

Research in Practice

YEAR 2

MODULE: **Research in Practice**

During this module you will develop a PROPOSAL for the third year module, the ***Independent Project***.



YEAR 3

Semester 1 MODULE: **Independent Project** (40 credits)

This consists of:

Practice (20 credits) **&** Extended Essay (20 credits)

*Alongside this you will have the **Graduate Portfolio module (60 credits)** running through both semesters. This is the main practice module leading to your graduate exhibition and a coherent body of work for your portfolio.*

TASK DESCRIPTION

Building on your knowledge of the traditional essay structure, you will write a **PROPOSAL** - an 'upside down' essay, which rather than starting from an essay question, leads you to construct your own research question.

2500 words

“Illustrators need to be educated, socially and culturally aware communicators, having knowledge, understanding and insight regarding the context within which they are working, the subject matter that they are engaged with and to be able professionals working within the parameters and needs of the market place and target audiences.

They need to utilise a breadth of intellectual and practical skills.”

Alan Male



Examples of past extended essay topics *with* suggestions of possible related practice.

Witches, Crones and Evil Queens

A Study of age, Beauty and female autonomy in fairy tale narrative

PRACTICE: Set of packaging for herbal/upmarket tea –
fairytale/folklore

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

How does the illustrator portray sensitive themes in children's picture books?

PRACTICE: Picture Book about loneliness.

Other possible themes – disability, domestic violence, race, death etc.

ALTERNATIVELY – this could also be applied to **graphic novels**.

.....or applied to editorial:



The sins of the fathers

Young children dragged kicking and screaming to visit their abusive fathers and mothers threatened with prison if they don't comply... It's a world away from the image of wronged dads that the campaign group Fathers4Justice implanted in the public mind. Yet, as **Decca Aitkenhead** discovers, it's the harrowing reality for many families riven by violence or sexual abuse. Illustrations by **Laura Carlin**

To Have and to Hold

What does the future hold for album artwork in the digital age?

PRACTICE: Album artwork

The Foundation of Inspiration

The evolution of concept art in a digital age

PRACTICE: Concept art

Illustration without Boundaries

PRACTICE: *Very open!!*

Is the Return of the Handmade Just a Trend?

PRACTICE: *Very open!!*

The Illustrative Stitch

*The student looked at personal resonance, nostalgia, aesthetics –
fleeting trend?*

PRACTICE: The student's practice involved stitch and drawing.

Twice Upon a Time

A visual analysis of the postmodern fractured fairy tale in children's picture books

PRACTICE: A postmodern picture book/fractured fairy tale

The Importance of Style in the Illustration Industry

The student looked at function, definition – and questioned is style an indicator of success?

PRACTICE: *Very open!!*

The Craft of Illustration

A new relationship between the handmade and digital

PRACTICE: *Quite open - does this relate to your practice?*

Escaping to Wonderland

PRACTICE: Retelling of Alice

Little Red

PRACTICE: Retelling of Little Red Riding Hood

This fractured fairy tale could be a picture book, a graphic novel, artist's book, a book cover, packaging/branding, advertising, a series of artworks for an exhibition.....

The Border that Jack Broke

Fractured Frames in Postmodern Picturebooks

PRACTICE: a picture book playing with framing

OR the essay and practice could be applied to a graphic novel.

Drawing, Thinking and the Illustrator

PRACTICE: *Very open!!*

Animation and Illustration: Intimate Siblings or Distant Cousins?

PRACTICE: Do you want animation to be a major part of your third year and your illustration career?

Reportage (structure suitable question/area of focus)

PRACTICE: Sketchbooks of reportage drawings and final application (magazine article – topic of your choice. Must have access to drawing from life).

The homeless, café culture, history of a well known street (origins, architecture, reincarnations), local cuisine, the fishing/cockle industry etc.

Conceptual Illustration and Surrealism

“If ever one art movement consumed the entire illustration genre, it was Surrealism” (Heller and Chwast, 2008, p.70).

PRACTICE: *Very open* - If your work leans toward the surreal, strange, uncanny!

OR if you like to respond to abstract concepts in editorial and employ a surreal approach.

In your proposal you will identify your own ***independent area of research*** and your proposed related practice.

Where to START?

With your PRACTICE or WRITING?

Starting points:

- An area from Contextual Practice lectures or essays.
- An area from practice.

- What plans do you have for your third year practice?
- What do you hope to do after you graduate?

Module outline

This semester you will receive a carousel of ***Practice in Context*** talks given by visitors and your lecturing staff who are studio practitioners. The purpose of these talks is to model for you how to work with 3 keywords. This is aimed at preparing you for your Independent Project research.

The lecture programme will cover a range of approaches to the relationship between research areas, keywords and theories specific to your subject area, and a range of practices.

These talks will usually begin with a biographical and cultural context, and then show and discuss practices and images in relation to **three key words** or themes.

keywords are used as a mode of orientation which address how practitioners **look, think, consider, reshape, redesign and understand the cultural practices that surround them.**

After an engagement with keywords used to outline an area of research **and related practice project**, you will create your research question which will be used to initiate your ***Independent Project*** in your third year.

If you are stuck for an idea – don't just sit there:

Go to the Library

Read

Look at journals

FIND INSPIRATION *and* STIMULATION

Once you have your topic, begin your research.

It is not enough just to state what you intend doing and waffle about how you intend to carry out your research. You need to ACTUALLY begin your RESEARCH to develop a sound proposal.

PROPOSAL: 2,500 words

RESEARCH

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The clue is in the module title:

RESEARCH *in* PRACTICE

How will your practice ***and*** extended essay link?