



# Department of Art History

**The vibrant Department of Art History is an excellent environment to support postgraduate studies in visual culture.**

In the latest independent assessment, 75 per cent of the Department's research activity has been judged to be either 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent', which places the Department equal 10th among all Art History departments nationally.

The Nottingham Institute for Research in Visual Culture (NIRVC) and the University's custom-built Lakeside Arts Centre enrich the Department's teaching and research with a variety of events such as conferences, contemporary and historic art exhibitions at the Djanogly Art Gallery, and the DH Lawrence Pavilion – a newlybuilt drama, film, and performance space.

In recent years the Department has grown in size and expanded the scope of its research expertise with new appointments in 20th century art and visual culture. While embracing a broad range of traditional art historical material, from renaissance art, through to 18th and 19th-century European practice, the Department also boasts a unique range of specialists working on avant-garde European art, post-war American art and visual culture, and international contemporary artists.

The MA and MRes programmes, and supervised MPhil and PhD research projects in Art History and Visual Culture consider works of art and visual material in the broadest sense. We encourage the examination of the social and material histories of objects and images; explorations of the processes of cultural production, circulation, and consumption; and the development of original theoretical approaches to understanding works of art and associated cultural phenomena.





## Key facts

### Taught courses offered by the Department

We offer a range of courses which are available either full-time or part-time:

- MA in Art History
- MRes in Art History
- MA in Visual Culture
- MRes in Visual Culture

### Research opportunities

The Department welcomes proposals for MPhil and PhD degrees in all aspects of art history and visual culture covered by the research expertise and interests of its staff. A full list of the research areas covered is available on the departmental website, along with contact details for members of staff. Applicants wishing to be considered for Research degrees are encouraged to contact the relevant member of staff directly with proposals for supervision.

### Nottingham institute for Research in Visual Culture

The Nottingham Institute for Research in Visual Culture (NIRVC) is a forum for research in art-historical and visual culture studies, drawing on a range of disciplines, within and beyond the University.

The Institute's activities primarily reflect the variety of research interests of the academic staff and research students within the Department. NIRVC also supports links to other schools and departments within the University as well as partner institutions, researchers and research networks, both in the United Kingdom and overseas.

Recent NIRVC events have included: Sites of Conflict (symposium), 21st Century Anxiety (conference), and Representing the Everyday in American Visual Culture (conference). For more details, please visit [www.nottingham.ac.uk/nirvc](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/nirvc)

### Funding

The Department of Art History has a variety of funding opportunities for UK, EU and international postgraduate students. For up-to-date information and application forms on these and other funding opportunities, please visit the Department's website [www.nottingham.ac.uk/art-history](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/art-history)

Opportunities for funding are available to overseas students through the International Office which also offers expert support to international students applying for scholarships from their home countries.

Students may also search the University's funding database, designed to give an indication of University scholarships for which they may be eligible to apply. For further information, please visit [www.nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy/funding](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy/funding)

The University Graduate School operates two schemes of its own to help support current postgraduate research, The Graduate School Travel Prize and Universitas 21 funding. For more information, please visit [www.nottingham.ac.uk/gradschool/funding](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/gradschool/funding)

### Applications

Candidates are encouraged to apply online at <https://pgapps.nottingham.ac.uk>

### Contact the Department

For further information, please contact:

Department of Art History  
The University of Nottingham  
University Park  
Nottingham  
NG7 2RD  
UK

t: +44 (0)115 846 7779

e: [art-historypgenquiries@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:art-historypgenquiries@nottingham.ac.uk)

w: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/art-history](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/art-history)



# MA in Art History

**The Department offers two pathways for the MA in Art History: Renaissance to the Present Day and Modern Art, Criticism and Display. Students of both pathways study the core module Critical Approaches to Art History and Visual Culture.**

Our taught MA programmes in art history consider works of art in the broadest sense. We encourage the examination of the social and material histories of objects and images; explorations of the processes of cultural production, circulation, and consumption; and the development of original theoretical approaches to understanding works of art and associated cultural phenomena.

Your choice of pathway will almost certainly relate to your present interests in art history or visual culture. All MA pathways are modular and the choice of pathway affects the modules available to you. With the help of a knowledgeable and supportive teaching staff, the pathway programme is designed to offer necessary flexibility to help you make important decisions about modules and dissertation topics.

If you're looking for a masters degree with a higher level of independent research, then read about the MA by Research (MRes) offered by the Department.



# MA in Art History

## Pathway: Modern Art, Criticism and Display

This exciting MA pathway, which is available as a one year full-time and a two year part-time programme, draws on the Department's practical and theoretical expertise in the fields of modern and contemporary art. The members of staff leading this course have curated exhibitions at major national museums and worked alongside some of the world's most prestigious public and commercial galleries. Studies engage directly with this wealth of experience and provide a historical context for a deep critical engagement with contemporary practice.

Students explore the central issue of the relationship between artistic practices, curatorial strategies and criticism, raising critical questions in relation not only to works by modern and contemporary artists but the most important recent accounts of the politics of representation.

## Renaissance to Present Day

This MA pathway, which is available as a one year full-time and a two year part-time programme, allows students to explore a variety of art historical periods through different critical approaches to the subject. The structure of this flexible pathway allows students to supplement the core module, Critical Approaches to Art History and Visual Culture, with any of the MA modules offered by the Department.

The principal advantage of this course is that it enables students either to concentrate on one broad period of history or to study across different periods.

## Entry requirements

Candidates are normally expected to hold an honours degree at 2:1 or above (or its international equivalent) in art history or a related subject. Other candidates may be considered at the discretion of the Department.

Those whose first language is not English must achieve an overall score on the British Council IELTS test of at least 7.0 with no less than 6.0 in each element, or a TOEFL score of 600 (250 for computer based tests) with a TWE of at least 5.0, or a TOEFL iBT score of 100 (with no less than 21 in any element). Test results should be no more than two years old.

Students who cannot demonstrate this level of proficiency may take a course in the Centre for English Language Education (CELE) at the University over the summer, in preparation for their course.

## Career opportunities

Studying art history gives students valuable transferable skills, an advanced qualification in the discipline and a rigorous foundation for further research and progression to PhD research, all of which are ideal for a range of careers. Typically, our students are in great demand for their extensive knowledge of the subject and go on to employment within art galleries and museums.

## What our students say...

### Esra Plumer – MA in Art History

"I am really enjoying the MA in Art History. Although it's a taught degree, a lot of emphasis is placed on independent learning, and the dissertation component in particular gives you the opportunity to work alone and explore a subject you're interested in to a greater depth. I have found my tutors very supportive of this exploration."



# MA in Visual Culture

## The MA in Visual Culture is available with the pathway Art, Photography and Film.

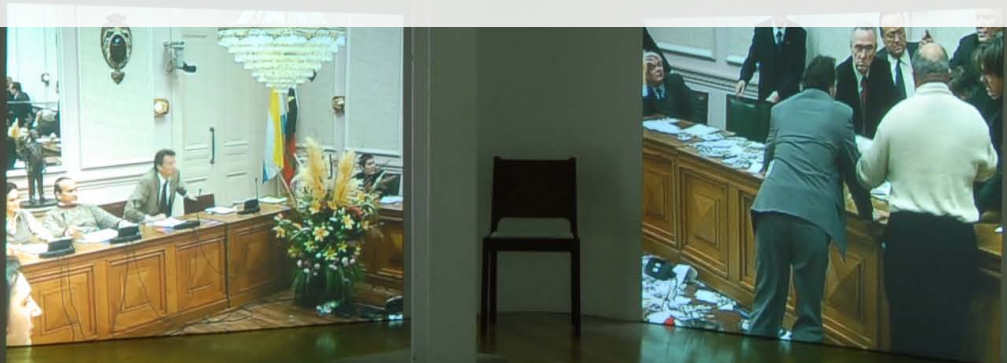
The MA in Visual Culture introduces students to the new and fast-growing intellectual field of visual culture, by examining the histories, theories and practices of cultural production and consumption of visual images/objects in the contemporary and modern world. Western and, increasingly, global culture is dominated by visual images, whether material or virtual, and by visual experience.

The course encourages connections across visual arts, architecture, film, cultural studies and critical theory, cultural geography, and history. It gives students the opportunity to concentrate on the modern period, post-1750, while offering the option to choose their modules from a range of disciplines in which visual culture is a key research focus.

Though this MA is offered by the Department of Art History, besides the core module, Critical Approaches to Art History and Visual Culture, it is also compulsory for you to take one module in the Department of Culture, Film and Media.

With the help of a knowledgeable and supportive teaching staff, the pathway programme is designed to offer necessary flexibility to help you make important decisions about modules and dissertation topics.

If you're looking for a masters degree with a higher level of independent research, then read about the MA by Research (MRes) offered by the Department.





# MA in Visual Culture

## Pathway: Art, Photography and Film

Students take the core module Critical Approaches to Art History and Visual Culture which covers a range of theoretical issues relating to the study of art history and visual culture. Students consider both the practical demands of research and the philosophical questions to address in order to undertake a historical analysis of images. In particular, the course is designed to foster critical thinking and develop analytical skills.

Students choose one module from any of the MA options offered within the Department and one from those offered by the Institute of Film and Television Studies. Current modules include:

- Body/Document: Surrealism and Photography
- Place and Space in American Visual Culture
- Contemporary Art and Post-modern Theory
- Idiocy and Iconoclasm: Contemporary Art and the Politics of Subversion
- Institutional Critique
- Filmmakers and Filmmaking
- The New Hollywood

Precise details of special subject modules offered are subject to change. Students also produce a final 10-15,000-word dissertation on a subject of their choice, supervised by a member of academic staff.

## Entry requirements

Candidates are normally expected to hold an honours degree at 2:1 or above (or its international equivalent) in art history or a related subject. Other candidates may be considered at the discretion of the Department.

Those whose first language is not English must achieve an overall score on the British Council IELTS test of at least 7.0 with no less than 6.0 in each element, or a TOEFL score of 600 (250 for computer based tests) with a TWE of at least 5.0, or a TOEFL iBT score of 100 (with no less than 21 in any element). Test results should be no more than two years old.

Students who cannot demonstrate this level of proficiency may take a course in the Centre for English Language Education (CELE) at the University over the summer, in preparation for their course.

## Career opportunities

The MA in Visual Culture is particularly suited for those wishing to work in the contemporary art world. Our students have an excellent record of obtaining internships as major UK-based international galleries while they study, an ideal preparation for future employment.



# Research culture and opportunities

## Research expertise in the Department of Art History concerns core issues of representations, their histories, and theories.

The Department's record in producing exhibitions of international significance is fundamental to its character and status as a research centre, and is evident in exhibitions curated by staff which include *Art of the Garden* (Tate, 2004); *Conquering England* (NPG, 2005); *Undercover Surrealism* (Hayward, 2006); and *Ruinination: Photographs of Rome* (Djanogly Gallery, 2008). Staff have ongoing collaborative projects with galleries and art schools, including the AHRC funded network 'Cultures of Landscape'.

The Department has a close relationship with the University's Djanogly Art Gallery, and is active in funding bids for Nottingham Contemporary (CCAN), which will become the region's leading exhibition space for contemporary art and a key strategic resource.

Our staff not only publish and curate internationally, but contribute to the life of the Department through conferences and symposia held at the University.

Research in Art History within the University is supported by the Nottingham Institute for Research in Visual Culture (NIRVC), a forum for the presentation of research by and to postgraduate students. NIRVC has an exemplary record of hosting international conferences including *Cinematic Rome* (2005), *Display and Spectacle* (2007), and *Pollution and Propriety* (2007).

Research students at have access to an extensive range of modules provided by the Graduate School, including beginner language courses, *The Tradition of Critique*, and general modules such as *Getting Going on Your Thesis*, and *An Introduction to Creating and Publishing Web Pages*.





# Research culture and opportunities

## MA by Research

If you're looking for a masters degree with a higher level of independent research, then the MA by Research (MRes) might be the right degree for you.

The Department offers the MRes in Art History and the MRes in Visual Culture. These programmes will appeal to students who possess a sound understanding of the subject and have developed a clear idea for a research topic. All research topics are paired with relevant expertise in the Department. Prospective students are required to identify a possible supervisor in advance.

The ultimate aim of the MRes is to produce an original 30,000-word dissertation. Academic work of this nature requires a definite skillset. Therefore the design of the course includes two key elements to help students develop key analytical and research skills, and to help introduce them to the wider postgraduate community in the Department of Art History.

The MRes offers an invaluable opportunity to work on material that could form part of a future PhD thesis and might prove to be a decisive advantage when seeking funding for doctoral study.

## MPhil

Students research their chosen topic and write a dissertation of at least 60,000 words. Supervisions are held at a minimum of one hour three times each term, approximately every three weeks. The MPhil is an internationally recognised research degree.

## PhD

Most students who pursue a PhD register first for the MPhil and upgrade. The PhD requires an original contribution to knowledge and a dissertation thesis of at least 80,000 words.

## Entry requirements

For the MRes programmes, candidates are normally expected to hold an honours degree at 2:1 or above (or its international equivalent) in art history or a related subject. Other candidates may be considered at the discretion of the Department. Students must produce a proposal for their dissertation, which must be agreed by a member of staff within the Department.

For the MPhil and PhD, candidates are normally expected to hold a masters degree in art history or a related subject and must provide a detailed proposal of their intended course of research which must be accepted by a member of academic staff. Applicants are advised to discuss applications directly with potential supervisors (a list of research interests is included in the staff profiles) or contact the Director of Postgraduate Study.

Students whose first language is not English must achieve an overall score on the British Council IELTS test of at least 7.0 with no less than 6.0 in each element, or a TOEFL score of 600 (250 for computer based tests) with a TWE of at least 5.0, or a TOEFL iBT score of 100 (with no less than 21 in any element). Test results should be no more than two years old. Students who cannot demonstrate this level of proficiency may take a course in the Centre for English Language Education (CELE) at the University over the summer, in preparation for their course.



# The Virtual Gallery

**CURATA is a virtual 3D gallery software system designed within The University of Nottingham to promote student awareness of the politics and practicalities of display.**

CURATA, being unique to the Department of Art History at The University of Nottingham, is an important part of the Department's MA programmes in art history and visual culture. The software supports creative links with other departments, as well as galleries and museums in the region and beyond. The University is currently in the process of expanding the system to include major national exhibition spaces.

The Department has a close relationship with the University's Djanogly Art Gallery, and is active in funding bids for Nottingham Contemporary (CCAN), which will become the region's leading exhibition space for contemporary art and a key strategic resource.

In practical terms the CURATA system is supported by a substantial investment in the technological facilities in the Department which has devoted a new study room to the MA programme complete with state of the art computer facilities: laptops, scanners, digital cameras, and projectors, enabling students to maximise the creative potential of the software.





## Staff profiles

### Professor Fintan Cullen

Professor Cullen has published widely on aspects of British and Irish art and national identity. In 2005 he curated *Conquering England* at the National Portrait Gallery, and is currently engaged in new research on the politics of display. Summary of research interests:

- Art and representation of Ireland from the 18th to the 20th century
- The relationship between national identity and art production
- British art from 18th to the early 20th Century

### Nick Alfrey

Nick Alfrey has a record of collaborative research within the University, having established strong links with the School of Geography around issues of landscape and representation. Summary of research interests:

- English and French Romantic art
- The visual culture of landscape since

### Anna Lovatt

Anna Lovatt joined the Department in 2006 having completed both a PhD and a post-doctoral fellowship at the Courtauld Institute of Art. She has been involved in several highly successful projects and events around drawing and post-minimalist practice. Summary of research interests:

- American and European art of the 20th and 21st century
- Seriality as a strategy in minimal, post-minimal and conceptual art
- Legacies of the 1960s in recent art practice and criticism

### Gaby Neher

Gaby Neher researches and teaches Renaissance Italian material, with an emphasis on issues of patronage, gender relations and material culture. She is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, has won awards for teaching excellence, and is currently honorary secretary of the Society for Renaissance Studies. Summary of research interests:

- Cultural relations between Venice and the subject cities of this mainland empire in the Renaissance
- Commissioning of art works, ceremony, ritual and the use and appearance of urban spaces
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### Mark Rawlinson

Mark Rawlinson works on a broad range of aspects of American art and visual culture. Since publishing a monograph on the early twentieth-century artist Charles Sheeler, he has been working on a project on place and space in contemporary American photography. He has also pioneered the CURATA virtual gallery system. Summary of research interests:

- 20th century American art and photography
- American visual culture

### Jeremy Wood

Jeremy Wood is currently involved in the production of the Rubens Corpus, an ongoing project of monumental scope and significance. In 2002 he produced the exhibition *Rubens: Drawing on Italy*, which travelled to both the Scottish National Gallery and the Djanogly Gallery in Nottingham. Summary of research interests:

- Imitation and collecting of Italian art in Northern Europe during the 17C
- The careers of Rubens and Van Dyck
- 17th century British art

### Professor Richard Wrigley

Richard Wrigley is an internationally acknowledged authority on 18th century art criticism, and one of the founding editors of the *Oxford Art Journal*. Following fellowships at the British School in Rome and the Getty in Los Angeles, he has been researching and writing on the representation of Rome, curating *Ruination: Photographs of Rome* (Djanogly Gallery, 2008). Summary of research interests:

- French art, art criticism and art writing in the 18th and 19th centuries
- The politics of dress and the visual culture of the French Revolution
- Representations of Rome and its landscape