

## Welcome letter and summer project

Hello, I'm Adam Castle – Head of Year 1,

Congratulations on securing a place on the Fine Art Degree Course at Newcastle University! You are about to join a vibrant community of artists dedicated to innovative creative exploration. In this letter there is important information on a summer project and the structure of the course.

### 1) SUMMER PROJECT

Every year, we invite our incoming students to make a piece of artwork over the summer. We will then have a one-day exhibition with everyone's artworks. It's not assessed in any way - this is a wonderful opportunity to meet each other and get a snapshot of everyone's work.

For this year's summer project, we're inviting you to make a piece of work in response to recent developments and thinking in ecology and/or the climate crisis. This is in the run up to a week of teaching and events focused on climate change and ecology which will be taking place from 28th October-1st November.

#### Task:

- 1) **Research and select an article** from the Environment section of *The Conversation*:  
<https://theconversation.com/uk/environment>  
You may want to do some additional research about the subject that you select.
- 2) **Make an artwork that responds to this article.** Think about the provocations that author poses, the questions that the article inspires you to ask, the key themes it touches on, the images, visuals, sounds, smells that come to mind, and the materials that may be relevant to make with. Remember you do not need to present information and facts in your artwork, you can respond in any artistic way that you like.
- 3) **Bring this artwork in on 16 September.** Drop it off between 10:00 – 11:00 at the Fine Art foyer, King Edward VII building.

Your work can be in any medium such as sculpture, assemblage, collage, video, printmaking, performance, drawing, painting, sound etc.

**2D artworks:** No larger than A2. Ensure it is on a light surface e.g. paper/card. **No canvas or wooden board etc.**

**3D artworks:** No taller or wider than 40cm.

**Video and sound artworks:** 5mins maximum. Upload them to this folder in advance, labelled with your name. They will be played on a video showreel. [https://newcastle.my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/nac17259\\_newcastle\\_ac\\_uk/Eirnk7yrmytMkQTrtzoXU-wBZdtg9Qb2IBORmPuGs5FL\\_g?e=rjPF3L](https://newcastle.my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/nac17259_newcastle_ac_uk/Eirnk7yrmytMkQTrtzoXU-wBZdtg9Qb2IBORmPuGs5FL_g?e=rjPF3L)

**Performance art:** 5mins maximum, we will have a scheduled time slot to perform.



## **2) COURSE INFORMATION**

You will shortly receive some communication from the University about induction, but I just thought I would write with some information about Year 1, Semester 1 in Fine Art.

The teaching staff and technicians in the Fine Art department are also practicing artists and art historians, and we share our knowledge of making, presenting, curating and writing about art from our direct experience of the field. We are all looking forward to working with you as your creative practice as an artist develops and flourishes.

As a Year 1 student you will have your own designated studio space to do your work in, alongside your fellow Year 1 artists. The main studio (practical making) teaching days are Tuesday and Thursday 9am – 5pm. You will continue your studio practice and art history studies independently on Wednesdays. You will have LifeWorkArt study trips on Fridays and Art History on Mondays. You will have full access to the facilities, including studios and workshops. Our practice-based modules will be structured around face-to-face tutorials and crits, with demonstrations and workshops held in the studios, technical workshops and seminar rooms.

In the first semester you will take 3 Strands (workshops) that focuses on different methods of artmaking each three weeks long. We will let you know which strand you will start with when you arrive. You will be provided with some tools and materials but you will also need to provide some tools and art materials yourself (please see materials list attached). In addition to the strands, I will be leading performance and time-based media workshops throughout the semester. More information to follow.

Looking forward to meeting you soon,

Adam

**Adam Castle**  
**Lecturer in Fine Art**  
**BA Stage 1 Module Leader, Fine Art**  
**Newcastle University**  
**Adam.Castle@newcastle.ac.uk**