

# A LEVEL FINE ART



## WHAT IS FINE ART?

Fine Art is drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, performance and video. Fine Art allows you to be creative and imaginative and produce visual work in which you express your own personal ideas. Observational drawing underpins all aspects of the course, out of which you will develop work in a creative and experimental manner.

## WHY SHOULD I STUDY FINE ART?

If you enjoy working with visual images and particularly enjoy making drawings, paintings, and sculptures, then you should study Fine Art. Fine Art is a very 'hands-on' practical course and can be extremely

rewarding. There are also a few career options that you can pursue as a result of studying Fine Art; previous students have gone on to become artists, architects, illustrators, designers, teachers, advertising creatives, etc.

## USEFUL SKILLS & INTERESTS

You should have a keen interest in visual art generally and enjoy making images. You will be introduced to both traditional ways of working in Fine Art, as well as challenging experimental approaches. You should enjoy visiting Art Galleries, to look at both historical as well as contemporary art.

## COURSE STRUCTURE & CONTENT

During the A Level course you will study approaches in 2D (drawing, painting and printmaking) as well as 3D (sculpture and installation). Some students also get the chance to work with video cameras and make short 'art' films and with the addition of our new kiln facility, students can make ceramic pieces. Throughout the course you will study modern and contemporary artists. You will be expected to make notes and analyse art works which relate to your own projects.

In the second year you will develop your skills further by producing more in-depth and ambitious work. Over the duration of the course, you will explore the idea of Fine Art as visual language and you will learn how to make work that visually communicates your personal ideas.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

All your work will be assessed by your subject tutor. At different times during the course, you will be asked to hand in your work so that your progress can be monitored. You will receive feedback from your tutor, advising you on what to do to improve your grade. At the end on each topic, you will submit your work for final assessment.

The course is made up of 2 components. Component 1 (60%) is the coursework component and here you will submit a sketchbook and a folder of work for assessment. In the second year you will study Component 2 (40%), which is externally set so you are given an exam paper with different projects to choose from. Following an initial period of preparation time in lessons, you will have a timed exam to complete a final piece. There is no revision as all the work is practical.

## COURSE COMMITMENT

We expect our students to be well motivated and enthusiastic. You must attend all lessons and never book holidays in term time as this can seriously affect your overall grade. Each week you will be given a homework task which will underpin and reinforce ideas explored in lessons. You will be expected to spend 4 hours on homework tasks each week. In addition to your lessons, you will have access to the Art and Design studios in your Personal Study Periods. We encourage our students to accompany us on gallery visits, which in the past have included local, national, as well as international venues.

## ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

The college requires 5 GCSE passes grades 4 - 9 for entrance onto this course including Art and Design. If your G-Score is below 4 then GCSE English Language is essential. To work out your G Score please go to the college website and click on the 16 – 18 tab and then entry requirements. If you are not sure how to work this out please get in touch and we will be more than happy to help. If you do not meet these requirements, please do not be put off, come, and talk to us.

## COURSE COSTS

Art and Design can be an expensive subject to study. At Prior Pursglove College you will be given lots of materials free of charge. Depending on the Art course you take these studio items include materials such as charcoal and pastels, acrylic paint, oil paint, water based and oil-based printing inks, paper, photographic chemicals, sewing threads, calico, silk, batik wax, fabric dyes and inks. We ask students to contribute £20 towards the cost of materials as you begin your course in September; this enables us to cover some of the costs of the materials we supply to you. If you are enrolled on 2 or more Art based subjects the cost will be capped at £30 per year. You will also have free access to SLR and digital cameras, computers, sewing machines, darkroom equipment and printing facilities.

## PROGRESSION ROUTES

Many students do decide that they would like to continue with their art studies at a higher level and there are several progression routes available to you. The usual route is to study a Foundation Diploma Course before applying to do Art and Design at degree level and we would recommend that students follow this line. However, we have had students who have applied directly to universities from 'A' level and many have been successful in obtaining places. Some of the students who studied this course at Prior Pursglove College progressed on to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• London – Central Saint Martins – <b>Fine Art</b></li><li>• London – Wimbledon – <b>Fine Art</b></li><li>• London – Chelsea – <b>Fine Art</b></li><li>• London – Royal Academy Schools – <b>Fine Art</b></li><li>• Manchester Met University – <b>Interactive Arts</b></li><li>• Huddersfield – <b>Textiles with Surface design</b></li><li>• Nottingham Trent University – <b>Architecture</b></li><li>• Sunderland University – <b>Fine Art</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leeds Metropolitan – <b>Fine Art</b></li><li>• Edinburgh – <b>Illustration</b></li><li>• Lincoln University – <b>Architecture</b></li><li>• Newcastle University – <b>Architecture</b></li><li>• Northumbria University – <b>Fine Art</b></li><li>• Teesside University - <b>Journalism</b></li><li>• York St John University – <b>Fine Art</b></li></ul>
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## STUDENT COMMENTS

“The lessons are fun and interesting as you choose what you want to do and get support and guidance to create good pieces of work. There’s lots of space to create and the Art room is a nice, modern space to work in.”

“The Art building is brand new with so much room to be creative. All the lessons are interesting, and you choose what you want to do.”

“There is loads more freedom in A Level Fine Art than GCSE – so I can do work about issues that interest me and that I can get really involved with my projects.”

“Fine Art is a way to explore your creativity and expresses it in any way you decide. The opportunity to create scales of work in the spacious, relaxed environment gives a sense of professional freedom.”

“I was worried that everyone was going to be better than me, but I have had great support and encouragement from my teacher and my confidence has grown. I particularly like the way that you can explore and develop your own ideas and you are really encouraged to make ambitious work. Now I know I can do anything; you just have to be prepared to work hard.”

“I really enjoy Fine Art. It is my favourite subject at college. Although I particularly like working creatively with mixed media and paint, there is no restriction on the kind of work you can make. Some students produce amazing realistic work, whereas others produce huge abstract pieces.”

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact the course leader, Jonathan Marshall, on 01287 280800, or e-mail [j.marshall@pursglove.ac.uk](mailto:j.marshall@pursglove.ac.uk).

*Please note that the information in this leaflet is correct at the time of publication, but circumstances may arise which cause us to revise our provision.  
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