

MLitt: TECHNICAL ART HISTORY: Making and Meaning

Programme Convenor:

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Technical art history is a relatively young but rapidly growing interdisciplinary research area linking together art and the humanities, science and conservation: focusing on 'the act of making' in all its facets. Its interdisciplinary approach combines art history, natural sciences, social and economical history and material culture. Art technological source research is at the core of technical art history. Additionally, reconstructions help in the interpretation of historical sources, in gaining insights in artistic techniques and a better understanding of the original appearance of objects.

Technical art history has developed from the discipline of conservation and object based investigations. It has now developed into object-based research focused on cultural heritage in all media and any historical period, to explore materials, techniques and construct narratives of artistic production. Technical art history addresses issues of artistic practice, authenticity, attribution and dating, as well as change in and the preservation of cultural heritage. Different stages of the production history can often be revealed, providing key information on the creative process and artistic intent. The research scope of technical art history is broad as it addresses all aspects, inherent and contextual, of the act of making.

The full-time MLitt degree is a 12-month programme. The taught component consists of five core courses, one taken by all History of Art postgraduate taught students and four taken by students on the Technical Art History: Making and Meaning programme, and a work placement in semester 2. Courses are taught in ten-week blocks. You will study three core courses in Semester 1 from September to December, and two core courses and the work placement in Semester 2 from January to March (work placements may go on into April).

The dissertation research starts in the 2nd semester and submission of the dissertation is 18th August, 2018.

The degree includes a 4/5-day study trip to a European city to visit professionals and institutions at which technical art history and conservation are practiced in the spring 2017 (destination and dates tbc).

AIMS

The programme as a whole seeks to:

- Introduce you to the main approaches in technical art history methodology
- Provide you with a thorough knowledge of artists' materials and techniques
- Provide you with the skills to perform object-based research, both technical and theoretical
- Provide you with a knowledge of scientific techniques used in technical art history
- Develop skills in analysing and interpreting art technological texts and technical data
- Provide you with in-depth knowledge of creative processes and original intent
- Provide you with the opportunities to enable you to establish a self-motivated and creative approach to research and professional practice
- Provide you with opportunity to experience in interdisciplinary research and professional practice in order to enhance your own professionalism and career development

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of the programme you should be able to:

- Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the key debates around the epistemology of technical art history
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the principal areas within technical art history
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the debate around authenticity
- Draw on research skills training in order to pursue your studies further, or transfer these skills to other relevant contexts
- Show evidence of an awareness of issues of methodology commensurate with this level of academic attainment
- Critically evaluate published research and contextual information
- Articulate your ideas and opinions on the field of study at a reasonably sophisticated level in both verbal and written form

Skills and Other Attributes

Subject-specific/practical skills

By the end of the programme students will be able to:

- Relate a range of advanced and specialised analytical, methodological and research skills

to technical art history studies

- Identify and access appropriate bibliographic resources, collections, archives and other relevant information sources
- Identify and understand relevant scientific analytical and imaging techniques

Intellectual skills

- By the end of the programme students will be able to:
 - Critically evaluate and articulate ideas in a variety of contexts
 - Appreciate and evaluate the relevance and importance of the ideas of others
 - Creatively anticipate, evaluate, and find solutions to problems in research

Transferable/key skills

By the end of the programme students will be able to:

- Write clearly and in a style appropriate to purpose
- Communicate orally to a range of audiences including peers and academic staff
- Communicate complex ideas effectively

Demonstrate self-discipline, time-management, organization and negotiation skills

Demonstrate a willingness and ability to learn and undertake research independently

- Use IT skills to advance research enquiry
- Reflect on their own learning as a critical practitioner
- Present their work effectively in a group situation
- Demonstrate ability to work in a professional environment

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

This full-time MLitt degree is a 12-month programme.

Semester I: Teaching period runs over 11 weeks from 19 September-8 December, including one reading/writing week

Semester II: Teaching period runs over 11 weeks from 10 January-30 March, including one reading/writing week

The taught component consists of:

Five core courses and a work placement.

You will study three core courses from September to December, and two core courses and a work placement from January to March.

Semester	Course	Required/optional	Credits
1	Core: Research Methods in Practice	required	20
	Core: Art in the Making 1	required	20
	Core: Testimonies on Painters' Practice	required	20
2	Core: Art in the Making 2	required	20
	Core: The Authentic Artwork	required	20
	Core: work placement	required	20
	Dissertation	required	60

Teaching will take the format of: taught lectures, seminars, practical workshops, labs, tutorials.

Assessments will consist of a 3000 word essay and an oral presentation for the Core courses, a work placement portfolio and poster, and a 15,000 (+ or – 10%) dissertation. You will also present a short presentation on your dissertation research at the Postgraduate Symposium (Details on the PGT pages on Moodle)

Core courses

SEMESTER 1

Art in the Making 1 (Historical Techniques HISTART5094)

Convenors: Dr Christina Young & Dr Caroline Rae

(see Moodle for rooms and times)

Testimonies on Painters' Practice: Documentary and Visual Sources (HISTART5077)

Convenor: Dr Mark Richter

(see Moodle for rooms and times)

Research Methods in Practice (HISTART 5105)

Convenor: Dr Sabine Wieber

Thursday, 2-4 pm, Kelvin Hall Lecture Theatre (see Moodle)

SEMESTER 2

Art in the Making 2 Modern and Avant-garde Techniques (HISTART5093)

Convenor: Dr Mark Richter

(see Moodle for rooms and times)

The Authentic Artwork (HISTART 5064)

Convenors: Dr Christina Young and Dr Caroline Rae

(see Moodle for rooms and times)

Work Placement (HISTART5072)

Supervisors: Dr Mark Richter, Dr Margaret Smith, Dr Christina Young and Dr Caroline Rae

Technical Art History Group Teaching Staff

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Dr Mark Richter, Mark.Richter@glasgow.ac.uk

Dr Margaret Smith, Margaret.Smith@glasgow.ac.uk

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Dr Cecilia Gauvin, Cecilia.Gauvin@glasgow.ac.uk

There will be guest lectures throughout the semesters, as part of the core courses. Additionally, there are optional Art History research seminars and talks given by curators at The Hunterian which will enhance your experience. There are also research seminars throughout the university which can develop your interdisciplinary skills and understanding.

Updates and changes to the timetable or announcements will be communicated through Moodle.