

# MA Arts Management

- *Develop your own practice as a maker, manager, producer*
- *Explore the social, cultural and economic role of contemporary arts in the UK*
- *Examine, explore, innovate, create*

The MA in Arts Management at Dartington College of Arts enables you to broaden and deepen your understanding and skills through exploration and practice across artistic disciplines. You will develop the confidence you need to be an effective and successful cultural leader/manager. As well as a grounding in practical skills, there is also a strong theoretical and analytical element to provide the context for your role as a cultural leader/manager.

You will get to know project and organisational managers, curators, artists, publicists, policy-makers, funders and researchers working in the arts & culture across the SW region and beyond. Field trips to a range of cultural organisations provide opportunities to ask questions, make connections and establish networks. Students are respected as future colleagues and innovators and given access to inside information, issues and policies. The practical module sessions are a mixture of workshops, discussions and seminars — peer to peer learning.

This award is led by Aune Head Arts (AHA), an innovative arts organisation with a specialism in rural-based working that was created and is led by artist-managers. AHA is South West England's leader in the production and management of collaborative, residential and community/place-based arts projects. Our management, policies and projects are driven by a staff and board who are predominantly artist-managers. The AHA staff team brings their experience and knowledge as makers across the fields of composition, music, digital arts, dance, theatre and photography to their teaching. Sessions are also led by a range of leading cultural makers and thinkers from across the UK.

You will develop the skills to make your own opportunities with the guidance and assistance of a supportive and knowledgeable teaching team committed to quality learning experiences. Throughout the programme students have access to the full resources and support of Aune Head Arts and of all campus's of University College Falmouth.

## Course Structure

The curriculum combines independent research, individual tutorials, thematic projects, seminars and lectures, a dissertation and the realisation of a public practical project. Three taught modules

Field trip, Devon Guild of Craftsmen, January 2009 © AHA





are delivered in Part 1 of the course as follows:

### **Part 1 Orientation: 60 credits 30 ects 3 taught modules**

#### **Diagnostics and Methodologies**

Taking stock of your practice, opening up new ideas, testing collaborative and/or cross-disciplinary possibilities, all with a view to developing a proposal for your dissertation and a large-scale practical project in Part 2 of the MA.

#### **Questions of Practice**

A seminar and workshop-based approach challenges you to explore and extend the practical procedures involved in your work, and to consider these in relation to the broader context of contemporary ideas in your and other subject fields. Sessions address managing projects & organisations, community & audience engagement, marketing & public relations, evaluation, fundraising & finance and policy-making influences on UK arts structures, etc.

#### **Critical Theory**

A broad study of practices, histories and theories across disciplines within the contemporary arts. The emphasis is on sessions led by practitioners discussing links between their own work and critical theory in their field.

### **Part 2 Moving into Praxis: 120 credits 60 ects for MA**

Independent research and practical work leads towards a final public project and a dissertation. You choose the ratio and relationship of the two.



**Master of Arts:** 180 credits/90 ects

**Postgraduate Diploma:** 120 credits/60 ects

Students' independent work is supported through individual tutorials, group critiques, a range of intranet learning resources, the Library and Learning Resources Centre, and the specialist arts facilities on the Dartington (and Cornwall) campuses.

## **Course Timing**

There is a full-time and a part-time pathway through the MA. Full-time students complete the degree within 12 months, and part-timers within 24 months. The course begins around the third week of September (*dates vary each year*). Autumn term 2009/2010 begins the week of September 21, 2009 (the first taught sessions meet Monday, September 28.)

## Who does the teaching

The lead tutor is **Nancy Sinclair**, co-founder of Aune Head Arts and a photographer. Through her influence the work of AHA is centred around a commitment to be responsive to both people and place. One of her strengths is in establishing new networks, connections and partnerships between artists, individuals, arts groups, environmental and heritage organisations, local and regional government agencies, higher education institutions and others to inform and support the work of AHA. In California she was Executive Director of the experimental visual arts organisation ProArts and later of the performance-based Oakland Festival of the Arts. She then managed a major public art programme for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, before managing a three-county arts funding programme for the New York State Arts Council. She has a Master of Fine Arts from Mills College (California), a Master of Landscape Design from the Conway School of Landscape Design (Massachusetts) and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Corcoran School of Art (Washington, D.C.). From 2005 to 2009 she was a Board Member of ArtsMatrix, the SW region's leading arts/creative sector development agency.

**Dr. Richard Povall** is a digital artist, composer, cultural manager and co-founder of Aune Head Arts. He has held Senior Research Fellowships at Middlesex University (London) and at Dartington College of Arts (where he was also Senior Lecturer in New Performance Media) and where he is currently a Creative Enterprise Fellow (Choreography). He has taught in numerous colleges and universities, and was Director of the Division of Contemporary Music at Oberlin Conservatory of Music in the US from 1997-1999. He holds a BA(Hons) in Music from Dartington College of Arts, an MFA in Music Composition and Electronic Media from the Center for Contemporary Music at Mills College (California), and a PhD from the University of Plymouth. He lives in the SW of England, on the edge of Dartmoor. He sits on the Board of numerous arts organisations in the region, and chairs Devon's dance development agency, Dance in Devon.

**Visiting lecturers** include influential individual artists and arts managers as well as representatives of key regional organisations such as Plymouth Theatre Royal, Arts Council England and the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (Exeter).

## Context

The 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 home to a vibrant arts community of scholars and practitioners and is a laboratory for the contemporary



Seminar Sessions, Dartington Campus, 2008 © AHA

arts. There are about 500 undergraduates, 50 MA students and 50 research postgraduates on the Dartington campus.

Support services include a library and specialist facilities for arts research and practice on the Dartington, Tremough and Woodlane campuses. There is a full programme of arts events on the Dartington campus and national and international practitioners in the contemporary arts visit to perform and/or teach. Students are able to undertake exchanges with a strong network of European and American partner institutions.

The SW region has the highest concentration of creative SMEs and microenterprises in the UK and is a crucible for creative output and innovation across many creative fields. The context in Devon is both rural and urban, both of which are explored in the MA.

## Admission

You will usually have a good degree in some form of art practice. Alternatively with a good degree in another subject you should be able to demonstrate a strong interest, knowledge and experience of contemporary arts practice. We also encourage applications from mature students and students without conventional academic qualifications if you are able to demonstrate equivalent competence, both in practical and theoretical work, by other means. Successful applicants will be practitioners who are capable of researching, thinking, talking and writing about practice at postgraduate level.

The first step is to fill in an application form. All applicants are interviewed. For overseas applicants, the interview takes an appropriate form, which may be submission of a portfolio and a telephone interview.

## Finance

Please contact Dartington College of Arts Admissions Office if you have any queries regarding fees. For other information on postgraduate funding sources see <http://www.prospects.ac.uk>

## Contact

If you would like an application form, a copy of the Dartington/University College Falmouth prospectus, or have any further questions please contact:

**The Admissions Office**  
**University College Falmouth**  
**Dartington Campus**  
**Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EJ**  
**t: +44 (0) 1803 862 224**  
**f: +44 (0) 1803 861 666**  
**[enquiries@dartington.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@dartington.ac.uk)**  
**<http://www.falmouth.ac.uk/>**  
**[www.auneheadarts.org.uk](http://www.auneheadarts.org.uk)**



Seminar Session, Bellever Youth Hostel, Dartmoor. October 2006 © AHA