



School of Art

Undergraduate studies in

Art

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Important information

The programme information published in this brochure was correct at time of going to print (March 2025) 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. We offer stimulating and creatively challenging courses in Fine Art and Art History – 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 and 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 Survey (NSS) and other league tables. The 2025 Guardian University League Table placed us Top 10 in the UK for satisfaction with Teaching and Assessment in the subject of Fine Art, and The Times and Sunday Times' 2024 Good University Guide placed us Top 10 in the UK for Teaching Quality in the subject of Art & Design.

At the School of Art, you will be studying art and its history surrounded by works of art from our internationally renowned and

government-accredited museum collection. The School and its museum are housed in one historic, Grade II*-listed building.

The research of our staff of exhibiting artists, published 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 will open up a wide range of career options.

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 the 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 Catrin Webster,
Head of School of Art

Student profiles

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 have 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.

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.

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!



The School of Art

The School occupies one of the finest examples of architecture in Aberystwyth. Opened in 1907, the Edward Davies Building 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. Having the School of Art housed in the Edward Davies Building where staff, postgraduates and undergraduates are based, fosters a sense of community and collaboration.

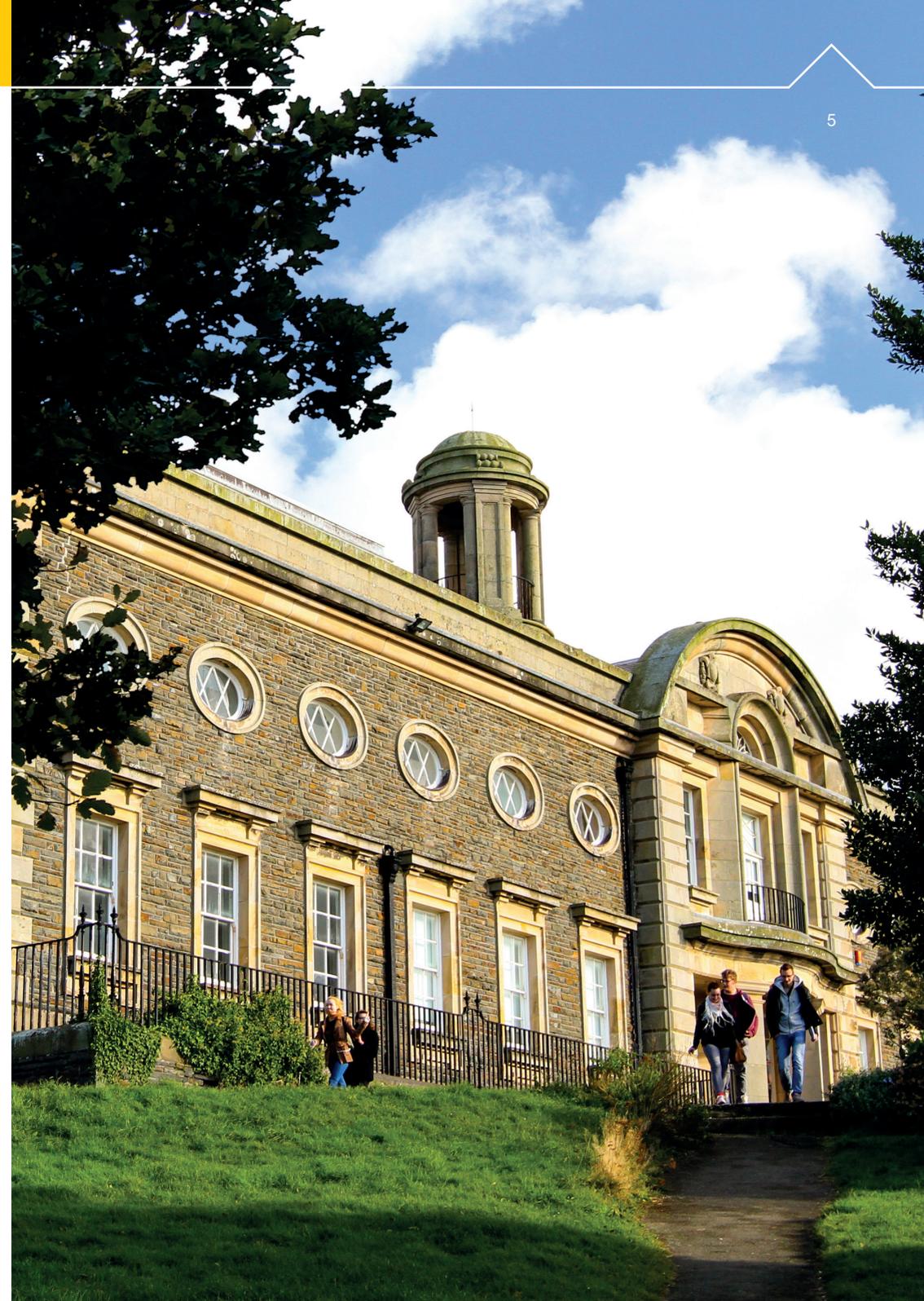
The Edward Davies Building also accommodates a museum, public galleries, and impressive collections of art. Used extensively in our teaching, these resources set the School of Art apart from most Fine Art and Art History programmes in Britain.

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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We will request a portfolio of art practice from those applying for courses in Fine Art and joint honours programmes which includes this subject.

Art History

BA (Hons) | V350 | 3 years

As a student of Art History, you will examine the products of cultures, trace their origins, chart the development of creative practices 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, Rethinking Impressionism and Curating an Exhibition. You will have the opportunity to stage an exhibition in our public galleries and, as part of the Methods and Materials for Art Historians module, to experience creative practices at first hand.

Aberystwyth is the only University in Wales offering undergraduate degrees in art history.

Module list

Below is an indicative list of modules that you may study on this course. Modules currently under review and may change.

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

For more details on the modules available, see the current list on our website, or contact us

Key Facts



Typical offer:
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26



Assessment weighting:
100% coursework



Field trips/fieldwork: Yes

Fine Art

BA (Hons) | W100 | 3 years

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 and book illustration. 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.

On our Fine Art programme you will be taught by practicing artists through workshops, seminars, tutorials and lectures. 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. You will have the opportunity to learn a range of practical processes, such as in our excellent printmaking workshops, which includes lithography and etching, and to develop your self-directed practice in dedicated studio spaces.

The first year of the Fine Art course focusses on developing skills and ways of seeing. As part of the first year, there are introductory sessions to the School of Art's core creative approaches, which includes Photography, Printmaking, Illustration and Painting. Drawing is fundamental to your training taught as part of the first year core modules and for those who choose to enrol in them, weekly figure drawing classes run at all levels of study.

From the second year you will have the opportunity to select modules in the creative approaches you wish to specialise in Painting, Illustration, Photography and Printmaking. A highlight of the programme is the third year finalists' degree show, which is fundamental to the degree programme. The exhibition is an important opportunity for students to build on real world skills presenting their work to the public, forming a bridge from study into professional practice.

Key Facts



Typical offer:

UCAS tariff points: 120-104 to include B in A level Art or related subject, plus satisfactory portfolio.

IB: 30-28 with Art or appropriate, at Higher Level, plus satisfactory portfolio.



Assessment weighting:
100% coursework



Field trips/fieldwork: Yes

Module list

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

First year:

- Drawing: Looking, Seeing, Thinking
- Drawing: Extended Practice
- Painting: Looking, Seeing, Thinking
- Painting: Extended Practice
- Looking into Landscape: Reading, Researching, Responding

Second year:

- Professional Practice for Students of Art

Final year:

- Research and Process in Practice
- Exhibition 2: Graduation Show

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

Joint Honours and Major/Minor

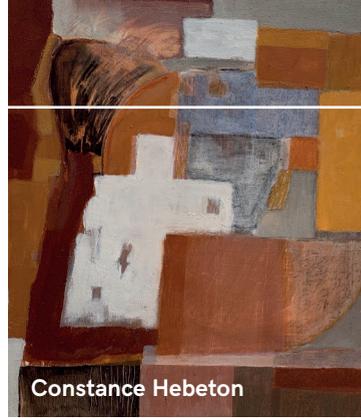
Subject	Available with...	Joint Honours	Major/Minor
Fine Art	Art History	WV13	W1V3
	Creative Writing	WW18	
	English Literature	WQ13	
	Film and Television	WW16	



Students' works



Claire Murray



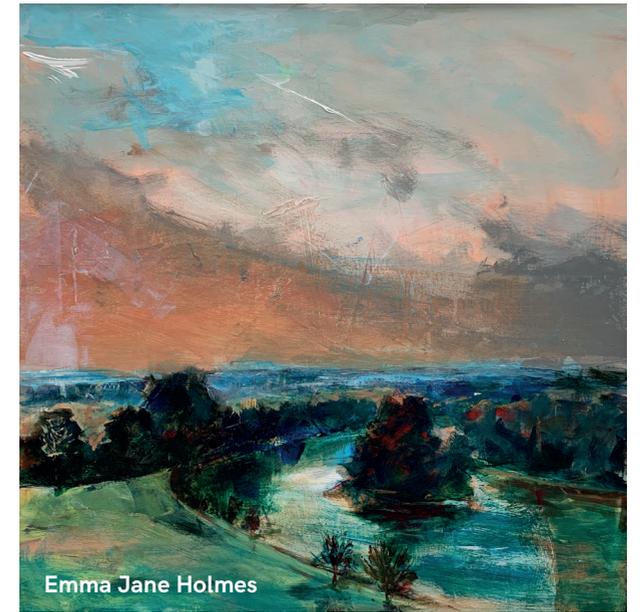
Constance Hebeton



Judit Boor



Anastasia Wildig



Emma Jane Holmes



Annabelle Aston

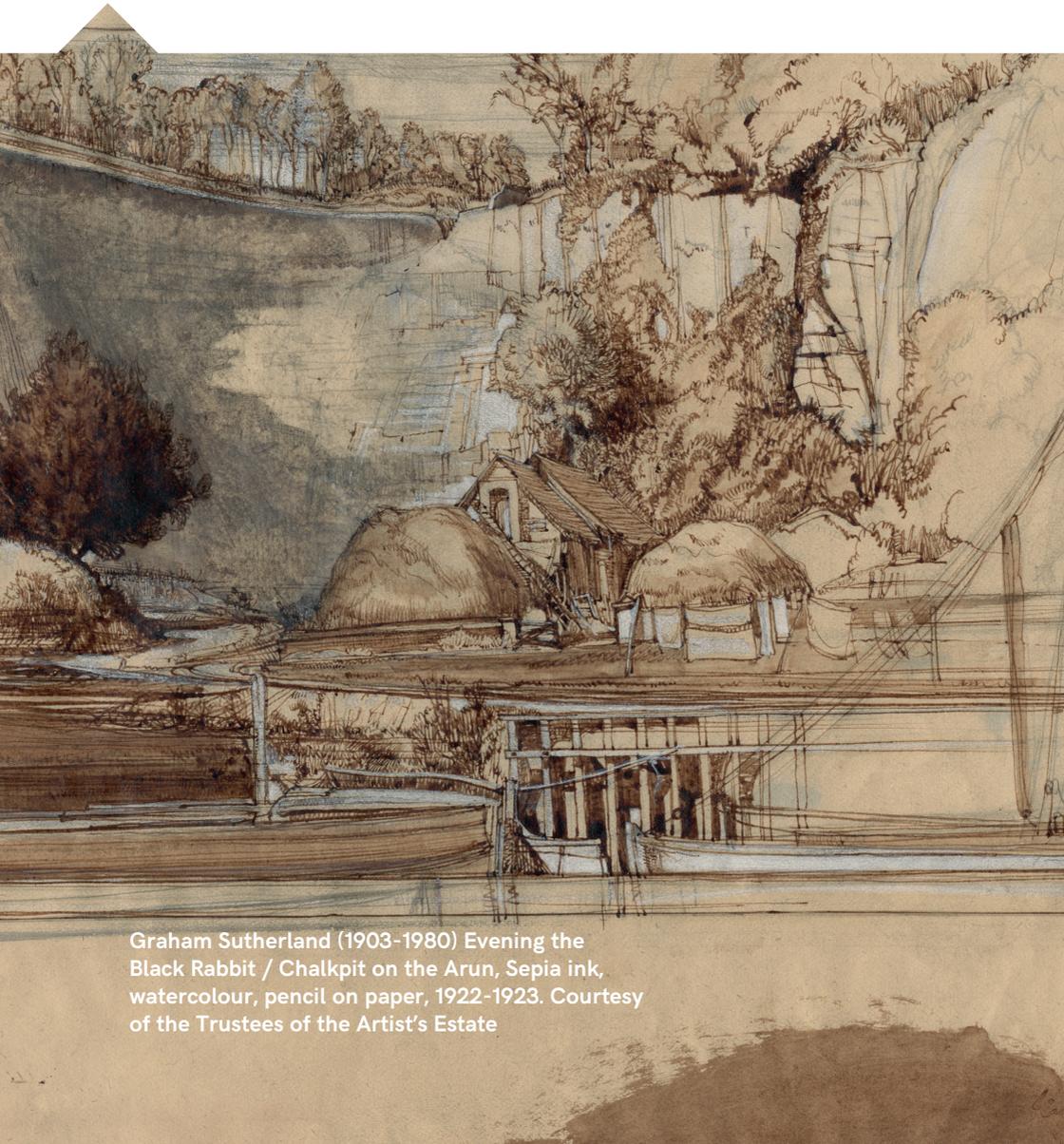


Stephanie Rogers

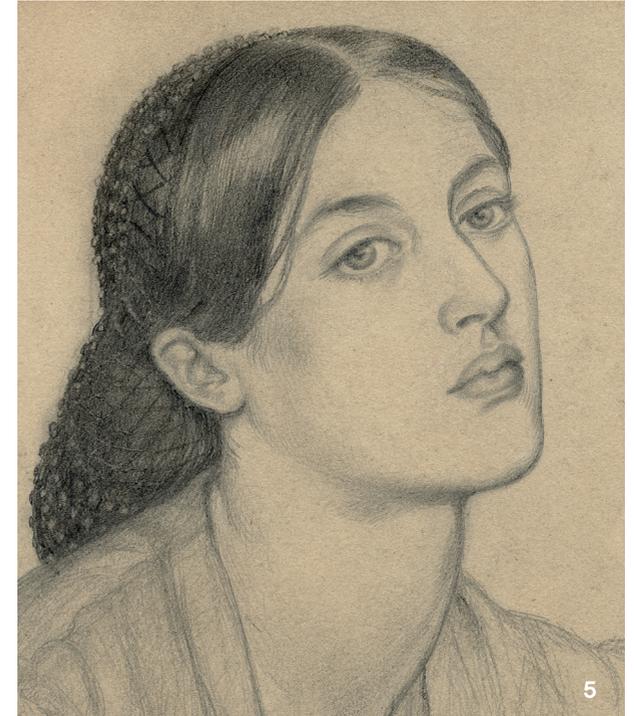


Megan Elsey

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. 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

Research at the School of Art

Our teaching staff are exhibiting artists, published 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.



The School of Art is committed to research in the visual arts, in both the fine arts and art history. We also support a growing community of PhD researchers including collaborative projects funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council in both practice and art historical subjects.

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. More than a record of the past exhibitions, our catalogues raisonnées on painter-printmakers such as Sydney Lee, Stanley Anderson and Charles Tunnicliffe now serve as standard references.

Through conference papers and publications, exhibitions and performances, workshops and collaborations, our researchers are contributing to emerging fields, such as exploring relationships between digital and analogue processes in painting, contemporary reflections of landscape and environmental practices.

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 research has resulted in multi-faceted outcomes - including drawings, photographs, poetry, video, sound, 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.



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.

Our experienced staff; who are artists, curators and academics, together with 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 at one of our partner universities. Our partners include Norway, Japan, Denmark, Canada, Austria, Spain, and New Mexico.

If you choose to study with an integrated year abroad, the University enables you to study 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.



The application process

- 1 Apply through UCAS.com**
 Check the UCAS deadline on UCAS.com. 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 application**
TOP TIP: Use UCAS Hub to keep an eye on your application. At Aberystwyth we aim to make a decision within seven days.
- 3 The offer will show on UCAS Hub**
 The University's decision will show on UCAS Hub - if you've been made an offer, it will tell you what grades you need to achieve to secure your place.
- 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 invited to apply for accommodation.
- 6 Results day**
 UCAS Hub will tell you whether your place is confirmed at your Firm choice. If you don't get the grades you'd hoped for, you may want to consider entering Clearing.
- 7 Start packing!**
 Remember to keep an eye on your emails for information about arrival and welcome activities.

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