

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification

Course Title: MLitt Contemporary Art Practice Studio Core Three: Consolidation



Course Code	HECOS Code	Academic Session
	100059	2026-27

Course Title	Studio Core Three: Consolidation
Course Contact	Mick McGraw

Credits	60
SCQF Level	11
When Taught	Stage 3

Associated Programmes	Master of Letters (MLitt) in Contemporary Art Practice
Lead School	School of Fine Art
Other Schools	N/A
Date of Approval	PACAAG August 2025

Course Introduction

This course builds on your experiences from the first two semesters. You will reflect on your developing practice, and on the experience of presenting your work as part of your collective event. This reflection will inform the decisions you make as you continue to develop your practice in this core studio course.

You will develop a body of work with the aim of exhibiting a piece or pieces in the MLitt *CAP Exhibition* in Semester 3. In keeping with the spirit of the Contemporary Art Practice programme, which actively questions orthodoxies, the *CAP Exhibition* may not conform to assumed models of an end-of-programme 'degree show'. You will work collectively and collaboratively to continue experimenting and testing how your work engages with an audience, building on the confidence gained during the previous two semesters.

Although the *CAP Exhibition* takes place in the final stage of the programme, its emphasis is on functioning as the beginning of a series of public presentations, preparing you for professional life or further research. You may choose to work collaboratively, collectively or individually, and the *CAP Exhibition* may adopt a unified identity or be organised around groups of shared interests that have emerged throughout the year.

You will also develop a professional *portfolio of practice*. This portfolio will take a form appropriate to your practice, whether digital (e.g. a website) or physical (e.g. a traditional portfolio or a book). Whatever its form, it should have relevance beyond the programme and act as a carefully curated representation of your practice.

In addition to your participation in the *CAP Exhibition* and your portfolio, you will produce a *Presentation of Practice*. This will be a presentation in which you will reflect on your current position and ambitions beyond the programme. It serves as a reflection on your intellectual, theoretical, conceptual, and contextual development throughout the programme.

The *presentation of practice* will invite you to consider how your work addresses contemporary concerns, such as global societal challenges or the potential impact it may have. Additionally, it will ask you to outline how you plan to develop your work after the programme. This could include pursuing further academic research, extending your collective or collaborative practice, or preparing for future employment. You will be asked to articulate how the creative and professional skills acquired during the programme equip you to achieve your ambitions, and outline your research interests and the question or questions that will continue to be the focus of your work after the course.

Course Aims

This course aims to:

- enable you to develop knowledge and expertise in the field of contemporary art and understand how art practice might engage with global and/or societal challenges.
- encourage you to consolidate your individual and collective engagements towards taking an informed position about your practice as contemporary art.
- enable you to critically apply research methods and methodologies appropriate to contemporary art practice supporting deep enquiry and ethical considerations.
- provide you with the opportunity to present your work effectively and reflect on the way it might operate.
- encourages forward thinking, with the hope that the networks you have formed – including your collective groups – might evolve into potential collaborations, or collective endeavours, after graduation.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon full participation in and successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

- Critically analyse and reflect on how your body of work addresses contemporary conditions, engaging with global or local societal challenges through creative practice and rigorous reflection.
- Propose, plan, and execute an exhibition that reflects professional standards, demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of ethical and practical considerations in presenting work to a public audience.
- Consolidate and extend your body of practice and research, synthesising your ideas, techniques, and methodologies to align with professional and/or academic contexts and areas of exploration within the GSA or beyond.
- Communicate your practice and its outcomes professionally – verbally, or through appropriate alternative forms – clearly evaluating its effectiveness and identifying areas for further professional development.
- Collaborate and communicate effectively with peers to build a collective dynamic, identifying shared interests and making connections that might enhance individual and group practices.

Indicative Content

The Dialogue Sessions continue during the Consolidation course. These sessions will continue to focus on the ways that contemporary art might respond to societal challenges or global urgencies. During this final course these themes will be proposed by you and your peers. In cooperation with the programme staff team, you will invite professionals from Glasgow and beyond, which may include curators and writers as well as artists, to contribute to the dialogue. This indicates how the Programme expects you to take progressively greater control and agency over the nature of the experience. In addition, the sessions will focus on developing dialogue around the areas of professional and continuing practice that will equip you for further practice and research after the course. Alumni from the MLitt programme will present the kinds of events and activities they have developed since graduating, encouraging you to think of this course as the start of your professional career, rather than simply the final stage of the programme.

As well as continuing the critical dialogue with others, this course will continue to support you to explore all aspects of proposing, presenting and reflecting on public exhibition-

making. This will include aspects of working safely and professionally with an emphasis on the ethical dynamic of the work you make and exhibit. The Practical Consultancies and workshops will focus on these aspects, as well as supporting you to continue to refine and develop your skills of presentation, supporting you in finding the most effective way of communicating your ideas verbally and/or in other forms.

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

The learning and teaching methods of the MLitt CAP Programme are designed to promote progressive independence in the way you work. Building on the methods deployed over the previous course, the learning and teaching is based around continued dialogue.

Methods will include:

- Dialogue Sessions
- 1:1 and Group Tutorials
- Group Critiques
- Practical Consultancies and Workshops will focus on preparing for the CAP Exhibition and your Presentation of Practice, which is an opportunity to share the work you have made, articulate your ideas and describe your position in relation to contemporary ideas and challenges. The sessions will build on those from the previous semesters and are designed to increase your confidence in presenting your ideas and research – verbally or in alternative ways – as well as installing your work for exhibition. One aspect of the practical consultancies is to explore ways that you can sustain your practice without relying on the technical facilities available at GSA.

As in previous semesters, an essential aspect of the learning methods of this course is the independent studio time, when you are expected to continue to develop your practical research (thinking-through-making) with increased focus on the consolidation of a body of work.

Indicative Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
30	600

Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods

Formative assessment takes place at the midway point of the course. It is an opportunity to assess your progress on the course, identifying areas that may require action or further development. You will present your work-in-progress to your peers and tutors and receive verbal feedback on its development. You will also complete a formative assessment form, which will ask you to identify where and how effectively your work is meeting the course learning outcomes. Based on this critical reflection and following discussion with your tutor, you will identify a set of actions that will help you develop your work so that you can more effectively provide evidence of having met the Intended Learning Outcomes. The Formative Assessment form will be signed off by your tutor acknowledging the actions set for the rest of the course.

Description of Summative Assessment arrangements

Summative assessment is an opportunity to provide evidence that you have met all the learning outcomes for the course through the submission of the following assessment methods:

- A presentation of practice, an illustrated verbal presentation (Power Point, or similar)
- A portfolio of practice informing your approach
- A work or works presented in the CAP Exhibition

The work you submit will be assessed holistically against the course Intended Learning Outcomes. As such, each assessment method should be seen as an opportunity to demonstrate how effectively you have met the course Intended Learning Outcomes. You will receive verbal and written feedback accompanied with a single overall grade for the course.

Reassessment opportunities, where a student has not passed the course, are outlined in the Code of Assessment.

Description of Summative Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week
A presentation of practice, an illustrated verbal presentation (Power Point, or similar)	100% - The work you submit will be assessed holistically against the course Intended Learning Outcomes.	Week 11
A portfolio of practice informing your approach		Week 12
A work or works presented in the CAP Exhibition		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?	No
If yes, then please provide the names of the other teaching institutions	

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.