



ma arts&ecology

Arts & Ecology allows arts practitioners to develop skills in the context of ecology, interdisciplinarity and place. The MA provides a challenging academic vehicle in which to develop your practice, further your ability to engage with complex ideas about this highly contested sphere and to work relationally and dialogically in a vibrant and engaging context. You will need a willingness to open up your practice, and a desire to explore in more depth working with people and place. The course has a close relationship with leading contemporary arts organisation Aune Head Arts, and other important agencies in the field such as the Centre for Contemporary Art in the Natural World (CCANW) in nearby Haldon Forest.

Course Leader

The course is led by Dr Richard Povall of Aune Head Arts (www.auneheadarts.org.uk). Across the year a broad array of visiting artists and leading thinkers contribute to the course, and there are numerous field trips and site visits. Staff and visitors bring a range of expertise across contemporary arts practices, site and place, and environmental issues.

How is the course structured?

You will be in a peer-learning and supportive environment in which you bring as much as you take and which centres around your practice. The course is delivered through a series of intensive modules which allow for a deep level of engagement and opportunities to explore work in depth with others in the group. The course prepares you to rethink or re-evaluate your practice and develop a new body of work.

Modules:

Module 1. **Site** [September 28 to October 16, 2009 (subject to change)]

Module 2. **Mind** [November 23 to December 11, 2009 (subject to change)]

Module 3. **People and Place** [March 1 to 19, 2010 (subject to change)]

Module 4. Preparations for final work [May 10 to 20, 2010 (subject to change)]

The modules are three weeks long, except for module 4, which is twelve consecutive days.

Students and staff work together full-time, using the content of the modules to inform your continuing practice. It is therefore possible to continue your professional practice while undertaking the MA: your professional work can contribute to the MA coursework, and vice versa.

How is the course taught and assessed?

Although there are strands of conventional delivery via seminars and lectures, much of the course content is approached through practice. Each module allows plenty of time for in-depth critique and free



time for development of work. The modules are the time to together to allow you to focus exclusively on developing your work and discussing new ideas with the group. Each module includes a number of field trips and visits to art exhibitions, etc. as well as visits from artists and others.

Professional Practice and Careers

The practice-led foundation of the Award enables you to develop knowledge of a range of research approaches and strategies centred around a broad interpretation of “ecology”. The MA will give you the time and space to develop your practice in a supportive, cross-disciplinary context, and will open up new avenues for collaboration and future working. Your work will be seen by producers and curators, and your developed practice will help you find new avenues and outlets for your work as a professional artist. Your enhanced understanding of the natural world and the ecologies of place will help broaden your practice to embrace new approaches,

Facilities

University College Falmouth, Dartington Campus is located at Dartington Hall near Totnes in Devon, the setting for a remarkable project in the arts, education and social regeneration that has now been in action for over 70 years. The campus is a vibrant arts community of scholars and practitioners, a laboratory for contemporary arts. There are currently about 500 undergraduates, 60 MA students and 40 research postgraduates. Support services include a library and specialist facilities for arts research and practice. There is a full programme of arts events on campus, and many practitioners in the contemporary arts visit to perform and/or teach. Students are able to undertake exchanges with Dartington's network of European and American partner institutions.

Typical entry requirements

This course is primarily aimed at contemporary artists, performer/makers and artist/curators pursuing socially engaged and/or context-responsive practices. The MA has been designed for practitioners with an established body of work and a broad interest in working ecologically or in an ecological context, and this carries as much weight as any formal qualifications. You do not necessarily have to hold an undergraduate qualification, but you will be able to show an interest in and understanding of research practices, and have the ability to frame critical responses. We value a broad array of artform practices; we encourage applications from artist/curators, musicians, choreographers, sound-artists, theatre-makers, writers, painters, and all other forms of contemporary creative practice. It is not the particular artform that is key here, but rather the interest in context, ecology, the curiosity about interdisciplinarity and about context, a willingness to crack open your practice, and a hunger to develop and challenge your own making processes.

For further information

Contact the MA Programme Team at the Dartington Campus at 01803 862224 or r.wallis@dartington.ac.uk. For information about course content please contact Dr. Richard Povall at r.povall@dartington.ac.uk.



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