Falmouth University’s MA Fine Art: Contemporary Practice provides postgraduate education in contemporary art for practitioners and graduates who wish to challenge, extend or transform their art practice through a focused combination of practical and theoretical enquiry.

The course enables you to produce and exhibit a body of work commensurate with professional practice and to articulate its relevance and meaning within broader social and theoretical contexts.

We place emphasis on your own practice and the concerns and modes of making that your work seeks to engage with. This is accomplished through a focused combination of practical and theoretical enquiry, research, contextualisation and public dissemination.

**Further details**

This course foregrounds the making of art as a process of enquiry or research practice. This enquiry may encompass diverse modes of production (for example, image, object, network, site, surface, spatial, performative, conceptual, temporal, audible) as well as curating, arts administration, aesthetic theory and academic research.

The making of work also entails consideration of what it seeks to engage with. In this respect it deals with dissemination; the experience of art; through exhibition, performance, placement, encounter or social engagement.

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Some recent visiting lecturers

Trevor Bell
Richard Wentworth
Paul Chaney
Bill Woodrow
Peter Fraser
Gavin Turk
Jeremy Millar
Marie-Anne McQuay
Miguel Amado
Patrick Lowry
Naomi Frears
Martin Creed
Simon Starling
Cornelia Parker
Simon Fujiwara

Course Leader: Rob Gawthrop

Rob is an artist, musician, researcher, writer, lecturer, external examiner and PhD supervisor. He practises primarily in a live context using sound, film and installation. He has performed widely including Manchester Cornerhouse, Tate Modern and Dundee Contemporary Art and is a member of the collective School of Noises. *Thunder and Lightning* was published in *Reverberations: Aesthetics and Politics of Noise* (Continuum 2012). He has been at Falmouth since 2010 and was previously Director of Art at Dartington College of Arts.

robgawthrop.co.uk

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Emmanuelle Godeau, 2012 MA Show

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Postgraduate Guide
Course structure
The course is 45 weeks full-time, over a year, divided into three study blocks and is operated through the University’s postgraduate modular framework.

Emphasis is placed on individual practice and self-directed research, however the first five weeks have an intensive taught programme, partly shared with the other Art MAs, with inductions, lectures, seminars and tutorials taking place most days.

After this the structure is based around individual tutorials, lectures, seminars and crits, taking place around two days per week plus external events, gallery visits and the regular MA guest lecture series. The final 15 weeks are essentially self-directed, with tutorial support, culminating in the final MA Show.

Course delivery
Teaching is provided through lectures, seminars, crits, one-to-one tutorials and workshops by full-time and part-time staff. All staff teaching on the course are active researchers, artists and writers who exhibit, perform or publish nationally and internationally. Students are introduced to contemporary practices and debates relating to broader cultural and philosophical concerns, and more importantly, through specific student contributions, provide a forum for the development, exchange and discussion of ideas. Written and verbal feedback is given following assessment.

Building professional experience
The course aims to produce graduates who will make a significant contribution within the expanding field of contemporary art, both within the region and beyond. You’ll be encouraged and supported as an artist to engage with a broader public context.

Professional practice is integral to the course, while also having a specific module that gives it a particular focus. In addition to practising as professional artists, alumni from the course have been involved in setting up galleries, curating exhibitions and establishing artist-led projects and residencies. Others have continued their research on to PhD.

Course assessment
– Assessment by module based on practical work, research journal, documentation and written work.

Facilities
– Studio space for full-time students
– Workshop, print, audio-visual, library and IT facilities on Falmouth campus
– Photography, media, design and music studios on Penryn campus
Case study

Anna Sadler
“I was awarded a distinction and received the Sandra Blow Award on the success of my final show. Since graduating I have exhibited my work throughout the UK, most recently at the Hackney Wick performance space in London, at the Festival of Live Art, Glasgow and at Edinburgh’s Anatomy Lecture Theatre.

At Falmouth I received professional development support from established contemporary artists who offered practical advice for creating digital portfolios, websites and on how to apply for exhibitions, residencies and commissions. There were regular technical workshops in computer programs like Photoshop and Dreamweaver, as well as library and career support for accessing online databases for opportunities and research.

There was a strong emphasis on professional practice on the MA Fine Art course and the artists and arts business professionals who were invited to lead seminars and workshops in their field illustrated this. In turn, this provided a platform for networking and understanding the context of my developing practice and I felt confident in applying for exhibitions and opportunities to show my work while studying on the course.”

annasadler.com

Other staff associated with the course have included:
Virginia Verran
Lizzie Masterton
Dr John Baldacchino
Dr Glad Fryer
Gillian Wylde
Kate Southworth
Daro Montag

Career opportunities
Potential careers include:
– Artist
– Art administrator
– Community artist
– Curator
– Teacher
– Higher research degrees
“Complex and diverse, contemporary art seeks to engage with perceptions and challenge assumptions. This MA provides an opportunity to experiment, enquire and create the unexpected.”

Rob Gawthrop
Course Leader

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Some graduate careers...

1  **David Handford**'s sound devices and music compositions have been commissioned for various performances and art projects. His sonic sculpture, *Something For The Girl With Everything*, was recently shown at Biorhythym, Eyebeam Gallery, New York and Science Centre, Singapore.

[David Handford artist. wordpress.com](tardisprojects.co.uk)

2  **Liam Jolly** is a multidisciplinary artist who set up TARDIS Projects during his MA and presented Martin Creed’s *Work No.227 The Lights Going On and Off*. He also worked with other graduates to set up CMR Gallery in Cornwall and in 2012 was identified by Axis for their MAstars – an annual online selection of the most promising artists from the UK’s leading MA courses.

[tardisprojects.co.uk](tardisprojects.co.uk)

3  **Belle Benfield** runs Shed on Wheels, a converted 1970s milk float which operates as a base for people to learn about Plymouth-grown produce through wild food walks, cooking demonstrations, home-made tea making and story sharing.

[bellebenfield.com](bellebenfield.com)