Fine Art

Exam Board Edexcel
Qualification A-level
Entry Requirements Grade 5 in Art

Content

The A level Fine Art course explores drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, montage, mixed media, photography, papier-mâché sculpture and sculptural relief. Coursework is composed of project work in a variety of materials, techniques and disciplines. Students are encouraged to research and investigate project themes and ideas in a variety of ways and to work independently. The course is designed to develop their creative and practical art skills within a range of materials, techniques and disciplines and to develop them as artist practitioners. Project ideas are initially explored and developed through observational drawing, painting and photography, and artist research and analysis as well as contextual studies. Students then develop their work further through experimentation and investigation, exploring their observed imagery using different materials, techniques, disciplines and styles. Each project culminates in a final piece or final pieces.
Lessons are broadly skills and ideas based and feature teaching in the use of paints, drawing, papier-mâché, sculpture, montage, collage and photography and discussion and exploration of ideas and the work of other artists. Students are expected to work in the studio during their study time, researching and learning for themselves the possibilities of media, scale, colour, composition, etc.

Assessment

Component 1: Coursework - A portfolio of practical and creative art work, and a written 1000 – 3000 word illustrated personal study.
Coursework contributes 60% of the final mark.
Submission of coursework for assessment is in May.

Component 2: Exam - Externally set assignment: 40% of the final grade.
An exam project which stems from a response to a title set by the examination board. The project starts at the beginning of February and culminates in a 15-hour practical Art exam at the beginning of May. All work produced for the Exam Project from February onwards counts towards the final Exam grade.
Units are teacher-assessed throughout the course via a series of one-to-one tutorials and student critiques. At the end of the course all students are expected to exhibit both of their units in a final show. This is finally assessed by staff according to the exam board's assessment criteria, and these marks are moderated by a visiting external examiner.

Career Prospects

The development of creative thinking, which is encouraged through the problem-solving involved in exploring themes and issues, puts students in a valuable position as applicants to colleges and universities, and with employers who are looking for bright young people with a range of exciting ideas. Students can go on to study degree-level Art and Design, Fine Art, Fashion, Set Design, Jewellery Design and the many other arts-based courses that can be a pathway towards employment in many careers directly involved in art. The Fine Art A-level can also lead students toward other careers that are reliant on developed creative skills such as Architecture, Town Planning, Landscape Design and Graphic Design.