

HA991-15 Art and Design in Practice at the Shard

27/28

Department

SCAPVC - History of Art

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Naomi Vogt

Credit value

15

Module duration

2 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study locations

WBS in London (The Shard) Primary

Warwick Venice Centre

Description

Introductory description

Through immersive learning, this module examines how art and design are made, circulated, displayed, communicated and traded in the contemporary world. Uniquely delivered across two sites, at the Shard in London and on the main Warwick campus, the module combines place-based learning with direct engagement from leading practitioners. The focus is on the structures and actors shaping today's art world, through seminars, workshops, museum and gallery visits, and guest talks with curators, market specialists, and innovators working at the edges of established institutional practice — including artist-led initiatives and those redefining how art fairs and design platforms operate.

Module aims

The module aims to develop students' understanding of how specific historical, economic, and cultural contexts shape not only the production of art and design but also the conditions under which they circulate, are displayed, and acquire value. Taking London as a focus, students will interrogate why and how the communication, visual presentation, and exchange of art and design are context-dependent. The negative effects of cultural urban concentrations of power will also be

explored. Alongside this, the module develops a working understanding of the distinct but interrelated roles played by curators, market actors, and other practitioners in shaping how art and design reach their publics.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

London Museum and Gallery Day: Art, Design and Cultural Impact;
London Alternative Art and Design Scene: Community Activism and Grassroots Projects;
What We Trade When We Trade Art: Art Market Guest Speaker;
Lessons in Curation Workshop: Displaying Art and Design Today;
Disruption and the Art and Design Industries

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of the historical underpinnings of art and design production as located in specific times and places
- Critically evaluate the mechanisms of contemporary art and design, their circulation, and display
- Engage with and critically assess existing debates around art trade, curation, and the impact of technological and institutional change
- Respond to and critically apply a range of historical frameworks to current practices in the art market and urban creative economies
- Analyse the economic, diplomatic, and civic functions of major international exhibitions, and evaluate their effects on cities and cultural exchange
- Demonstrate direct engagement with practitioners and sites of contemporary cultural production, and reflect critically on the roles of market actors, curators, and artist-led initiatives in shaping how art and design reach their publics

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Subject specific skills

Close reading and critical analysis of art and design objects, spaces, and events in their historical and contemporary contexts; Knowledge of the structures, actors, and economics of the contemporary art world; Ability to analyse the relationship between history, trade networks, and cultural production, with particular focus on London; Familiarity with the politics and ethics of display and circulation of art and design; Direct engagement with practitioner perspectives across curation, the art market, and experimental art initiatives

Transferable skills

Critical thinking and the ability to construct and evaluate complex arguments across disciplinary boundaries; Visual literacy and the ability to interpret meaning through image, object, and space; Critical and analytical skills developed through intensive fieldwork and independent study; Oral and written communication skills, including the ability to present ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences; Cross-cultural awareness and adaptability, developed through immersive study in diverse urban and institutional contexts; Professional networking and reflective practice through direct engagement with leading practitioners in the field

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	3 sessions of 3 hours (6%)
External visits	3 sessions of 7 hours (14%)
Private study	120 hours (80%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Required and recommended reading for seminars and presentations, external visits and research/writing of portfolio elements; independent viewing, research, and study of sites and actors.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Portfolio	100%		No
A two-part submission: 1500-word piece of criticism on any exhibition in London + 1500-word journalistic critical profile of a player in the field of the art world/creative industry			
NB It is the portfolio as a whole that must achieve a pass for the module to be passed.			

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback and access to office hours for further feedback.

Availability

Post-requisite modules

If you pass this module, you can take:

- HA9H2-30 Independent Research Project

There is currently no information about the courses for which this module is core or optional.