



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD007311	Version: 2 Date Amended: 01/May/2026
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1. Module Title
Experimental Practice

2a. Module Leader
Chloe Leaper

2b. School
Cambridge School of Art

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
4

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BA (Hons) Fine Art		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

Through a series of short studio projects, you will explore experimental art as a key aspect of contemporary art practice. and the primacy of ideas in developing artwork, together with media or process-led approaches to working experimentally.

You will be introduced to cutting-edge contemporary art practice on an international stage looking at different traditions of experimental art from Marcel Duchamp through to Bruce Nauman, together with more recent practices, such as Santiago Sierra or Sophie Calle.

Working briefs will encourage you to move beyond material processes you are familiar with. You will develop an open, explorative and creative approach within individual projects, making use of a variety of different media (sculpture, photography, video, live art, drawing, assemblage, etc). Learning new technological processes is a key aspect of this module, with the option to work within photography, digital imaging and video. You will respond directly to working briefs with your own imaginative solutions and ideas. Your own individual research methodologies are developed out of this.

You will learn through presentations, film screenings, text readings, group seminars, one-to-one and tutorial sessions.

6b. Outline Content

- Consideration of the history of the 'dematerialisation' of the object
- Discussion of the possibilities of working in different media, including learning new technologies
- Staff presentations of working briefs, introducing relevant areas of modern and contemporary art
- Film screenings of artist's films or documentaries
- Tutorials on the progress of individual experimental working processes
- Group discussions of work-in-progress
- Field trip to London galleries
- Research into relevant areas of practice

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

- Media Services - use of digital cameras / video
- Dedicated Fine Art studio spaces
- Mac Suites and digital printers
- 3d Workshops
- ARU Library
- London galleries including Tate Modern

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Critical Enquiry and Investigation Contextualise and deploy experimental ideas, through a series of thematic projects within the context of contemporary fine art practice, showing critical enquiry through practical exploration of materials and processes.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Research, Context and Analysis. Demonstrate and articulate an understanding of work which cuts across disciplines and conventions, showing an understanding of the possibilities of experimental working processes, with contextual sources and analysis informing your work.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Creative Process, Development and Personal Position Demonstrate evaluative skills and make informed judgements around the concepts and production of work for each project, whilst engaging with problem-solving, applying experimental processes and testing visual and conceptual ideas.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Communication, Articulation and Presentation Clearly articulate and express ideas and concerns in your work and supporting portfolio for each project, whilst developing research-based skills and communicating ideas through a portfolio of experimental artwork.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2025/6	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	0	None	None
Other teacher managed learning	36	1-4	36 Hours; 3 hrs/week comprised of group seminars, workshops, group tutorials, briefing sessions, critiques, reviews and associated activities.
Student managed learning	114	1-4	Use of open access studio, workshop and computer suites. Research in libraries, museums and galleries. Off-site and location working.
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Portfolio of outcomes: 3000 word equivalent. Portfolio should clearly demonstrate research and thought-processes.					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above

(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]