# Global opportunities



Aberystwyth's Global Opportunities team offer an exciting range of options for you to go overseas as part of your degree: from short courses and volunteering opportunities in the summer, to a full semester or year abroad studying your chosen subject at one of our partner universities.

The University also offers a number of courses which include an integrated year studying abroad, enabling you to study at one of our European or international partner universities for one or two semesters during your third year, returning to Aberystwyth for your final year and graduation.

Reports have shown that students who study abroad are more attractive to employers and earn more than their peers. Take advantage of the opportunity of a lifetime while improving your critical skills by choosing to study abroad.



Sydney



Budapest



Montana



St. Petersburg



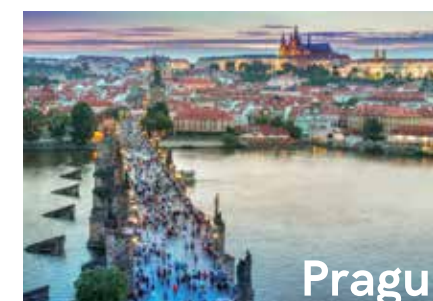
Hong Kong



Washington, DC



Bergen



Prague



Ottawa



# How to apply

Once you've decided what course you want to study and where, you'll be able to start the university application process. Here's a brief overview of the process and our procedures here at Aberystwyth.

## 1 Apply through UCAS.com

Deadline 15 January. Aberystwyth University institution code: A40.

**Top tip:** You'll be given a 10-digit UCAS ID number. Keep this to hand as you'll be asked for it many times.

## 2 The University will consider your offer

**Top tip:** Use UCAS Track to keep an eye on your application. At Aberystwyth we aim to make a decision within four weeks.

## 3 The offer will show on UCAS track

## 4 Decide where to go

Once you've received all your offers, you'll need to decide which university you want to go to, within a set time. This is when you'll need to note which universities will be your firm and insurance choices.

## 5 Accommodation

Once you've chosen your firm/insurance choice you'll be able to apply for your accommodation (April onwards).

## 6 Results day

UCAS Track will confirm your offer of a place. If you're not clear what the offer is, contact the university directly. Make sure you're not on holiday on results day. If you don't get the grades you've hoped for, you may want to consider entering Clearing.

## 7 Start packing!





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