Leading contemporary art

Sydney College of the Arts, the University of Sydney's school of contemporary art, has been the premier training ground for Sydney's leading artists for close to 40 years.

Best of the best
You will be taught by practising artists, writers and curators, including Linda Lee, Mikala Dwyer, Julie Krmpotich, Mathys Gerber, David Haines and Joyce Hinterding. They share their extensive professional experience and arts industry networks, including contacts in galleries and museums.

“We are very proud to collaborate with Sydney College of the Arts through the Dominik Mersch Gallery Award. It makes us to offer an exhibition space to SCA students to show their works, which is a very good way to support promising artists – to give them exposure and help kickstart their careers.”
Dominik Mersch
Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney

“I chose to take up my postgraduate studies at Sydney College of the Arts as I believe it strikes a good balance of academic research with sizeable studios for artists like me with process-driven practices. Studying here helps me to contextualise my practice, and in doing so, gives me greater confidence in locating my place within the broader contemporary art world. I’ve had the opportunity to hold solo shows, and have been curated into group shows and biennales.”
Chris Dullman
Master of Arts

Make your mark
Our talented graduates include Archibald Prize winners Fiona Lowery (2014) and Ben Quilty (2011), and renowned designer of the Apple Watch, Marc Newson CBE.

“I was awarded the 2016 Dominik Mersch Gallery Award. “Being taught by artists such as Cherna Fahd, Julie Krmpotich and Joyce Hinterding offered an excellent insight into contemporary arts practice and was an important part of my development. Now complete my term as a director at Firstdraft, I hope to start my PhD at SCA.”
Anna McKeown
Director, Firstdraft

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
Amplify your visual arts practice by exploring a single research topic over three to four years. Through the PhD you will gain professional development, critical evaluation skills and advanced research methods appropriate to contemporary visual arts practice.

Duration: 3-4 years full time, 4-8 years part time
CRICOS: 032886C

Sydney College of the Arts
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1620 SYDNEY, (02) 9351 7900
+61 2 8627 1444 (outside Australia)
– sydney.edu.au/ica

Bachelor of Visual Arts
This hands-on program focuses on developing the conceptual, theoretical and technical skills our students need to transform ideas into art and flourish within the creative arts. It is available in six disciplinary areas: painting, photography, screen arts, sculpture, print media and jewellery and object.

Duration: Full time 3 years (with potential for fourth-year honours), 4 years part time
CRICOS: 004845G
– sydney.edu.au/ica/bva

Master of Moving Image
The Master of Moving Image fuses traditional aspects of film production with new directions in the cinematic arts. This program incorporates modern technologies in interactivity and virtual delivery, and is taught by artists and filmmakers such as Stefan Popovski, a director of the Sydney Underground Film Festival.

Duration: Full time 1.5 years, part time 3 years
CRICOS: 083287D
– sydney.edu.au/ica/mm

Master of Fine Arts
The Master of Fine Arts is ideal for visual artists who wish to frame their practice within a research culture. Students will develop an understanding of the history of art within wider social and cultural milieu. Professional development is provided through exhibition opportunities and a range of conferences and symposia.

Duration: 2 years full time, 3 years part time
CRICOS: 069724E
– sydney.edu.au/ica/dfa

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“Throughout my degree I had a number of solo and group exhibitions in Sydney and interstate. I travelled to New York for a creative project and became a director at Australia’s longest running artist-run gallery, Firstdraft. At the end of my Master of Fine Arts, I was awarded the 2016 Dominik Mersch Gallery Award.”

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Image left: Ben Quilty
Image above: Shaun Gladwell, installation detail, 2015 from the exhibition Cosmic Love Wonder Lust – The Archibald Prize at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney

“This year Vivid Sydney provided me with a unique opportunity to realise a project for the Museum of Contemporary Art. The collaborative aspect to the work has been a great opportunity to work with a talented group of like-minded artists. I feel that my time at SCA gave me the foundation to channel my creative focus and apply it to many different fields within the arts industry. Parallel to my art practice I work as a graphic designer – it has become a complementary marriage of two creative fields which sometimes overlap.”

Huseyin Sami
Artist and graphic designer

Your contemporary art space
The SCA Galleries offer Sydney’s latest public contemporary artspace, showing professional curated exhibitions by students, emerging and established artists from Australia and overseas.

Your personal studio
Whether you’re interested in painting, photography, printmedia, film, screen arts, sculpture, jewellery, installation or performance, you will have the chance to create works in your own studio space.

Benefit from our partnerships
We partner with some of the region’s leading contemporary art galleries to give our students the best opportunity to establish successful professional careers.

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