

## February Newsletter 2022

Semester 2 is now in full swing! Live projects, Night School, work in progress exhibitions, trips, site visits, talks, workshops and more - across the whole School, February has been a busy month and there is much to report on! With so many great things happening, editing this month's newsletter has been a challenge (for the very good reason of having a plethora of rich content to choose from!) - The stories and images which follow capture just a few of the events, activities and outcomes from you, the School of Art community.

In reflecting on some the successes of Semester 2 (so far), this edition of the newsletter also looks ahead to next academic year. The Foundation students have already begun their progression planning through a series of BA taster workshops - giving them a sense of the degree courses which await! Degree courses which have undergone recent exciting developments which, as promised in last month's newsletter, Steve has given us an update on.

Outside of teaching and learning activities, this month we have also been busy interviewing prospective students who have applied for our undergraduate courses (starting in September 2022). Each interview panel for BA Fine Art has been comprised of a member of academic staff and a current student and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those students who have been involved in these reviews - your input in decision making and advice to applicants has been brilliant!

Becky



# S - O - A

Birmingham School of Art

## Whats been happening at the School of Art:



Night School  
Level 4 Fine Art + Art and Design  
Work in Progress - B21 / Foyer

Level 4 BA Fine Art and BA Art & Design students last week took part in their first Night School. They presented outcomes from Semester 1 via a show reel in the Foyer of Margaret Street alongside showing work in progress in their studio (B21). It was great to see so many of the group discussing their work with students across the School during the evening.



Night School Level 6 Fine Art  
Work in Progress Exhibition - F02

Third Year BA Fine Art students transformed their studio space to present a pop-up work in progress exhibition for Night School. They utilised the opportunity to experiment with display, curatorial strategies and to develop prototype outcomes in testing their degree show ideas.





## 45 Caprices Level 5 Fine Art Exhibition Stryx Gallery

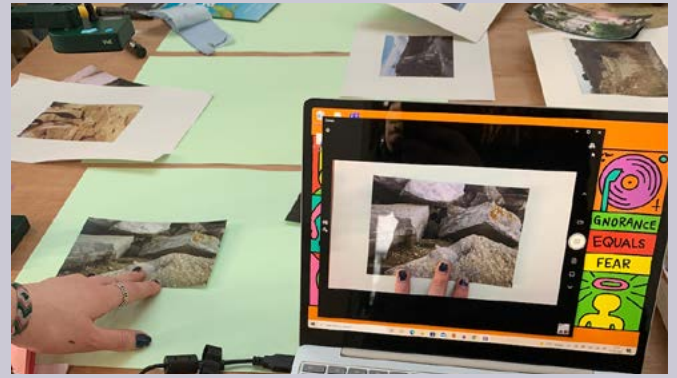
A caprice - Playful, free in form and of a lively character. Fast, intense, impulsive and virtuosic.



This exhibition which took place last week, brought together the work of our 45 second year BA Fine Art students. The exhibition allowed the students to extend their practices through experimentation with materials, media and forms of display in exploring ways of communicating ideas. The title of this exhibition reflecting the groups dynamic approaches to making. Well done everyone!



## L5 Art and Design Exploring Site



Artist **Caitlyn Kiely** ran a workshop for L5 Art & Design students to think about different ways to approach 'site' – both on location and in the studio. There were five workstations that proposed different ways of working: an image library, narrating landscapes, activating found objects and zooming in and out.



Level 5 Art and Design also explored site through a tour of the Jewellery Quarter Cemeteries Project from Josie Wal showing us the catacombs at Warstone Lane Cemetery.





## Level 5 Live Projects

This Semester, a number of second year students from BA Fine Art and BA Art and Design are taking part in the School of Art Live Projects. This module involves students working with and responding to an external context. The three live projects running this year are: Art and Markets with Eastside Projects (pictured below), World Building with Wheatley Fellow Joey Holder and Art/Education/ Outside with Summerfield Community Stables.



This week students from the World Building Live Project visited Nottingham Contemporary to see the exhibition 'Our Silver City' (image below). The group show travels to the end of this century, featuring works from the last 400 million years. Similar to a sci-fi-novel it imagines possible future worlds through story-telling and speculative fictions. In the coming weeks the students will be developing their own 'world-building' projects, and re-considering their artworks not strictly as individual objects but as expansive, constructed worlds.



Students from the Art/Education/Outside this week had great fun (braving the wind) in testing the workshops they had been developing on young participants at Summerfield Community Stables during half term (images below).



## Foundation Progression Workshops



Semester 2 comes with an action-packed timetable for Foundation Students including 'Headline Acts' from visiting BCU BA Courses. BA Fine Art (pictured above) and BA Art and Design (with Creative Technologies) (pictured below) have led the way with two inspiring presentations and workshops. These sessions are designed to underpin what students already know about their potential BA Courses, and to 'dangle the carrot' for what the future may hold. Course Leader Jo Newman says "I personally loved both the courses above and would sign up at the drop of a hat!" The Foundation team look forwards to meeting Graphics, Photography, Illustration, Video Games Digital Arts and Design for Performance in the very near future.





## Level 6 Fine Art - Making Public

Level 6 Fine Art students have begun planning for their degree show through a series of lectures and seminars with Gavin Wade (Eastside Projects). Through these they have been exploring modes of display, curating, and publication as they plan ways to make their work public.



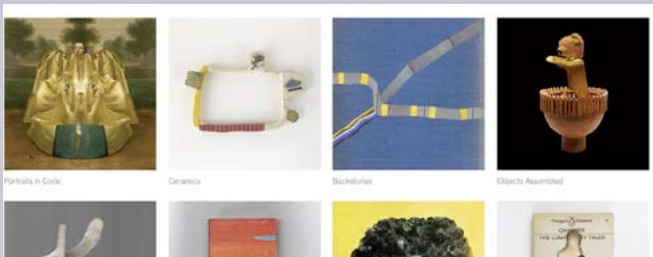
## Sandwell College Visit

Earlier this month, level 3 students from Sandwell College visited the School of Art to hear about our undergraduate courses and to have a tour of the studios and workshops we have within Margaret Street. Thanks for visiting us [@sandwellart](https://twitter.com/sandwellart).



## Friday Artist Talks

This month we have had talks from [Simon and Tom Bloor](#), [Flora Parrott](#) and [Matthew Richardson](#) and [James Auger](#). You can watch future Friday Lectures (and Wednesday 1pm staff talks) [here!](#)



## PhD News

Two of our current postgraduate researchers have current shows in the region. Yazmin Boyle, presents a solo exhibition, *Translating the Materials Wants and Needs* at Asylum Gallery in Wolverhampton from 19th February to 12th March. A central part of Boyle's practice is collaboration, through which they investigate materials, processes, and the viewers' reactions to them. The exhibition will feature Boyle's artworks, as well as works created in collaboration with participants, exploring how encounters can deepen our understanding of ourselves, our bodies, and our collective action.



Roo Dhissou's collaborative residency with Sahjan Kooner for ArtCore Derby has recently manifested as the show (*ASTRAL VILLAGE*) sloooooowwww at Riverlights in Derby from 18th February to 12th March. The artists have created a dream-like exhibition that weaves narratives through the lens of North India. The work travels from a cyborg in Punjab through to a black hole at the centre of the galaxy. Recurrent ideas of the celestial, community and migratory are transformed through craft based practices and digital environments.





## MA Art and Education Practices School of the Underkraft



MA Arts and Education Practices students spent a Tuesday afternoon in February swapping their usual G20 home for studying in Mark Essen's School of the Underkraft (BAS9) to plan how they could work together during Semester 2. As art school within an art school Mark's project is informed by a series of collaborations: A-Level students from Thomas Telford University Technical College work with Mark and Sahjan Kooner to make furniture, staff from the university loaned their office plants, and staff & alumni from the MA Arts and Education Practices course: Larissa Shaw, Joanna Fursman & Thomas Eke were commissioned by **Arts Connect** to make activity briefs for young people using the project.

## MA Contemporary Art China British Art Show 9 - Wolverhampton

MA Contemporary Arts China students visited the **British Art Show 9** in Wolverhampton this month. Our study trip was part of MACAC Semester 2 module Professional Development and Practice. This was an exhibition visit and great get together in preparation for the student placements beginning in March.



## MA Art and Design: Interdisciplinary Practices - Work in Progress Exhibition

Students from the MAAD:IP showcased their work as part of Night School. The work spans multiple disciplines which include, installation, animation, illustration, sculpture, video, education, jewellery, designed object and photography. It has been the courses first public showing since the start of the pandemic and looking forward to many more!



## MA Fine Art - Adaila Mynett Landscape Artist of the Year

MA Fine Art Student Adaila Mynett can be seen in Episode 5, Season 7 of Landscape Artist of the Year currently showing on Sky TV. The competition took place in July last year, and Adaila was a participant in the last heat of the series at Compton Verney. She gained a place within the competition based on a previous painting selected by the judges.



# S - O - A

Birmingham School of Art

## Other news / coming soon:

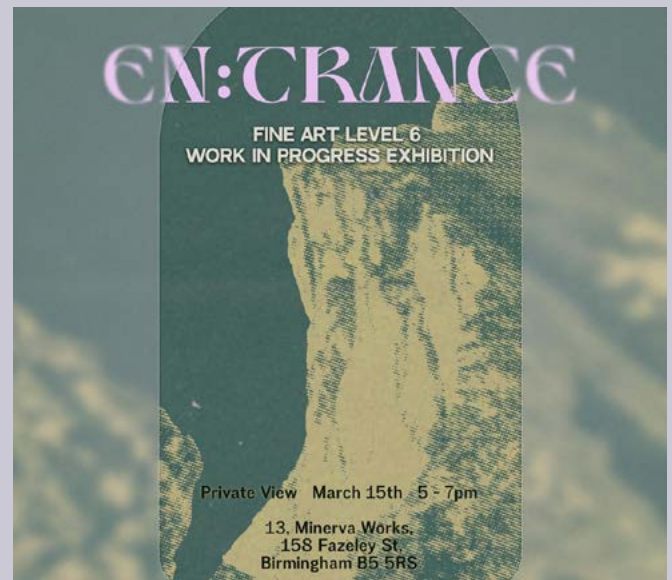
### ITS BAAAD THAT Level 6 Art and Design Work in Progress Exhibition

Level 6 Art and Design students are hosting a work-in-progress exhibition in the School Gallery featuring a range of works from their final major projects, purpose built display structures and a new publication with individually customized front covers. There will also be a program of film screenings, workshops and a collective lunch for the students. Join us for the private view on Tuesday 1st March at 6pm, the film screening in the lecture theatre on Wednesday 2nd March at 3pm and two workshops taking place on Thursday 3rd March at 11.30am and 2pm.



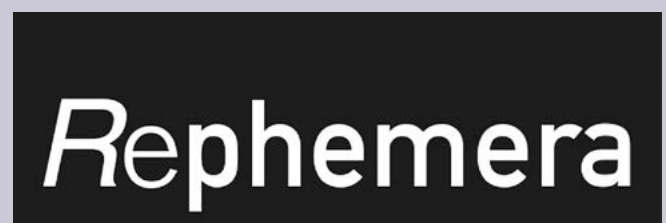
### Level 6 Fine Art EN:TRANCE - Stryx Gallery 15/03, 5-7pm

Next month third year BA Fine Art students will be testing work in progress in a gallery context through an external group exhibition EN: TRANCE at Stryx Gallery in Digbeth. The opening will take place on Tuesday 15th March from 5-7pm.



### Birmingham Collage Collective

Rephemera is a group show by members of Birmingham Collage Collective (some of whom have studied or taught at the School of Art). The exhibition focusing on collage, as both an idea and a medium is currently on show in BCU's Parkside Gallery with a free collage session in the foyer from 11am-2pm on the 12th March.





## School of Art UG Developments - Update from Steve Bulcock

To start with a very brief history - Since the BA Art & Design course relocated from Bournville to join the longstanding BA Fine Art course at Margaret Street (Sept 2013), it has become increasingly clear to staff and students (and many others judging by questions we're often asked) that these two independently conceived courses share a great many features. Both have overlapping elements of good practice that would recommend either as potential routes of study for those interested in contemporary art practice.

Over the past few years, staff have been working with key stakeholders (current students, alumni, prospective students, teachers, industry partners, employers) to expand our teaching provision and to further differentiate our courses. The result of these discussions, a suite of new undergraduate courses that launch in September 2022, courses that develop our already very successful practices, and align with an ever changing landscape while also taking advantage of staff expertise, research interests and pedagogic methodologies from the recently formed Birmingham Institute of Creative Arts. As a result, the three distinct courses outlined here will give students an even broader range of options and more flexibility when choosing their undergraduate degree route and throughout their journey with the Birmingham School of Art.

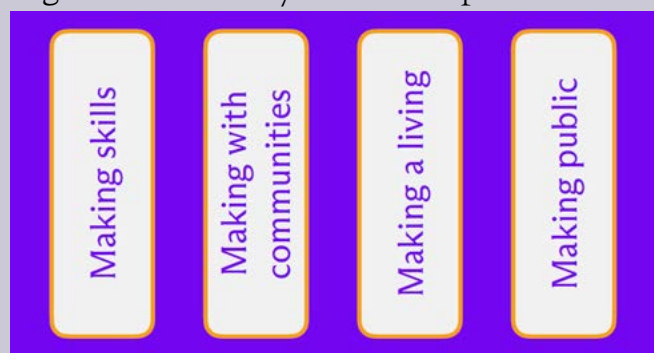
### BA Art Business (Level 6 Top-Up)

Our new, employability-focused BA (Hons) Art Business course (offered full and part-time) has been written for those who might be interested in the inner workings of the creative industries, how they are structured and operate, and to find out about the breadth of career opportunities available. It is an alternative option for the final stage of a degree (level 6) and is a mixture of theory and practical study with live briefs from the sector and provides the opportunity to build a bespoke network.



### BA Fine Art

The BA Fine Art course draws from the strengths of the current BA Fine Art and BA Art and Design courses (and their interesting points of intersection) in framing students learning through four key principles. These form pillars of skill development, knowledge and understanding (see below) which are developed within the studios, the workshops and by working across the City as sites of practice.



### BA Art and Design (with Creative Technologies)

Our new hybrid Art and Design BA, with its pathway in Creative Technologies, is an innovative course for the future exploring the intersection of Art and Design methodologies. This is an interdisciplinary course in which students will move fluidly between the fields of art, design and technology.



Next up - development in the MA programmes - watch this space.



# Student Voice Conference 30 March

**2022 Student Voice  
Conference theme  
is EDI  
(Equality, Diversity, Inclusivity).**

“The Student Voice Conference is approaching (30th March), this began last year and consists of presentations given by each school. The theme this year is Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and we are keen to hear from you! If you'd love to present your own work, talk about groups or exhibitions that are running to the rest of ADM, this is for you! It's the perfect opportunity to collaborate and showcase. For further information, feel free to get in touch. Finally, we'd like to thank you for your engagement with the student feedback forums. In particular Nicholas Patinson from L4 Fine Art who had the great initiative to create anonymous feedback surveys!” **Inés** and **Nikol**

## Workshop Technical Skills Sessions



A reminder of the weekly Technical Skills sessions that are running in each of the workshops (in addition to 1:1 sign-ups and inductions). The skills sessions are open to students from all levels and courses and provide an opportunity to learn more about specific processes and techniques. To find out more information and to book click [here](#).



## Student Success Advisor News

Miriam, our School SSA (who is on site at Margaret Street every Friday in F09 for support) wanted to remind you all of a few events coming up. There is a CAS student support session happening on the 2nd March 12:00 – 13:00 ([click here to join](#)). There is also an academic skills and support session on the 2nd March 13:00 – 14:00 ([click here to join](#))- this session is part of the Level Up+ programme and is all about helping you achieve your best in your university work. For other events please see the SSA Instagram page [@adm.ssa\\_team](#)



Thank you for reading!

If you have any news you would like to share in the March School of Art Newsletter, please get in touch before the 24.03.22: [rebecca.court@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:rebecca.court@bcu.ac.uk)