THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification
Course Title: Curatorial Practice 2

Outward
International
Destabilising
Recalibrating
Distinct
Hands-on
Cohesive
Empowering
Challenging
Consistent
Resilient
Independent
Practicing
Fluid
Adaptable
Flexible
Pliable
Varied
Proactive
Connecting
Now

Curatorial Practice (((Contemporary Art)))

Course Code	HECOS Code	Academic Session
PCUR201	100914	**2025-26**

Course Title	**Curatorial Practice 2**
Course Contact	**Professor Omar Kholeif and Dr Alexandra Ross**

Credits	**40**
SCQF Level	**Level 5, SCQF Level 11**
When Taught	**Stage 2**

Associated Programmes	**Master of Letters in Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art)**
Lead School	**School of Fine Art**
Other Schools	**University of Glasgow (School of Culture and Creative Arts)**
Date of Approval	**PACAAG August 2025**

Course Introduction

The MLitt Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art) programme, jointly run by The Glasgow School of Art (where its studio is housed) and the University of Glasgow, aims to build a creative study culture and environment for a rewarding learning experience. A range of learning opportunities is offered throughout the programme, aligned with the aims of each stage.

Building on the critical grounding laid out in Curatorial Practice 1, this course shifts the focus towards exploring curating as a form of research. The course encourages diverse approaches, reflected in the wide range of curatorial work encountered through sessions and within the cohort. You will be supported to undertake focused research aligned with your curatorial interests to produce an Extended Essay, enabling you to establish a solid critical foundation for your practice, alongside a peer presentation.

Your research will include curatorial fieldwork that sits alongside the 20-credit GSA/UoG Elective, providing a platform for initiating conversations that will lead to project work later in the year.

The Extended Essay is framed as curatorial text, targeted at a public audience, and may be specifically designed. The format for your peer presentation is flexible and may range from a traditional symposium presentation to a bespoke discursive curatorial format.

You will also write a Proposal outlining plans for your final submission in Stage 3. The Proposal will include different elements and perspectives, including the selection of an individual or group curatorial project or a dissertation.

Independent study and research underpin the development of both your written and discursive submissions, and you are expected to dedicate substantial time to this throughout the course. You will be supported through tutorials as well as peer sessions.

Course Aims

This course is designed to enable you to:
- Develop and apply understanding and knowledge of curatorial practice, through a critical engagement with theories and professional practitioners representative of that range;
- Develop and apply understanding of the various professional practice skills: critical, production, administrative, budgetary, inter-personal – through which curators in the contemporary visual arts work;
- Apply professional practice to the development of independent work through presentations and essay and proposal writing
- Evaluate and apply knowledge and understanding of Health and Safety regulations as applicable to curatorial practice alongside ethical good practice and ethical responsibility in the curation of projects;
- Communicate and network with professionals and peers alongside other forms of audience development
- Evaluate and create in respect of individual practice, and in preparation for the Stage 3 Master's Project or Dissertation.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will be able to:
- Evaluate and apply of a range of curatorial processes, including the ability to initiate and test proposals and approaches to practice and the application of knowledge through curatorial writing;
- Evaluate, analyse and apply professional practice through forms of communication appropriate to individuals, audiences and resources alongside ethics and health and safety;
- Apply an advanced understanding of the nature and the range of the demands placed upon a curator, in the origination and development of particular projects or programmes through to their management and delivery;
- Create and apply research and practice in order to plan and propose a substantial curatorial or research project that involves resourcing and planning;
- Demonstrate responsibility and independence through the application of self-directed curatorial work

Indicative Content

This course gives you the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of curatorial practice through a lecture- and seminar-based programme, while also providing guidance to undertake focused research aligned with your individual curatorial interests.

Outcomes and in-process materials are presented in writing and through peer presentations, which provide a framework for you to develop future projects. The course also offers close insight into the specific tasks required to implement projects and how these inform project planning.

The teaching comprises:

- A lecture/presentation series supported by seminars, focusing on current curatorial contexts;
- Workshop sessions that activate curatorial modes and processes;
- Professional practice sessions introducing different areas of production and related skill sets;

- Tutorial and peer sessions designed to assist you in articulating your curatorial focus or area of enquiry;
- A study day focusing on a topic of contemporary relevance.
- Cross course professional practice sessions aimed at all PG students

Teaching is timetabled in blocks and interspersed with formative presentations, alongside the realisation of each Group Project, curated by you and your peers and presented within GSA spaces.

You will have access to a dedicated studio space, and you will be actively encouraged and supported to test and develop projects alongside students from UG and PG courses.

Alongside taught sessions, you will be supported to produce an Extended Essay investigating a theme closely aligned with your curatorial interests and a peer presentation. The format of your presentation is flexible and may range from a traditional symposium presentation to a bespoke discursive curatorial format.

At the end of this course, you will submit a proposal for the Stage 3 Master's Project Option (1–3). This proposal will include the rationale behind your selection of the option and your planned study and progression through the following course.

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

The programme integrates theory and practice, where methods of teaching and assessment explore these inter-relationships, led by staff from the University of Glasgow and Glasgow School of Art. The programme is built around four core teaching strategies: the **lecture/presentation** and seminar; professional **skills training**; discussion and presentation of research and practice-based work (through tutorials and peer sessions) and **workshops**. In Stages 1 and 2 These methods are supported and expanded through **visits** and **study days**, clustered around particular subject areas, practical approaches or critical topics with contributions from visiting national and international guest speakers.

- Lectures and presentations inform critical, historical and theoretical positions alongside seminars focusing on selected curatorial work and texts.
- Professional skills sessions focus on different aspects of production of curatorial and professional work. Workshops often focus on forms, such as publishing.
- Tutorials and peer sessions establish a platform for discussing student work.
- Study Days are gathered around an invited specialist or a specific location where collective ideas and curatorial methodologies can be explored in an expanded form.
- This all sits alongside SoFA's long running and highly successful Friday Event talk series.

You will be supported through briefings to understand how assessment works, alongside sessions to unpack assignment submissions, with check-ins to enable you navigate your learning and assessment journey.

In Stage 2, the focus shifts to the interests of the cohort, creating a space where the theoretically focused lecture and seminar programme connects with the more practically focused group and individual tutorials. This enables you to critically analyse the areas of contemporary curatorial practice under consideration at that time. The core of your learning is focused on the growth of an

independent curatorial practice, supported by the knowledge and independence you gain through the different aspects of teaching and workshop-based activities, alongside the GSA or UoG electives or work placement (20 credits).

Critical discourse in the School of Fine Art and the School of Culture and Creative Arts is highly valued as a key learning and teaching tool. It is embedded in the activities above, as well as in a graduate symposium hosted by the History of Art faculty at the University of Glasgow.

Professional practice is an integral part of studying at the School of Fine Art and is embedded within the course curriculum at every stage of the programme. It provides you with opportunities to develop experience and skills to engage professionally within local, national, and international art worlds and curatorial contexts.

Indicative Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
40	400

Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods

You are supported in your learning through a range of formative activities with staff and peers, such as workshops, reviews and tutorials offering ongoing formative feedback as you progress through the course.

Feedback will be presented through tutorial appointments and peer sessions and will include assessment of draft writing and presentation content as well as discussion of Masters Project/Dissertation plans and review of draft proposals.

A Formative review which includes a presentation (group or individual) provides a formative feedback point. This involves verbal feedback and notes from peers.

Description of Summative Assessment arrangements

Extended Essay
You will write a 5,000-word essay investigating a theme closely aligned with your curatorial interests and mapping relevant critical contexts. The essay provides a space for you to develop ideas, approaches to practice, and research, which will inform the writing of your Master's Project or Dissertation Proposal.

Master's Project or Dissertation Proposal
You will submit your proposal at the end of Stage 2, summarising and analysing the work you have undertaken towards planning and developing your final submission, which is due in Stage 3. You will select one of the following options:
- An individual curated project,
- A curatorial project/proposition and Extended Essay
- A dissertation.

Your proposal will provide evidence of the feasibility of your project, including arrangements for space use and project costing (where applicable), and will include a detailed timeline for implementing the project.

For both summative assessments, the grade awarded will result from a diagnostic breakdown of your learning achievements, strengths, and weaknesses. This will be accompanied by a written commentary on a designated assessment and feedback document, which includes a breakdown of marks and a description.

Submissions will be assessed and moderated in line with the Code of Assessment.

Description of Summative Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week
Extended Essay	75	Week 8
Master's Project or Dissertation Proposal	25	Week 12

Exchange/Study Abroad	
Can this course be taken by Exchange/Study Abroad students?	No
Are all the students on the course taught wholly by distance learning?	No
Does this course represent a work placement or a year of study abroad?	No
Is this course collaborative with any other institutions?	Yes
If yes, then please provide the names of the other teaching institutions	University of Glasgow (School of Culture and Creative Arts)

Reading and On-line Resources
The course indicative reading and online resource list is accessible via Resource Lists. This list will be reviewed and updated annually to reflect course content and subject developments.