fictitious or social, or—often—any of these at the same time. Scenography is about creating complex spatial environments that allow and encourage particular experiences. Scenographic contexts today leave behind the limitations of physical space and integrate virtual reality, medial representations, social networks and many more. The experience of a brand for example will usually be across a wide range of media and spaces, including graphics, commercials, web, retail spaces, products, social interaction, etc.

This course offers the students the opportunity to engage with and practise the interplay of spaces that create scenographic experiences. Through the realization of a small-scale urban intervention that scenographically articulates the spatial and temporal experience of a—real or fictional—brand the students will be introduced to a professional level of planning, and learn to project audience reactions. It is also part of the realization process to navigate the project through unpredictable changes in budget, venue and context, as they commonly happen in this practice.

**VAED 7300  Master Project for Experience  (6,*,*) (E)/(P)**

Design

The Master Project embodies research, development and realization of an independent body of work under the supervision of a supervisory team (Principal Supervisor and Secondary Supervisor). The final outcomes of the Master Project could be a series of artistic work on a defined topic. The format and deliverables of the Master Project should base on the individual learning contract which is agreed between the student and the supervisory team. The outcomes should demonstrate students’ mastery of the knowledge, skills and professional attitude throughout the programme.

**VART 1005  Visual Arts Practice I  (3,4,0) (E)**

“Visual Arts Practice I” and “Visual Arts Practice II” are required double-courses to be offered in consecutive semesters of Year I of the BA (Hons) in Visual Arts programme of AVA. The course will be offered in parallel with the theory courses “Art and its Histories I” and “Art and its Histories II”, and are intended to supplement and expand their learning by introducing fundamental practical knowledge, skills and work attitude to first-year students to train up their “minds”, “eyes” and “hands” for further study in various academic/artistic clusters within the BA programme, and to familiarize them with the settings of teaching and learning at the Academy of Visual Arts.

“Visual Arts Practice I” focuses on initially introducing students to a selected set of practical 2D and 3D skills that enable them to start off their personal creative production, and develop a sense for a sustainable personal studio practice.

**VART 2115  Drawing: Visual Thinking and   (3,4,0) (E)**

This course aims to introduce drawing studies from formal and representational into unconventional image expression, as the course focuses on strengthening students’ visual perception and observation with the practice of traditional and contemporary drawing approaches. This course aims to introduce drawing studies from formal and representational into unconventional image expression, and will advance all beginners to go from fundamental to more exploration level. The course consists of three parts: the practice of drawing and cultural awareness; the learning of basic visual languages in drawing; and the re-interpretation of drawing from the figurative, representational to the application of various media and alternative processes. There will be exercises on basic training through a series of assignments that stress on using drawing as a medium for visual thinking and observation. Students will draw from direct observation or imagination of still life, landscape, and the human figure. Drawing media may include graphite, charcoal, ink, and collage, as well as watercolour and pastel.
VART 2116 Painting: Image and Interpretation (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses
This course aims to introduce students to the full range of materials and processes of painting. It provides opportunities for substantial skill development through extensive studio practice of different genres including portrait, landscape, still life and abstraction. The course also consolidates the technical expertise in painting including the understanding of the material quality of paint, the consideration of different painting supports, health and safety issues as well as the efficiency of studio practice. The course also puts emphasis on examining how ideas and images are represented and explore how they relate to individual expression as well as social interpretation. Students will have opportunity to investigate the fundamental formal languages of painting through different exercises and will gain a solid understanding of the connection between form and content. Studio practice will be supported by lectures and tutorials, which purpose to investigate the debates surrounding the role of contemporary painting. Regular class discussions will also be held to examine the work of art by contemporary painters in terms of their context and stylistic concern. At the end of the course, students will be equipped with preparation skills to discuss in oral and written forms the conceptual and visual elements in their paintings.

VART 2125 Visual Literacy in Chinese Painting (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses
This course provides comprehensive and fundamental training on guohua, literally translated as “national painting” or “Chinese painting”. It is primarily divided into two sections: (1) understanding of Xieyi (free style); and (2) understanding of Gongbi (fine-brush, or delicate style). Focuses are on the historical concepts and ideas, conventional forms of expression and technical skills of guohua in the ancient models. Students are expected to explore such models for interpreting and rejuvenating the traditional form of guohua in the end of the semester. The rationale to offer this level-II course is to allow students to understand one of the cores of Chinese arts—Chinese painting. Regarded as Hong Kong residency programs, students will be working independently in both Chinese arts. However, Chinese art training has been in deficit in local educational system even after the handover of 1997. Thus this course is to provide relevant art trainings and cognitive knowledge for students to capture the Chinese cultural narratives through practicing Chinese painting. While English is the major medium of instruction of this course, occasionally Chinese will be used in the teaching of materials and texts related to Chinese arts.

VART 2126 Chinese Word as Image: Calligraphy and Seal Engraving (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses
The centrality of using Chinese words as the major element in artistic expressions is a unique and prominent phenomenon in both Chinese and global visual culture from past to present. Chinese words, as evolved from pictographic representation to non-representational character, is the fundamental medium for artistic expressions in the practices of a range of Chinese art forms including calligraphy, seal engraving and other craft arts. Whether brushed on paper or engraved in three-dimensional objects made of stone, bronze and any other penetrable material, the visual and artistic form of Chinese word interacts with the subtlety of the linguistic aspect of Chinese language to produce a richly interdisciplinary artistic experience. This course consists of three parts: (1) The study of foundational knowledge and theories pertinent to the material, tools, and the linguistic skills involved in the practices of Chinese calligraphy and seal engraving; (2) The practical study of brush, engraving and carving techniques, the compositional strategies of the strokes of Chinese characters and other relevant basic skills; and (3) A simple hands-on studio art project. The class will learn the skills of adopting different material, handling of tools and other basic techniques of Chinese calligraphy and seal engraving through demonstrations and guided practice. The course culminates in a small-scale yet rewarding creative project where by students will produce one piece of artwork based on the application of their acquired concepts, tools and skills. Students need to the foundational tools and skills of this course to nurture their understanding of Chinese cultural heritage. The acquire foundational knowledge and experience offered by this course are intended to cultivate a synergy with all the other courses of Chinese and Asian art history, visual culture, Chinese calligraphy, seal engraving, Chinese painting, typography, Chinese language, and some aspects of sculpture.

VART 2135 Looking through the Lens (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses
The world and its cultures are external before one looks deeply. As artists and as responsible citizens, ways of focused looking will help us to learn from, and benefit back to our society and the world. This is a course on fundamental knowledge of lens-based media, including photography and moving image techniques. The essential foundations provided in this course are not merely technical craft but ways of inquisitive looking. Looking is attentive and active while seeing is external and passive. Accordingly, supplementary to technical training, this course aims at broadening students’ visual perceptions and sharpening their senses responding to the outside world. Students will explore how it is done, and how photography and moving image project. The class will learn the skills of adopting different material, handling of tools and other basic techniques of Chinese calligraphy and seal engraving through demonstrations and guided practice. The course culminates in a small-scale yet rewarding creative project where by students will produce one piece of artwork based on the application of their acquired concepts, tools and skills. Students need to the foundational tools and skills of this course to nurture their understanding of Chinese cultural heritage. The acquire foundational knowledge and experience offered by this course are intended to cultivate a synergy with all the other courses of Chinese and Asian art history, visual culture, Chinese calligraphy, seal engraving, Chinese painting, typography, Chinese language, and some aspects of sculpture.
both technically and intellectually ready to engage in further experiments of sonic creations in advanced courses exploring novelty and possibilities of time-based media. Students will work on sonic creations or, sound design for moving image works (of their own or of their fellow classmates). This course also supports students further explore sound in various media such as video art, installation art, hypermedia, interactive media.

VART 2145 Sculpture: Materials and Processes (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses
We live in a built environment. This environment is defined by different structures and objects, and their spatial relationships. In an effort to interpret our environment and to create new places and forms, this course will explore through in and out of class projects how structures and forms are built through an additive process. This course is designed to bring to light different ways of understanding how sculpture has been made, can be made and explore new methods for the continuance of the discipline into a contemporary context. This course not only looks at sculpture as an independent form but sculpture as an expanded discipline that reaches into many realms expanding our perception to three dimensional space and experience. This course explores the tools and techniques of additive production and the capacities of the wood shop, metal shop and sculpture studio. A series of small projects designed to build students’ skill base in carpentry, metalworking and general structural challenges will be considered and applied. In addition, students are invited to incorporate projects from other AVA courses or their individual studio practice into the course.

VART 2147 Installation Art (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses
Installation has been the most commonly used art form in contemporary visual creation since 1970s. It is a kind of integrated medium of expression which potentially triggers different sense such as sound, light, odour and other intangible sensible elements. The phenomenon of mixed media and interdisciplinary creation in contemporary art making has indicated strong initiatives to explore new creative space and language within an existing framework, and installation art is the most organic experimental area in this realm. Through the practice of installation art, students will utilise various forms of visual expression within space. This course aims to inspire and enhance students’ abilities in creativity and expression through practice, exploration and research work on various mixed-forms in the concept of space and place. It will focus on exploring the integrated specificity of installation art, which can integrate other medium such as video, imaging, processing, temporary, performance and theatre, and even interactive installation. It will give a general survey on theory, the development and the latest trends of installation art; students will explore ideas and theories get contextualized, and how space is redefined with concepts of identification and site-specific contextual meanings. Construction workshop will be given to assist their installation production.

VART 2155 Bodyscape (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses
In most all art forms, the artist is either moving away from the human form or closer to it. This fluctuation defines the need for further exploration of the body’s ability to communicate and produce form that can further define artistic expression. This course will explore the body as a landscape for appropriation. Students will look at the different techniques involved in using the human form as object and subject of their creative output. Students are to identify the human forms’ innate ability to be abstracted and appropriated for self-expression. Students will explore the body in different mediums and processes from traditional to contemporary. There will be a focus on the connections that can be made between the generation of form, the creative process and the body as a performative object.

VART 2156 Interactive Art (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses
Contemporary artists have been experimenting with the use of technology to enable and orchestrate the participation of the audience. Unfortunately, common studies of interactivity are often focused on the technical implementation rather than the critical and aesthetic viewpoints. This course introduces the foundation concepts and skills of interactivity employed in contemporary art and design. It aims to go beyond the traditional discussion of interactive media from either the media studies approach or the cognitive aspect of the human computer interaction (HCI) direction. Within the current social and technological context, it provides a broader investigation from the participatory and the performative nature of interaction with the focus of the human body as the main site of interaction. Students in the course learn to create simple audio-visual musical instruments that the artists and audience can perform together. They also build game-like environments or devices that participants can explore through their bodily interaction. Within this context the focus of the course lies more on the interaction process and experience rather than on the interface design. This course provides a broad overview of the use of interactivity in different areas of contemporary art and design. Historical reference will be drawn from a variety of sources such as literature, theatre, information technology, social science, and architecture. The course will teach the use of the simple graphical programming environment Pure Data that the students can use to experiment with interactive media content, without going through a steep learning curve of mastering traditional text based programming.

VART 2215 Typography (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses
Typography means selection, scaling and organizing letters on a blank page or screen. Typography is one of the graphic designer’s most basic challenges. Typography is the tool to communicate any kind of content. Based on the students’ prerequisite knowledge and experience in design, they will further broaden their understanding of micro and macro typography, developing and using grids in typography, preparing data for the print process and using the PDF-format for publishing content online. Additionally, through lectures, plus research and practice students will strengthen their expertise in design history, and study the work of prominent designers in the field of graphic design. Typography addresses issues that are useful for all disciplines of Visual Arts—ranging from design practices to fine arts. However, its principles are especially useful for Information Aesthetics, Book Design and Exhibition Design.

VART 2216 Graphics Storytelling (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses
“To be a person is to have a story to tell.”—Isak Dinesen
Storytelling is a fundamental element in many creative processes; comic art is a medium that best illustrates its importance through arrangement of visual elements and image-text interactions. This course aims to provide a platform for the students to specifically look into the aesthetics of storytelling. It emphasizes on both the training of practical skills and the investigation of the language of comic and sequential illustrations. Through the introduction of theories by scholars and artists like Scott McCloud and Will Eisner, and the examination of the recent
local independent comic art movement, students are provided with a critical framework to read and understand comics in a new perspective. They will become able to analyse and appreciate local and international works within a specific social and cultural context.

The course also takes a look into the process of how abstract concepts and fragmented ideas are transformed into concrete message before it is delivered to the reader creatively. They are required to conduct research in various drawing styles based on the discussion of storytelling methods as presented in Matt Madden’s *99 Ways to Tell a Story*.

Besides, a series of studio workshop will be held to provide practical training in the areas such as story structure, scriptwriting, drafting, drawing, inking and the publishing process. Students will be encouraged to experiment with various production methods, and to start developing their unique way of presentation as a first step in becoming a professional illustrator or comic writer.

**VART 2225 Experimental Illustration** *(3,4,0) (E)*

**Prerequisite:** VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses

Illustration is an art form requiring training that provides basic training in observation, integration and expression. Apart from the formal functions such as giving information and commentary, narration and persuasion, it allows artist to establish their own artistic identity through manipulation of image and text in an expressive way.

This course aims to let students purely focus on the image-making process. They are encouraged to experiment with different tools and materials before they invent their new approach to create image. The use of non-traditional tools could enhance their problem-solving skills since they will have to work with the limitations of the tools. During the process, they will need to explore and examine the specificity of the tools or medium in use. Such experience will help them to make decision and develop their own strategy during the creative process. Areas covered in the course will be: Digital illustration, hand-made graphics, tactile illustration, graffiti and other non-traditional image-making methods such as paper cut-out, collage and stitching. Although the majority of the course is skill-based training, the design assignment also requires students to learn how to articulate ideas and integrate different skills into a well-planned creative strategy.

**VART 2226 Design for Hypermedia** *(3,4,0) (E)*

**Prerequisite:** VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses

The Internet has become an important—if not the most important—channel of our media-based communication, and it makes good sense for designers and artists to have the creative and also technical skills to develop concepts for the hypermedia. The World Wide Web is a classic and popular example of hypermedia. Accordingly the purpose of this course is to give an introduction to the Internet as an artistic medium and provide a foundation of historical, cultural and technical knowledge related to Internet art. The core of the course will be developing students’ own artistic voice using the paradigmatic subject in visual observation. That includes the examination of theory, history and practices of Internet art and related concepts of hypermedia, open source, connectivity, non-linear narrative and hacktivism. At the same time students will learn the basic technologies and design skills to publish their artistic statements and concepts online.

**VART 2235 From Liquid to Solid: The Art of Glass Blowing** *(3,4,0) (E)*

**Prerequisite:** VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses

Glass is known as solid-liquid, and is a highly versatile material. Glass is used in everyday life—in functional tableware and related products—or as a medium for fine art production. Glass advances and enriches our life through science, architecture, interior design, everyday products and fine art expression. It is hard to imagine living in a world without glass.

Among the many ways of glass making, Glass Blowing is the most exciting method, and also a unique skill among art materials. Glass Blowing introduces students to the most beautiful and functional way of designing objects while expression their own artistic ideas. Students will explore the endless possibilities of hot glass, while increasing their confidence and accuracy required for craftsmanship.

This course is an introduction to basic techniques of Glass Blowing as fundamental to glass art. It teaches many ways of glass making from hot-shop techniques such as making paperweights, cups, vessels and hot sculptures, to cold-shop techniques such as grinding, polishing, engraving and sandblasting. Students will learn how to handle the punty and pipe to gather hot liquid glass out from an 1180°C furnace. They will learn to make solid sculptures with the punty, and to deliver breath through the pipe, to blow a bubble into a cup, a vessel, or a hollow form for sculpture.

Students will explore the potential of hot glass, to express their ideas/designs through the voice of hot-glass, and finalize their products with cold-working techniques. Learning Glass Blowing will allow students to apply their knowledge in drawing, sculpture, installation and design, thus enabling a broader dimension of artistic expression, as well as activating their imagination.

**VART 2236 Ceramic Art: From Pinched Pot to Sculptural Form** *(3,4,0) (E)*

**Prerequisite:** VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses

Clay is the most natural and primal element on earth. Its plasticity makes it the most tactile hands-on material in artefact making, while its durability after firing retains a long history of ceramic art in almost all developed cultures. Ceramic artefacts, from shaping of clay to purposed glazing and firing, are completely individual made, which allows artists to express themselves in this three dimensional medium. Therefore, ceramic art now is treated as traditional craft as well as contemporary art.

This is a studio course designed to teach students the basic hand-building and throwing techniques involved in constructing and surface decorating ceramic forms, from functional ware to sculpture. It creates a practical basis for addressing perceptual and aesthetic concerns as related to form and surface. Students will be encouraged to develop their own means of personal expression while working through assignments based on different ceramic techniques and skills.

By learning special hand-building and throwing techniques, and exploring the physical properties of clay as a hands-on creative material, this course enhances the ability of students to express eloquently their ideas through three-dimensional representation, especially with the transformation to one single material.

Starting from the aspect of function, students have to investigate the cultural significance of these functional wares, the relationship of details and the functions, and also the connection of these object-forms with the makers and users. In addition to learning the formal concepts and skills of working with traditional clay, students will also be taught for creating vessel-form as art form for aesthetic expression. This in the end conducts to non-functional sculptural concepts in clay using hand-building and various decorating techniques. Emphasises will be put on the development of construction skills and an understanding of form/space relation, surface treatment, and firing possibilities.

**VART 2245 Wearables** *(3,4,0) (E)*

**Prerequisite:** VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses

Wearables are articles worn on the human body, enhancing a given feature of the body or creating an entirely new interface for interaction, thus extending the traditional function of clothing
into new artistic or functional areas. Accordingly the aim of the course is to interpret the human body as an interface for artistic expression.

The course offers an introduction to the broad scope of wearables and covers basic techniques for designing, pattern making and pattern alteration such as square blocking, contour sectioning and pivoting, which enables learners to develop creative concepts into wearable designs.

Building on to this foundation, through studio exercises, student research and studio practice the students are invited to explore various approaches, concepts and materials for the creation of wearables. This knowledge shall be applied to design a set of wearable pieces or body extensions from the very first design sketch to a finished prototype, taking in the contemporary discourse on the topic.

Wearables connect the three-dimensional design-area with disciplines like theatre, film or performance art. Most obvious applications are theatre-costumes, but wearable design-pieces that are based on a particular view of the world or a particular spatial environment are rather common throughout the art- design-scene.

**VART 2246  Small Metal Jewellery** (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses

Mankind has developed personal decoration and ornaments for thousands of years. Jewellery has always been an expression and reflection of its epoch, its social structures and cultural standards. Since the past fifty years, jewellery is now no more the privilege of the wealthy, as the social structure of contemporary societies has broadened considerably, and allows the concept of jewellery to be understood far more universal: In a contemporary sense, jewellery has become a collective noun for body-related objects.

This is an introductory course in jewellery making, with a focus on metalsmithing for small objects. It is designed to introduce non-ferrous metal as an expressive medium and to explore the uniqueness and potential that this material has to offer. Students will learn various ways of working metal, and how these techniques can be applied to the creation of small metal objects. Emphasis will be put on how these objects can be related to the human body. Basic 3D design concepts will be used to demonstrate these possibilities. The students will be introduced to the contemporary views of jewellery, and begin to appreciate jewellery as an art form. Through studying this diversified art form, the students can broaden their appreciation of the world around their body. The students will develop a sense of scale, and will have an enhanced sensitivity in relating their work to the environment. They will also practice thinking in 3D.

**VART 2255  Space and Site** (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses

Next to “object” the central concept in three-dimensional visual arts is “space”. In opposite to objects however, the nature, essence, and the mode of existence of space, even the ultimate definition of space are still debated.

In this context “site” can be defined as spatial mark-making: by designing the interaction between space and the various ways to understand contextually and visually the often ambiguous terms of “Modern”, “Modernity” and “Modernism”. This is a year course intended to offer the student a greater depth of understanding and appreciation of a range of radical theories, attempting to define and contextualise the visual arts in a century of unprecedented global change.

Using the themes of Modernity as a platform—for example, revolution, gender, industrial advance—we will examine the shaping of visual art of the 20th century. Considering the relationships and affinities between varieties of media, and investigating the theories and language of visual art, we will learn to understand contextually and visually the often ambiguous terms of “Modern”, “Modernity” and “Modernism”. This is a year course intended to offer the student a greater depth of understanding and appreciation of a range of radical theories, attempting to define and contextualise the visual arts in a century of unprecedented global change.

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**VART 2256  Product Design** (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses

Product design is a creative discipline, which combines art and technology, ideas and materials, to improve our daily lives, protect our health and create new opportunities for the industry. This course produces imaginative design ideas and solutions for small and large-scale industrial production.

The aim of this course is to provide knowledge and understanding of common and new materials used for designing new products and objects. It also introduces basic processes and methods used in industrial and product design manufacturing for these materials. Three different projects will be introduced to understand that the right choice of materials and processes is inseparably linked to the look and performance of any product.

This subject builds the foundation and hands-on experience indispensable to any other 3D related courses.

**VART 2305  Art in the 20th Century I** (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: VART 1306 Art and its Histories II

As visual artists, how we think, and how we understand the world around us, both affects and influences our creativity and the works we create. The art of the 20th century exemplifies this interplay between art, artists, and society, marking a point of distinct artistic difference with the past and highlighting Modernity throughout culture and society. The responses to Modernity have incorporated new forms and expressions of visual art and developed a range of radical theories, attempting to define and contextualise the visual arts in a century of unprecedented global change.

Using the themes of Modernity as a platform—for example, revolution, gender, industrial advance—we will examine the shaping of visual art of the 20th century. Considering the relationships and affinities between varieties of media, and investigating the theories and language of visual art, we will learn to understand contextually and visually the often ambiguous terms of “Modern”, “Modernity” and “Modernism”. This is a year course intended to offer the student a greater depth of understanding and appreciation of a range of radical theories, attempting to define and contextualise the visual arts in a century of unprecedented global change.
VART 2315  Writing in Art and Culture  
(3,3,0) (E)
Prerequisite:  VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses
Writing on and about visual art is an essential element of artistic practice and has a multitude of uses from artist’s statements to exhibition, critical analysis and academic discourse. How the artist uses words to analyse and describe works, becomes a necessary component in the dissemination and communication of the creative. The writing of the visual explores the essence of communication and the positions and perspectives of artists and art writers. Art writing further provides primary sources to explore the changing role of the writing about art, from manifesto and critic to intention and reception. This course will improve students’ individual research, critical analysis and written skills, in order to effectively express ideas for their own practice, and in interpreting and understanding writings about art. The course will examine fundamental skills of research practice, methods and methodology for practicing artists and academic writing on art. Revealing the relationship between art, creativity and language, as a methodology that can enhance communication and critical engagement with art historical writings. It will also assess writings on modern and contemporary visual arts practices by looking at how key texts from the past have informed present discourses on art. We will examine a number of artists’ writings through selected examples of primary source materials; notes, correspondence, manifestos, and other printed matter, by those who work between art and also writing about art.

VART 2325  Arts of Asia  
(3,3,0) (E)
Prerequisite:  VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses
The fundamental aim of this course is to provide students with a broad understanding of Asian art since the 19th century. Painting, sculpture, architecture, decorative arts and modern art from China, Japan, Korea, India, Southeast Asia as well as the Middle East will be used to illustrate the diversity and uniqueness of visual art and culture in these places, and also the cultural interaction through which the production, trading and consumption of art is triggered. Whilst the course encourages students to investigate the individual characteristics of visual arts of different countries and cultures, it attempts to enhance student's understanding of the visual arts in the scope of Asia. To understand any culture it is necessary to study the arts from that culture and how they interrelate with historical, geographical, religious and philosophical factors. The Arts of Asia make tangible and visible the beliefs, which have guided the various civilizations of the continent.

VART 2336  Exhibition and Art Markets  
(3,3,0) (E)
Prerequisite:  VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II/Visual Arts Practice II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses
How is art effected and affected by exhibition cultures and art markets? Do exhibitions define art buying patterns? Or do buying patterns define exhibition? These key questions for the understanding of the art world are the focus for the emerging artist breaking into the highly competitive art market place. From the differing perspectives of both the public and the private sector, this course will provide navigation and assessment of the contrasts and similarities of the sectors, discussing issues of wealth and value, consumption and issues of ownership. The history and theory of exhibitions, collecting and the effect and impacts of the growing commercial Art markets, with further analysis of the roles and restrictions of cultural policy and definitions of culture, in a local and global sense, and contextualise the frameworks for public and private sectors. The themes and topics will provide essential knowledge of the arts sector, reviewing the role of the public sector in the advancement of the art exhibition ‘blockbuster’ and the commercialisation of art through case studies of world leading galleries such as Tate Modern, MOMA and the Guggenheim. Critically examining the practice and marketing of exhibitions and the associated memorabilia of the gift shop art. The changing role of Art and its exhibition will be examined, in terms of traditional associations of status, education and of art in an increasing commercial form as investment. Assessing the roles of gallery, dealer, auction house and buyer as the centre pin to driving and responding to market forces.

VART 3005  Visual Arts Internship  
(3,*,*)
Prerequisite:  Completion of minimum four Visual Arts level II courses
All students of the BA (Hons) in Visual Arts programme are recommended to undertake an internship within their preferred career area during their time of study. An internship links classroom theory to professional practice, and thus will provide the student with learning experiences beyond the possibilities of the BA (Hons) programme. Such experience will be valuable for the student’s professional and personal development, and in particular very helpful in establishing and/or verifying the student’s career intentions. As any internship is not supposed to interfere with the regular studies of the student, it will usually be taken as a summer course during term break. Any internship will be self-organized by the student, in an institutional body related to the cultural and/or creative sector. To be eligible for credit units the internship needs to represent a workload equivalent to 264 regular working hours (i.e. six full working weeks) to be taken as one consecutive employment. The nature of work performed by the intern during the internship should reflect a reasonable professional level in design, visual arts, arts administration or equivalent. If a student intends to claim credit units for an internship, he has to seek approval through the Internship Coordinator prior to undertaking the position. In order to get approval the student needs to provide sufficient information about the internship provider—including the name and contact data of a specified supervisor from within the internship institution—as well as about the intended nature of work during the internship. Upon returning to his studies the student is obliged to provide exhaustive documentation of his doings during the internship, and a written report from the internship supervisor to the Internship Coordinator. The Internship Coordinator will assess the sufficient validity of the tasks performed during the internship, and declare—usually after consultation with other academic staff—the relevancy of the internship for one particular concentration. Any internship will only be graded as “pass/fail”, and will be listed in the student’s Transcript of Records.

VART 3105  Special Topics in Studio and Media Arts (Drawing and Painting)  
(3,4,0)
VART 3106  Special Topics in Studio and Media Arts (Chinese Arts)  
(3,4,0)
VART 3107  Special Topics in Studio and Media Arts (Lens-based Media)  
(3,4,0)
VART 3195  Special Topics in Studio and Media Arts (Sculpture)  
(3,4,0)
VART 3196  Special Topics in Studio and Media Arts (Body as Interface)  
(3,4,0)
Prerequisite:  To be specified by offering instructor
This course aims to provide an opportunity for students to study in-depth selected topics in contemporary issues related to the various creative practices in Studio and Media Arts. Through examination of theories related to the topic, students will get an initial look at issues in the Studio and Media Arts from an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspective. The course will then guide them to integrate various points of view, and to develop their own critical judgment on the topic under study. Starting on the basis of this initial introduction the course will then aim to investigate through practice different approaches and methodologies to the course topic, and to ultimately connect
and integrate them with existing skills and knowledge of course participants. The aim is to develop and practice skills and concepts for students' personal practices in Studio and Media Arts at the current state of the arts. This course changes subjects/theme regularly; therefore the individual instructor in consultation with the Studio and Media Arts Division will determine the selected topic, to take full advantage of developing research, issues and global developments in the visual arts.

VART 3115 Drawing: Inquiry and Experimentation (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2115 Drawing: Visual Thinking and Observation
Drawing is not merely a fundamental tool for all visual artists, but also an artistic medium in its own right: by inquiring into traditional ideas, and through experimental use of drawing media and innovative approaches, Drawing can open entirely new perceptions of reality, beyond the notions commonly connoted with pencil and paper.

This course aims to strengthen and consolidate students' drawing skills and knowledge acquired from the course of VART 2115 Drawing: Visual Thinking and Observation. It enables students to explore drawing as an evolving mode of contemporary art practice and expression, and considers drawing as a means for contextual inquiry and experimentation with the application of creative ideas, practices and technologies of the discipline. The content deals with the concept of drawing, its development from traditional to contemporary, and covers a wide range of techniques, materials, functions and approaches with alternative process of the media.

Students may work in a variety of traditional media, including graphite, charcoal and pastel, and are encouraged to explore the use of new and mixed media. Various drawing approaches with a variety of subject matters, such as figure, still-life, and landscape will be examined and practiced in the course. Students will also concentrate on more complex personal and creative aspects of drawing, while perceptual and conceptual issues will be pursued. By the end of the course, students will have the competence to transform the contextual inquiry into expressive or experimental drawing.

VART 3116 Painting: Expression and Exploration (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2116 Painting: Image and Interpretation
This course aims to develop students' understanding of paint as an expressive tool and help students to explore their own direction through visual problem solving. Students will be provided with opportunities to experiment with different mediums and processes so as to investigate the unique qualities of painting. The course develops students' independence and consistent work pattern within the studio. It also fosters students to develop a personal language and aesthetic sensibility with an emphasis on the individual growth through technical as well as conceptual development.

The course also addresses the processes of transformation from ideas and images into visual art with consideration of contemporary ideologies and critical debates. Students will be encouraged to start with traditional approaches to painting in terms of seeing it as a self-sufficient discipline and further develop to experimental approaches towards interdisciplinary. Alongside with given studio exercises, lectures and tutorials will be scheduled for addressing major topics in contemporary painting relating to identity concerns, spiritual issues and political debates, and discussing how these issues are relevant to students own practice. By the end of the course, student will have a set of work completed according to their self-initiated theme, which will be further applied onto their future study of the subject.

VART 3117 Life Drawing (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2115 Drawing: Visual Thinking and Observation or VART 2116 Painting: Image and Interpretation
The exploration of the various shapes and postures of the human body has been a major subject of human creative production since prehistoric times. Especially since the Accademia degli Incamminati was founded in Bologna in the 16th century the drawing from live human models has become a centre-piece in the education of fine artists in particular, yet also designers benefit from an advanced understanding of the proportions and features of the human body to inform their creations. Anatomical correctness however is only the initial concern in life drawing, as the artist's kinaesthetic response to the changing poses of the model, and other compositional choices open a space for deeper and more mature creative reflection on the 'condition humaine', i.e. the question of what makes us human.

The setup of VART3117 Life Drawing focuses on this more conceptual aspect of life drawing. It initially briefly introduces students to the specific skills and techniques necessary for working with life models, based on skills, which students are required to have built in previous courses. The course continues by exploring advanced manipulations of pictorial structure, colour and gestural expression, possible re-interpretations of the body/space relation, and the effects of form distortions. These techniques and their variations will serve as starting points when students move on to experiment with complex visual expressions that use representations of the human body as the subject for articulating advanced conceptual ideas.

While VART3117 Life Drawing allows the students to further their skills in various self-selected imaging media, both traditional and new, it is the main intention of the course to establish drawing as a methodology for conceptual artistic creation beyond mere representation of a perceived reality. It requires students to think in complex systems, to critically reflect their own practice, and to re-evaluate the human body as it encompasses and expresses the features of being human.

VART 3125 Convention and Innovation in Chinese Painting (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2125 Visual Literacy in Chinese Painting
As Hong Kong serves as a point of convergence of Chinese and Western cultural narratives, "hybridity" comes to be a primary means for local artists. Students are expected to reveal the local cultural identity on the basis of the integration of the convention(s) of guohua with Western mode of expression.

This course is divided into two sections: (1) exploration in conventional Chinese painting; and (2) innovative creativity with the concept of “hybridity”. The former section aims at exploring possibilities of guohua (literally translated as national painting) based on the research of the conventional concepts and ideas. Both sty (free style) and gongbi (fine-brush, or delicate, style) are the focuses. The provision of the latter section is the concept of "hybridity", which is regarded as a crucial artistic means for ink artist to revive the ancient art form of guohua and reveal Hong Kong cultural identity. Through adapting, appropriating and revising the model(s) of expression from Western art, students learn how to reconcile “Chineseness” and “modernism/contemporaneity” to create Chinese painting with a contemporary new look.

While English is the major medium of instruction of this course, occasionally Chinese will be used in the teaching of materials and texts related to Chinese arts.

VART 3126 Chinese Seal Engraving: The Expressive Identity (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2126 Chinese Word as Image
Seal engraving (zhaunke 篆刻) is a highly developed yet much understudied form of Chinese art. Few people have any idea how to appreciate the beauty of a seal's (yinzhang 印章) imprinted image, let alone grasp the subtlety of these aesthetic objects. More than simply tools used to impart one's presence (commonly authorship and ownership) on a painting or work of calligraphy, seals are carefully design works of art that express a variety of cultural and personal values.
Course Descriptions

This course consists of three parts: (1) study of the theoretical and historical aspects of seal engraving; (2) the practical study of styles and carving techniques; and (3) a hands-on studio art project. Students will be introduced to related topics as social functions of the seal, transformation of seal styles, relationships between the seal and other arts of China, appreciating the seal and its imprint as aesthetic objects, and the seal as a vehicle for expressing self-image and identity. After a vigorous analysis of styles and compositional types, the class will learn the techniques of seal engraving through demonstrations and guided practice. The course culminates in the creative project where by students will carve their own personal seals that convey through their design of character seals (wennzi yin 文字印) and pictorial seals (tuixiang yin 鋪像印), an expression of their self-image or identity.

Seal engraving is an integral form of Chinese art and visual culture. The course not only informs students about traditional Chinese culture, but also challenges them to invigorate the national heritage to express their contemporary thoughts and life. Students will develop independent thinking and problem-solving skills and express creativity as part of the process for creating seals. This course is intended to cultivate a synergy with all other courses of Chinese art history, Chinese painting, Chinese calligraphy, typography, jewellery design, and some aspects of sculpture. While English is the major medium of instruction of this course, occasionally Chinese will be used in the teaching of materials and texts related to Chinese arts.

VART 3135 Independent Music Video (3,4,0) (E) Prerequisite: VART 2135 Looking through the Lens or VART 2136 Sound: The Basics

Independent music videos have been an exceptionally rich platform for audio-visual experimentations since the 1980's. Artists work with limited resources and manipulate simple craft to create innovative music/visual relations. Examining various forms and development of independent music videos will therewith broaden students' mastery of aesthetics and technicality of music/visual productions. This studio course provides students with knowledge of history, cultural contexts, and various styles of independent music video with emphasis on its spirits of DIY, low budget, experimentation and novelty. The course's offerings include video camera and lighting workshops, but it also aims at expanding the possibilities of making moving images by including sequences of photographs, illustrations and drawings for music video, which are not necessarily video camera-based. This is achieved by covering essential skills of computer-based moving image composition. As a course-project course, each student must finish a music video for Hong Kong independent musicians/bands or sound artists by the end of the semester. Hence, production management is also a focus. Students have to deal with allocation of work in a crew, location scouting, scheduling, equipment booking etc. The instructor will introduce students to local independent musicians/ sound artists and facilitates communication for the collaborations. In sum, students acquire experience of the complete procedures of a music video production: choosing music/sound works, knowing the musicians/sound artists, generating initial ideas, presentation of concept and treatment, negotiations and fine-tuning, production (shooting or drawings), moving image compositions, and publishing (in format of professional broadcast HDV, DVD or web-based platforms).

VART 3136 Experiments in Moving Image (3,4,0) (E) Prerequisite: VART 2135 Looking through the Lens

This course aims at offering students unconventional perspectives on moving image and sound. Notions of creativity and usages of digital moving image and sound gears as artistic tools are highlighted. Hence, the course strongly encourages mixed genres and personal experiments. Students will learn the art of moving image and sound that inherently stress the significance of experimentation in visual rhetoric, mass media (TV) criticism, and the spirits of boldness in contemporary art making. Students will learn histories, technological/cultural contexts and artistic practices of experimental film/video art.

As an intermediate level course, students will learn digital video production including camera work and the use of supported gears, the craft of three-point lighting and its variations, and also the knowledge of safety and different types of lighting gears. After taking this course, students should be ready for upper-level courses that are research-based and aim at exploring further on novelty of time-based media. This course also supports students working on other areas of arts with elements of moving image and sound, such as interactive media, hypermedia and installation art works.

VART 3137 Narrative Photography (3,4,0) (E) Prerequisite: VART 2135 Looking through the Lens or VART 2136 Sound: The Basics

In the post-medium culture, artists no longer identify themselves as a practitioner in a specific medium, but rather work across multiple mediums to create a rich visual dialogue. Therefore, this course is an attempt to bring together photography and performance art, with the awareness of “the act depicted in the photography”, “the unpremeditated photographic action” as the style of mid-twentieth-century photojournalism and lomography: snapshots, “an act/performance created for a photograph” and “a stand-alone picture to present a pictorial narrative.” Referencing photographers who create images relating to fables, fairy tales, apocryphal events and modern myths—a collective consciousness, this course will further develop creative processes and innovative works that explore the possibilities in an active moment that is not simply captured by a still frame, but will continue beyond the image.

This studio course will launch an interactive dialogue between photography and performance art. Students will explore the different creative processes between these two art mediums, discovering the similarities and differences in each, and utilizing the knowledge gained from both in developing time-based photography. Discussions and presentations will focus on narrative compositions (such as directing an event, specifically for the camera), surveillance, process and documentation as art, and the use of text in photography.

VART 3145 Sculpture: Form and Applications (3,4,0) (E) Prerequisite: VART 2145 Sculpture: Materials and Processes or VART 2147 Installation Art

Direct carving is a technique that has been utilized since the beginnings of civilization. The course will focus on such subtractive process and/or the use of reductive thinking as a creative tool to explore sculptural forms. Students will investigate how form can be revealed through different carving approaches and techniques. In this course students will study the use of working models, templates as well as to work directly with the material to experience both systematic and intuitive methods for producing sculptural form. Students will also examine the application aspects of sculptural form in large scale public sculpture / environmental project through scaled models and appropriate visual presentation formats.

VART 3147 Public Art (3,4,0) (E) Prerequisite: VART 2145 Sculpture: Materials and Processes or VART 2147 Installation Art

Traditionally the concept of public art has mainly been related to monuments and statues in public spaces. Later its form were diversified through various interpretations of the “public”, and as a result not only includes outdoor sculptures and murals to functional works integrated into architecture, but also site-specificity works, community based projects and interactive street performances. Nowadays, a new sense of public art refers to any art that happens and exhibits in a public domain, which may be art in “public places”, art that “creates public spaces”, and art of “public interest”. Public art does not simply refer to already
existing physical urban sites such as parks, squares, streets or cities, but actually aims to re-interpret various social and cultural spaces and their functions. This is a practice-based course, which includes conceptual and practical exercises relating to public art, as well as investigating and exploring new possibilities of art in the public arena. It will provide students with new concepts and approaches to explore art as a public situation. Students will establish public art in their geographical, political and social context, allowing them to integrate art and life within their personal living space and community. Students will further understand the concept of 2D and 3D art work, site-specific work, performances in contextuality and art in daily life, making this course also a valuable experience for students interested in Sculpture, Spatial Design, Installation Art and Performance Art.

VART 3155 Bodily Perceptual in Artistic Practice (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2155 Bodyscape or VART 2156 Interactive Art
Gaining perceptual experience through our bodily senses (sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch and motion), and making use of it to discern various circumstances in the surrounding ground for human communication. From the perspective of visual arts practice, this course aims to extend students’ sensitivity and capability in employing perceptual experience as a means of artistic investigations and expressions. It will also open up students’ vision and mind to new creative possibilities. The study of bodily perception will be introduced in both practical and theoretical aspects in which relevant reading materials on Body Aesthetics and related art movements in the 20th century will be explored. With the influences of Dada, Fluxus, Happening, Performance and other related art movements in the 20th century, the phenomenon of artists presenting art with their own bodies has become common. It particularly refers to the exploration of bodily perception and its possible implication in artistic expression. In recent years, this phenomenon extends to a wider scope of artistic practice and is now applied to more diverse creative disciplines such as wearable, spatial, product, multimedia and interface design. The study of bodily perception thus suggests an interdisciplinary platform to integrate various art forms and creative practices.

VART 3157 Human Machine Interface (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2155 Bodyscape or VART 2156 Interactive Art
Digital media products have moved beyond the use of standard graphical interface. Buttons and display screens will not be sufficient to cater for the ubiquitous and mobile usage. Moreover, contemporary interactive artworks often embed the interfaces into a spatial environment or custom made artefacts. Both cases demand a revisit of the existing desktop metaphor and the graphical user interface. These interfaces are the subject of the studies. The course aims to investigate the creative use of physical interfaces for digital media artworks and products. Because digital technologies are incorporated into our daily life, there is a crucial need to strengthen the communication between these systems and their users. The digital and the physical world is a field with increasing meaning for designers and artists. This course will explore the history of interface design—related to time and space—within regards to usability and cultural issues. The development of interfaces has always been driven by technical progress along with the needs of human beings. By analysing users’ interaction with machines, and adopting knowledge on basic electronics and computer programming, students will research on interaction design, digital media content and create new concepts for interfaces that enhance users’ experience.

VART 3205 Special Topics in Craft and Design (Graphic Book) (3,4,0)
VART 3206 Special Topics in Craft and Design (Experimental Imaging) (3,4,0)
just the physical design of the “anatomy” of a book—spine, cover, binding, front, body, and back—but also the canons of proportion, grids, formats, openings and page design in combination create the essential experience of a good read. And these are only the basics. In addition a digital book cannot replace the sensory experience of touching, smelling and hearing the pages of an analog book. This course critically evaluates contemporary book design by exploring the changing formats of the book in history, and in the context of the visual arts: as craft, as product, as art and as medium. It introduces the business of publishing, and its terminology, as well as essential knowledge of printing technologies. Most of all however, the course aims at providing the tools, skills and creative approaches to design and produce a book with self given content and constraints.

After all, it is the purpose of the course to create a book that does not depend on conventional templates but develops from an understanding of competing conventions. The course builds confidence in creative organization and management of content for a wide range of publication practice in contemporary visual arts. It is the point of culmination within the course sequence of the Graphic art-cluster that intends to bring together all previously acquired skills in one project.

VART 3225 Hybrid Printmaking (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2226 Design for Hypermedia or VART 2225 Experimental Illustration
Individual expressions of ideas and concepts in the printmaking studio used to be a domain of earlier print technologies like relief, intaglio, screen-printing and/or lithography, while technologies like photography and papermaking allowed for a more mechanical approach. Most recently digital code is used to generate modern inkjet, dye sublimation and laser processes. All of these technologies rely on produce printed results that can be affected and manipulated by the visual artist.

Hybrid Imaging reflects the interplay of manual and mechanical formats in printmaking and surfaces. It experiments with contemporary combinations of print formats to produce multi-layered explorations of the image, line, colour field, marks, visual expression and other contemporary hybrid identities. In its results it produces images based on personally developed, unique hybrid techniques of various forms of printmaking. By understanding the characteristics of traditional and modern techniques and applications, students are enabled to expand the possibility of image making by transforming the use of printmaking into their own projects. The processes of research, visual documentation, evaluation of outcomes and presentation of results contextualize and expose the impact that images have on our daily life in a metropolitan environment.

VART 3227 Evolutionary Graphics (3,4,0)
Prerequisite: VART 2225 Experimental Illustration or VART 2226 Design for Hypermedia
The course introduces the ideas and practices of evolutionary and generative methods to create complex visual imageries. In the context of procedural animation and computer graphics, the concepts of evolutionary biology can both simulate the form of nature and as well go beyond it by creating static or dynamic graphics with little reference to the physical world. Students in the course learn to create complex computer graphics by specifying very simple rules. They will understand the notion of artificial nature where the seemingly complex behaviours are developed by a number of simple mutually interacting units. Historical reference will be drawn from a variety of disciplines like machine theory, algorithmic graphics, chaos theory, and self-organizing systems.

The course will introduce the use of the graphical programming environment such as TouchDesigner® or Context Free Art** that the students can use to experiment with generative graphics and procedural animation without the need to write traditional text based computer programs. The artworks can both be shown on screen or output as computer paintings. By using the commonly available graphic design software, students usually work on computer graphics with a top down planning approach. The variety of the visual imageries will often be limited to the background and exposure of the students’ former visual training. This course offers a bottom up approach to facilitate students to overcome the former constraints. By purposely introducing rules and limitations, the generative or evolutionary processes can automatically produce imageries that challenge the representational and abstract ways of two-dimensional visual creation.

The conceptual framework in the class is transferable and applicable to other subjects like 2D design, spatial design, and experimental painting. As computing software is becoming an important tool for visual art and design, the understanding of the codes, which are essential rules, is a competitive advantage for students to expand their visual repertoire.

* A free authoring tool for creating interactive 3D art, http://www.contextfreeart.org/

VART 3235 From零 Space to Infinite (3,4,0) (E)
Dimension: The Art of Glass Casting
Prerequisite: VART 2226 Ceramic Art: From Pinched Pot to Sculptural Form or VART 2235 From Liquid to Solid: The Art of Glass Blowing
Most objects have three dimensions; however glass can have infinite dimensions through the very light that travels through it and is captured within it. It is a unique quality of glass that it can be transparent, translucent and/or opaque. Such qualities make it possible for glass to express infinite dimensions externally and internally at a zero space.

Glass Casting is an ancient Chinese glass technique that can be dated back to the Warring State (BC 481-221). Now it is the primary glass art technique taught internationally and locally, and one of the main glass production methods used by artists and designers. It is also becoming an important art skill for creative industries, and it has a place in fine art, public art, spatial design and in architecture.

This course introduces the essential techniques of Glass Casting and its sufficient cold-working such as grinding and polishing for finishing the glass product. Students will explore the potential for Cast Glass artworks, and at the same time build a solid and sufficient knowledge base in Glass Casting skills and the accuracy required for good craftsmanship. This class will encourage the enhancement of aesthetic understanding, sensitivity to design, development of imagination, and the development of personal creative language.

Learning Glass Casting allows students to apply their understanding of two-dimensional concept—drawing and design skills—to three-dimensional works. It also allows students to integrate their studies in sculpture, ceramics, jewellery, design and installation to formulate an interdisciplinary practice within Glass Casting.

The course will allow students to attain Glass Casting craftsmanship, and establish their personal creative language through different projects. It will also expose students to the history and development of Glass Casting and important examples of glass cast designs and art works.

VART 3236 From Object to Installation: (3,4,0) (E)
The Art of Glass Kiln-Forming
Prerequisite: VART 2236 Ceramic Art: From Pinched Pot to Sculptural Form or VART 2235 From Liquid to Solid: The Art of Glass Blowing
In addition to Glass Blowing and Casting, Glass Kiln Forming is another essential set of glass-art techniques with more complex firing schedules due to the effect of different melting points. It is used widely in the creative industry, from small jewellery objects, daily table products, and interior designs to artistic works, by using fusible colour glass sheets, frits and powders, as well as window glass and recycled glass. This course focuses on three Kiln Forming techniques: Fusing, Slumping and Pate De Verre. Slumping (660°C) transfers a sheet of glass from 2-D to 3-D, from the sketch to an object. Students learn to use a diamond cutter to
cut glass sheets to compose various patterns, and to slump it over a ceramic mould to sag the forms in a kiln. Use of daily recycled glass and window glass are also introduced for Slumping.

The temperature of Fusing (750-840 °C) is higher than Slumping. Fusing is suitable for making jewellery objects, 2-D works, and components for interior designs as well as creating panels for Slumping projects.

Pate de Verre (700°C) is a French word “glass paste” by using different size and colour glass frits and powders mixed with CMC glue to apply over/into a mould (ceramics fibre or high-temperature plaster), then fused together by firing. The works could be thin as a leaf, detailed as lace, vivid as a flower and complex as a building.

The three Kiln Forming Techniques could be used individually or co-ordinately to realize concepts/ideas exquisitely. Sufficient exploration and wide possibilities of Kiln Forming while building up confidence and accuracy required for craftsmanship. It will provide students with good craft skills and an artistic base for their future career development in visual arts.

VART 3237 Creative Ceramics: Concept and Process
Prerequisite: VART 2236 Ceramic Art: From Pinched Pot to Sculptural Form
Ceramic art, with its origin in craft, has been propelled by artistic movements, which integrated traditional techniques and aesthetics into the creation of contemporary artwork.

In this course, students will build on previously acquired ceramic skills by augmenting their ceramic knowledge through exposure to more advanced ceramic techniques and the viewing of high calibre ceramic artworks. It is also an exploration into the possibilities of ceramic material and techniques in artistic expression. Students have to tackle different problems in various projects with different approaches to ceramic art including a thematic project, in which students have to create within an assigned theme. Using a variety of techniques, including paper-clay, advanced hand building and wheel throwing techniques, slip-casting and press-moulding, students will fabricate ceramic composite forms in non-functional approach. Image transfer and glaze test projects will also help students to develop their own messages on surface. Forms constructed range from abstraction to images of found objects, where the aesthetic consideration will be opened to personal creative expression. Emphasis will be placed on the development of concept and the transformation to three dimensional clay objects. Students are encouraged to create independent work exhibiting personal symbols and content. Students will further broaden their understanding of ceramics by visiting museums, galleries, and meeting artists at their studios. Additionally, through lectures and research, students will strengthen their historical knowledge of both traditional and contemporary ceramics, so that they can explore the issues of cultural identity and significance in their own work.

VART 3245 Second Skin (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2245 Wearables
Body coverings can be described as a second skin. This course investigates this notion in terms of intimacy and extimacy. “Intimacy” describes the corporeal relationship of textiles and the body whilst “extimacy” extends to the realm of luxury and display. Second Skin relates to wearables that are in intimate contact with the body; they enhance or disguise, comfort or protect us. Second Skins are three-dimensional objects that are formed through the manipulation of raw materials. The materials and techniques used in their creation are deeply interwoven with culture and tradition. This course expands the basic skills gained in the lower-level Wearables-course adding the tools and techniques to create fabrics and textural finishes, which will be explored and combined to design and produce wearables and accessories. Understanding the properties and structures of materials as well as the history and cultural significance of traditional techniques offers the designer a great scope for creativity. The students will be provided with technical skills to develop a fundamental understanding of textiles properties and their cultural significance necessary to produce creative products with a professional level of aesthetic and artistic integrity.

Through practical demonstration of traditional and contemporary textiles techniques including a range of non-loom and loom techniques as well as various methods of texturising, colouring and embellishment, students are encouraged to embrace cross-disciplinary approaches to develop new techniques and applications for body coverings.

The product outcomes will be wearables or accessories as forms of creative expression, design innovation or designs for practical applications in response to a written brief. Students will be expected to complete a range of samples and design concepts as well as a minimum of one wearable object.

VART 3246 Studio Jewellery (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2246 Small Metal Jewellery
From pre-historic time till the mid-twentieth Century, people wore jewellery to showcase their wealth, power, social and religious status, superiority and their aesthetic sense. After the Second World War, many of the societies in Europe and America were turned upside down.

The great loss of lives made many artists questioned the traditional values, and reflected on the question of self-identity. The scarcity of materials also pushed many artists to start making jewellery. Together with the new materials made available through technology advancement, the studio jewellery movement was born. At the core of the movement is a deep desire to establish values and identity through jewellery. In many ways, jewellery is the ideal art form to consider a person’s values, and to explore the possibilities of utilizing or challenging traditional meanings.

In this course, students will be guided to develop a series of work that reflects their stance on contemporary issues. They will start by studying the traditional meanings of jewellery, and their connections to the underlying craftsmanship. Once these connections are made, they will look at how the studio jewellery movement pushed these apart, and used new ideas and materials to create a new set of language. The students will then reflect on their own perception, develop a series of jewellery, and present their work and research findings to the class.

VART 3255 Exhibits and Displays (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2255 Space and Site or VART 2256 Product Design
Exhibition Design is potentially one of the most common, but also least recognized design-areas: despite the practice of exhibiting is found not only in museum- or gallery-exhibitions, but also in trade-fairs, showrooms, shops and various public institutions, there are not many programmes or courses dedicated to this specific area. Accordingly this course aims to equip students with the basic knowledge and skills for designing exhibits and displays for all kinds of situations, including the spatial arrangement of a site, the interior design for the space, exhibition-furniture and -graphics. However, it also intends to go beyond the professional practice of exhibit design, and explore the wider practice of exhibiting in general.

As this course aims at students who have already some experience in art-/design-related subjects, but not yet any systematic approach to Exhibit Design, the focus of the course will be on transferring knowledge, skills and personal experience from other subjects-like Sculpture, Installation Art, Graphic Design and others, and to apply these in a new professional area that it sought for widely in many design-professions.

VART 3256 Sustainable Design (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2255 Space and Site or VART 2256 Product Design
Not just after the growing concern about global climate change has environmental issues become an increasingly relevant issue in particular for designer. Sustainable Design describes an environmentally conscious approach to a highly sensitive,
political and social problem: the world changes, and so must we. The course will give you an understanding of bio-based and biodegradable materials, recycling materials, and sustainable production processes. The challenge is to take an everyday object, remould, rebuild and re-purpose it to create an entirely new item using as little additional materials as possible. Three different projects and external collaborations with the industry will be the means to a deep understanding of global environmental problems and possible solutions.

VART 3257 3D Prototyping  (3,4,0) (E)
Pre-requisite: VART 2255 Space and Site or VART 2256 Product Design
Computers and digital technology allow us to work within a virtual space. Three-dimensional software allows us to play with form and space without dealing with the consequences or natural properties of the actual form in an actual space. In this virtual world the artist can explore and expand their art practice into this virtual world and through it by harnessing its advantages to create new forms and new spaces.

“Prototyping” is the term used to refer to a group of techniques that allow to in short time fabricate a scale odel of a physical part or assembly of a product or object, using three-dimensional computer data. For the purpose of prototyping a virtual model the object is firstly “built” with software, and then realized in a substitute material through 3D-printing, CNC-milling or laser-cutting.

This course will introduce students to such digital technology as a means to expand their capabilities to produce and visualize alternative projects in the various art studios. Students will be exposed to basic 3D software to create suitable models for production, and then learn how to produce their initially virtual ideas via computer-controlled machinery.

This course is project based and will focus on technical demonstration and a continuous studio practice to inspire in the students the abilities to think fluidly about how ideas can be filtered through this technology. They will then take on more complex projects based on their ability to use the software. This course is designed to show what the machines can do to extend the students' creativity into an alternative mediums and processes.

The core objective of this class is to give students an ability to play with such technology so as to expand their creative output in whatever creative area they may choose to practice in later.

VART 3305 Special Topics in Visual Arts (3,3,0)
Studies (Art History and Theory)
VART 3306 Special Topics in Visual Arts (3,3,0)
Studies (Chinese Arts Studies)
VART 3307 Special Topics in Visual Arts (3,3,0)
Studies (Visual and Material Culture)

Prerequisite: VART 2305 Introduction to Western Art and VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art
This course aims to provide an opportunity for students to study in-depth, selected topics in contemporary issues related to the theoretical study of the Visual Arts. Through examination of theories related to the topic, students will look at issues from an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspective. The course will guide students to integrate various points of view and develop their own critical judgment of the Visual Arts.

The course will normally start with a discussion and introduction to the special topic in relation to the study and practice of the Visual Arts. Depending on the nature of the selected topic, the course will focus on one or more important trends of thought, assessing their relevance to contemporary culture and practice. Assigned readings will be interdisciplinary, and students will be encouraged to examine the topic from a cross-cultural perspective. The course will conclude with a critical reflection on the topic and its relation to the general understanding of Visual Arts.

This course changes subjects/theme regularly; therefore the individual instructor in consultation with the Visual Arts Studies Division will determine the selected topic, to take full advantage of developing research, issues and global developments in the visual arts.

VART 3315 Concepts in Contemporary Art (3,3,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2315 Writing in Art and Culture or VART 2305 Introduction to Western Art and VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art
This course will concentrate on the study of contemporary developments in the visual arts by thematic discussion. The study will explore art and artists from across the world and examine the linking of concepts and theories of contemporary trends from 1960.

The complexities of the contemporary art ecology will be examined through social, political and economic frameworks to encourage students to actively consider and interpret how ideas, forms, materials, process and purpose all contribute to meaning. In addition, this course will examine the contemporary phenomenon of art fairs, the rise of the economic interests in contemporary art and the homogenization of art in the contemporary context. Examining and theorizing ideas of meaning and identity, this course will explore contemporary art from differing perspectives, to build a picture of how contemporary art functions in the local and global artistic environment.

VART 3316 Critical Studies in Lens-based Media (3,3,0)
Prerequisite: VART 2305 Introduction to Western Art and VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art
Art historian Michael Fried in one of his recent book asks, “Why Photography Matters as Art as Never Before?” (2008). Lens-based media have been an artistic fever and enjoy huge popularity among scholars, amateurs and professional artists since they were ‘invented’ in the 19th century. With recent new development such as digital image revolution, analogue nostalgia, art activism and global image dissemination, the 21st century seems set with the momentum to critically discuss, debate and theorise lens-based media.

To further Fried’s pressing question, it could be asked how 19th century image science informed and informed 20th century artistic invention? And from there it may be explored in what ways lens-based media provide critical and alternative artistic strategies for social intervention and art activism in the 21st century? What is the future of lens-based media if assessing it through a rear-view informed by media archaeology? Is Charlotte Cotton’s essay “The New Colour: The Return of Black-and-White” (2007) adequate to address another revolution in image printing amongst young photographic artist in the 21st century? These historical and critical narratives not only situate lens-based media at the centre of discussion but also instigating questions important enough to sensitise thinking also in other visual arts.

This theory course will examine the emergence and development of lens-based media since their invention. In addition to identifying and interpreting key milestones that underscore the development of lens-based media, student will also be directed and engaged in thematic discussion, analysis and debate of works of image scientists, photographers, video artists, and media artists. Through contextualising historical narrative and introducing critical theory and discourse of lens-based media, student will be equipped with theoretical and analytical tools to research for lens-based media practice.

Key texts of lens-based media art historian and theorist will be brought into discussion to sharpen students’ critical and analytical ability in research and writing. Such critical discussion will generate debate, criticism and novel perspective in conceiving lens-based media practice beyond canonisation. This theory course not only allow students engaging in the currency and critical debates of theorising lens-based media in the 21st century, but also through theorising, the course is able to enhance student’s intellectual sensitivity in shaping their own personal practices.

VART 3317 Visual Arts and Modernity (3,3,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2315 Writing in Art and Culture or VART 2305 Introduction to Western Art and VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art
As visual artists, how we think, and how we understand the
world around us, both effects and influences our creativity and the works we create. The art of the 20th century exemplifies this interplay between art, artist and society, marking a point of distinct artistic difference with the past and highlighting Modernity throughout culture and society. The responses to Modernity have incorporated new forms and expressions of visual art and developed a range of radical theories, attempting to define and contextualise the art in a century of unprecedented global change. Using the themes of Modernity as a platform—for example, revolution, gender, industrial advance—we will examine the shaping of visual art of the 20th century. Considering the relationships and affinities between varieties of media, and investigating the theories and language of visual art we will learn to understand contextually and visually the often ambiguous terms “Modern”, “Modernity” and “Modernism”. The course will offer the student a greater depth of the understanding of Art History and the interplay between visual art, the creative process of the visual artist, and the influence of political, cultural, economic and anthropological arenas of life.

VART 3325 Contemporary Vision in Chinese Art Practice (3,3,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2325 Arts of Asia or VART 2305 Introduction to Western Art and VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art

Contemporary Chinese art practice exists in a multiplicity that encompasses a wide spectrum ranging from traditional to avant-garde artistic expressions. This course covers both theoretical study of contemporary Chinese art practice and practical study of art production methods with a contemporary vision. The study of visual art will have critical examination of a range of major scholarly debates on modern and contemporary Chinese art practices, students will learn to apply art-historical methods and approaches to the analysis and interpretation of works by major contemporary Chinese artists. Meanwhile, the centrality of the notion of negotiations with tradition and modernity in the practices of contemporary Chinese painting will be highlighted. Students will exercise their critical thinking and analytical skill in both oral presentation and writing assignments. Based on the inspiration originated from the aforementioned theoretical study, students will be guided to explore experimental methods and techniques to transform traditional mode of Chinese art practices which include Chinese painting, calligraphy and seal engraving. The course will culminate in students’ development of a set of personal creative strategy to effectively express their ideas through artwork production.

In the context of an emerging world market of contemporary Chinese art, the development of contemporary Chinese art becomes a subject of global attention. This course is significant because it presents the current state of knowledge about modern and contemporary Chinese art. Moreover, it offers an opportunity for students to learn the tools for analysis and interpretation of works by major contemporary Chinese artists. Meanwhile, this course serves as an extended study of the other studio art courses with a contemporary vision. The course will experience sharing of and collaboration with local traditional or new materials and how to convert them into a new form of art and design. Student will be encouraged to interact with each other and the local community for their creative projects. Handicraft such as paper offerings for ancestors, paper scissor-cuts, Cantonese embroidery, Chinese bird cage, paper lantern, flour-clay character, rattan knitting, galvanized iron manufacture, cart and wooden boat building etc will be studied in this course.

VART 3335 Museum Studies (3,3,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2335 Material Culture and Collections or VART 2336 Exhibition and Art Markets or VART 2305 Introduction to Western Art and VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art

Museums have served many functions, as repositories of antiques, temples of genuine artworks, platforms for life-long learning, and as social agents promoting civic values. How do museums balance their diverse roles and responsibilities against a backdrop of changing social agendas, commercial competition, and the global diversification of communication technologies? Focusing on policy issues and professional concerns, this course examines organizational conventions, collection management policies, documentation systems, interpretation and communication mechanisms, and education and outreach programmes, to consider how museums can shape a new form of public life around diverse cultural resources. Through case supplement of texts and documentaries, students will learn from the visual examples how Hong Kong transformed from a small fishing village to a metropolis city of over seven million people; or from a British colony to be a part of the People's Republic of China nowadays.

Alternately, the socio-political changes, technology development, education reform, cultural interaction of a place can also influence the production of works of art, in terms of style, medium and meaning. The search for identity before the return of sovereignty before 1997, for example, triggered off a substantial amount of art creation on the issue on Hong Kong identity. The course will adopt a multi-disciplinary approach in reading stories of Hong Kong, not solely from the view points of visual arts, but also sociology, history, cultural studies, geography, and/or literature, whichever can bring new insight to enhance our understanding on the topics. The opportunity to study original works of art, either from museum or private collection, enables students to make direct encounter with the history of the place, which will ultimately inspire their thoughts and interpretation of the subject of Hong Kong.

VART 3327 Hong Kong Craft: Tradition and Transformation (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2325 Arts of Asia or VART 2305 Introduction to Western Art and VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art

Hong Kong is known for its concentration of traditional craftspeople and clusters of materials for handicraft industry. Nowadays, Hong Kong, as one of the post capital cities in Asia, faces urban re-development. The potential loss of local marginalized wisdom of craftspeople and community networks. One of the Academic's roles is to provide a platform to study traditional handicraft, conserve its culture and support its re-generation. By doing so, this course will inspire ideas and concepts also in subjects like Ceramics, Glass, Jewellery Design, sculpture, and Wearable. This is a practice-based course with theory presenting the Hong Kong handicraft industry’s early development and handicraft skills. In exploring the relevant development in trend and ecological environment of traditional handicraft, its position within the framework of art-theory based cluster will also enhance the cognition of intangible cultural heritage and its sustainable conditions under the material culture concerns and cultural policy-making.

The course will experience sharing of and collaboration with local traditional craftspeople. It emphasizes both technique training and materials exploration, including the handling and interpreting of traditional or new materials and how to convert them into a new form of art and design. Student will be encouraged to interact with each other and the local community for their creative projects. Handicraft such as paper offerings for ancestors, paper scissor-cuts, Cantonese embroidery, Chinese bird cage, paper lantern, flour-clay character, rattan knitting, galvanized iron manufacture, cart and wooden boat building etc will be studied in this course.
Through the discussions of what images mean to us, and their effects, the course will further pose crucial questions surrounding our understanding within the historical, cultural and social, value and power of vision, image and artefact. Emphasizing and contextualizing the relations between people and the visual as objects, studied both within and external to, environmental and cultural context, this course will guide students to integrate various points of view and develop their own critical judgment of the Visual Arts.

VART 3345 Concept in Contemporary Arts (3,0,0)
Prerequisite: VART 2306 Art in the 20th Century II
This course will concentrate on the study of contemporary developments in the visual arts by thematic discussion. The study will explore art and artists from across the world and examine the linking of concepts and theories of contemporary trends from 1960.

The complexities of the contemporary art ecology will be examined through social, political and economic frameworks to encourage students to actively consider and interpret how ideas, forms, materials, process and purpose all contribute to meaning. In addition, this course will examine the contemporary phenomenon of art financial rise and the economic interests in contemporary art and the homogenization of art in the contemporary context. Examining and theorizing ideas of meaning and identity, this course will explore contemporary art from differing perspectives, to build a picture of how contemporary art functions in the local and global artistic environment.

VART 3346 Critical Studies in Lens-based Media (3,0,0)
Prerequisite: VART 2306 Art in the 20th Century II
Art historian Michael Fried in one of his recent book asks, “Why Photography Matters as Art as Never Before?” (2008). Lens-based media have been an artistic fever and enjoy huge popularity amongst scholars, amateurs and professional artists since they were “invented” in the 19th century. With recent new development such as digital image revolution, analogue nostalgia, art activism and global image dissemination, the 21st century seems set with the momentum to critically discuss, debate and theorise lens-based media.

To further Fried’s pressing question, it could be asked how 19th century image science inspired and informed 20th century artistic invention? And from there it may be explored in what ways lens-based media provide critical and alternative artistic strategies for social intervention and art activism in the 21st century? What is the future of lens-based media if assessing it through a rear-view informed by media archaeology? Is Charlotte Cotton’s essay “The New Colour: The Return of Black-and-White” (2007) adequate to address another revolution in image printing amongst young photographic artist in the 21st century? These historical and critical narratives not only situate lens-based media at the centre of discussion but also instigating questions important enough to sensitise thinking also in other visual arts.

This theory course will examine the emergence and development of lens-based media since their invention. In addition to identifying and interpreting key milestones that underscore the development of lens-based media, student will also be directed and engaged in thematic discussion, analysis and debate of works of image scientists, photographers, video artists, and media artist. Through contextualising historical narrative and introducing critical theory and discourse of lens-based media, student will be equipped with theoretical and analytical tools to research for lens-based media practice.

Key texts of lens-based media art historian and theorist will be brought into discussion to sharpen students' critical and analytical ability in research and writing. Such critical discussion will generate debate, criticism and novel perspective in conceiving lens-based media practice beyond canonisation. This theory course not only allow students engaging in the currency and critical debates of theorising lens-based media in the 21st century, but...
also through theorising, the course is able to enhance student's intellectual sensitivity in shaping their own personal practices.

VART 3347 Contemporary Vision in Chinese Art Practice (3,3,0)
Prerequisite: VART 2306 Art in the 20th Century II
Contemporary Chinese art practice exists in a multiplicity that encompasses a wide spectrum ranging from traditional to avant-garde artistic expressions. This course covers both theoretical study of contemporary Chinese art practice and practical study of art production methods with a contemporary vision. Through critical examination of a range of major scholarly debates on modern and contemporary Chinese art practices, students will learn to apply art-historical methods and approaches to the analysis and interpretation of works by major contemporary Chinese artists. Meanwhile, the centrality of the notion of negotiations with tradition and modernity in the practices of contemporary Chinese painting and calligraphy will be highlighted. Students will exercise their critical thinking and analytical skill in both oral presentation and writing assignments. Based on the inspiration originated from the aforementioned theoretical study, students will be guided to explore experimental methods and techniques to transform traditional Chinese art practices which include Chinese painting, calligraphy, and seal engraving. The course will culminate in students' development of a set of personal creative strategy to effectively express their ideas through artwork production.

In the context of an emerging world market of contemporary Chinese art, the development of contemporary Chinese art becomes a subject of global attention. This course is significant because it presents the current state of knowledge about modern and contemporary Chinese art. Moreover, it offers an opportunity for students to learn the tools for analysis and interpretation of works by major contemporary Chinese artists. Meanwhile, this course serves as an extended study of the other studio art courses of Chinese painting, calligraphy, and seal engraving. Lastly, the interdisciplinary nature of the course, as embodied in the coexistence of academic research methods and artistic output, contribute to the overall direction of the AVA.

VART 3355 Material Culture and Collections (3,3,0)
Prerequisite: VART 2306 Art in the 20th Century II
Materials are significant elements in our understanding of culture both in terms of our own identities and within the wider global contexts of global consumption. As a sub-discipline of cultural anthropology, the study of material culture seeks to understand the value and power of material culture surrounding and influencing our daily lives. Examining the everyday context of material life through a variety of methods and theories, students will develop their skills of textual analysis and be equipped with theoretical frameworks in examining objects within wider contexts of culture. From objects of personal significance to national treasure, and from consumer's good circulated in global market to connoisseur's curios, the analysis of material culture seeks to question meaning, value and intention. Through the discussions of what objects mean to us, the course will further pose crucial questions evaluating the historical, cultural and social significance of objects. Contextualising the entangled relations between people and the material objects, and studying things both within and external to, and across different contexts and cultural contexts, the course will expose students into critical debates of material culture, and extend their understandings of creating and creativity in the contemporary society.

Drawing theories from Art History, Museology, Art Anthropology, this course will include critical analysis of objects in a variety of forms and mediums, such as painting, textile, buildings, and heritage sites. Based within themes of context, the course will analyse issues of consumption, globalization, tourism, gender, tradition, value, belief, commerce and historical events. This course connects laterally across the disciplines of the AVA providing the theoretical context for practice and creativity.

VART 3356 Hong Kong Craft: Tradition and Transformation (3,4,0)
Prerequisite: VART 2306 Art in the 20th Century II
Hong Kong is known for its concentration of traditional craftspeople and clusters of materials for handicraft industry. Nowadays, Hong Kong, as one of the post capital cities in Asia, faces urban re-development and the consequent potential loss of local marginalized wisdom of craftspeople and community networks. One of the Academy's roles is to provide a platform to study traditional handicraft, conserve its culture and support its re-generation. By doing so, this course will inspire ideas and concepts also in subjects like Ceramics, Glass, Jewellery Design, sculpture, and Wearable. This is a practice-based course with theory presenting the Hong Kong handicraft industry's early development and handicraft skills. In exploring the relevant development in trend and ecological environment of traditional handicraft, its position within the framework of art-theory based cluster will also enhance the cognition of intangible cultural heritage and its sustainable conditions under the material culture concerns and cultural policymaking. The course will experience sharing of and collaboration with local traditional craftspeople. Emphasizes both technique training and materials exploration, including the handling and interpreting of traditional or new materials and how to convert them into a new form of art and design. Students will be encouraged to interact with each other and the local community for their creative projects. Handicraft such as paper offerings for ancestors, paper scissor-cuts, Cantonese embroidery, Chinese bird cage, paper lanterns, flour-clay character, rattan knitting, galvanized iron manufacture, cart and wooden boat building etc will be studied in this course.

VART 3357 The Anthropology of Art (3,3,0)
Prerequisite: VART 2306 Art in the 20th Century II
This course introduces the study of visual anthropology, examining the visual documentation of humanity and its cultures. Exploring a variety of media objects and events, this course critically engages students into debates and issues related to photography, advertising, global mass media, material culture and the impact of new technologies. The visual interpretation offers significant insight into our understanding of the human development in terms of our own identities, and within the wider global and historical contexts. Fragile, and often temporarily specific, the analyses of visual elements offer an intellectual platform for contextualization and decontextualization. Exploring concepts and methods as research tools for anthropological inquiry that consider the inter-connection of reality, social perspectives, and the resulting visuality, which can help to inform and influence our ways of understanding and assimilating our lives and societies.

Through the discussions of what images mean to us, and their effects, the course will further pose crucial questions surrounding our understanding within the historical, cultural and social, value and power of vision, image and artefact. Emphasizing and contextualizing the relations between people and the visual as objects, studied both within and external to, environmental and cultural context, this course will guide students to integrate various points of view and develop their own critical judgment of the Visual Arts.

VART 4015 Research and Practice in Visual Arts (6,6,0)
Prerequisite: Completion of minimum one BA-cluster from variety of forms or SMA concentration or VAS concentration
This is one of two independent study courses for Year 4 students of the BA (Hons) in Visual Arts programme to choose. Like its equivalent it has a focus on interdisciplinary research in the visual arts, which is integrated with a self-generated practical creative team project based on the course's discipline framework for Studio and Media Arts. While there are no principal formal restrictions
to the creative project—it may be of any medium or approach—students have to initiate, develop and execute the practical project collaboratively, and need to commit to substantial research work as part of their outcome.

To provide the students with access to the thematic context of the course a sequence of lectures, case studies, tutorials and other relevant teaching and learning activities relating to research and practice in the Studio and Media Arts will be offered. These activities also establish a time and workload structure to give guidance to the students, and provide opportunity for feedback and criticism.

In addition to the specified discipline framework both independent study-courses share a series of workshops that aim at consolidating, combining and extending the wide range of cross-disciplined research methods, cross-media creative approaches as well as work documentation and presentation skills that students of the programme have acquired in their previous studies so far. Participation in these workshops will help the students to independently pursue their investigations and experimentations within their personal projects in this course.

The knowledge, skills and experiences that students gained in this course will equip them for the development of individual Honours Project in the final stage of study in the programme.

**VASC 7010 Intensive Workshop I** (0,0,3) (E)/(P)

**VASC 7020 Intensive Workshop II** (0,0,3) (E)

**VASC 7030 Intensive Workshop III** (0,0,3) (E)

**VASC 7040 Intensive Workshop IV** (0,0,3) (E)

**VASC 7050 Intensive Workshop V** (0,0,3) (E)

Course names/mediums would be announced to students in the Master of Visual Arts programme at the beginning of the trimester.

**VASC 7100 Research Practice for the Visual Arts** (3,3,0) (E)/(P)

Twenty-first century witnesses visual arts practitioners merging cultural concerns, research, and process of making into creative output that highlights the complexities of life experiences, and exploits new frontiers. In equipping students with the capability of solving independently and self-reliantly a self-generated assignment in the work-field of the Visual Arts. He will apply the concepts and skills gained on the programme to the investigation. In successfully doing so the student will meet academic and creative standards that allow the Academy to confer the BA (Hons) in Visual Arts degree on him.

The Honours Project has to be completed by all students during their final term of study in the BA (Hons) Visual Arts programme. To increase students’ performance during the development of their Honours Project, and as preparation for their careers after graduation the Honours Project includes a series of required workshops.

The Honours Project provides a keystone experience for the student in his final year in the BA (Hons) in Visual Arts programme. It gives the student an opportunity to prove his capability of solving independently and self-reliantly a self-generated assignment in the work-field of the Visual Arts. He will apply the concepts and skills gained on the programme to the investigation. In successfully doing so the student will meet academic and creative standards that allow the Academy to confer the BA (Hons) in Visual Arts degree on him.

The Honours Project has to be completed by all students during their final term of study in the BA (Hons) Visual Arts programme. To increase students’ performance during the development of their Honours Project, and as preparation for their careers after graduation the Honours Project includes a series of required workshops.

**VASC 7200 Professional Practice for the Visual Arts**

A graduate in any area of the visual arts entering the professional arena today cannot expect to be looking forward to a streamlined career. Instead his/her career will be a patchwork of activities crossing all boundaries from art-making to applied design commissions, occasional administrative jobs to part-time teaching and back. They will work in a variety of contexts from self-employed freelancing to private agencies, corporate structures and the public sector. This course aims at equipping students with basic knowledge and skills in a variety of professional fields that will help students to jumpstart their professional practice in the visual arts.

The course is made up by a sequence of workshops delivered by professional specialists and visual arts practitioners. Each workshop includes lectures, seminar-style talks as well as small practical assignments, which allow participants to get some initial hands-on experience within the respective area. The intention of the course however is not to educate specialists, it rather aims to make aspiring professionals of the field aware of these matters, sketch the situation and indicate comprehensive ways of approaching problems arising.

**VASC 7300 Interdisciplinary Practice for the Visual Arts**

“Creativity isn’t the monopoly of artists.” This remarkable claim made by Joseph Beuys back in 1979 denotes not only the liberation but also the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary art. Over the past decades, all sorts of collaborations among different artistic disciplines, areas of knowledge and various stakeholders in the society have opened up the diversity and openness of creative practice.

By introducing the background and current trends of interdisciplinary practice in connection to visual arts, this course provides students with new insights to rethink about the roles, responsibilities and capabilities of visual artists in our time. As a shared course being offered to various MVA programmes, it will utilize this particular setup to also address common areas of socio-cultural concerns, strategies and skills for team work as well as the management of creative process for practitioners from different visual arts fields.

**VASE 7100 Contemporary Art Issues** (6,8,0) (E)

No one seems to agree on any precise definition of the term “Contemporary Art”. Various stakeholders in the field such as art historians, critics, curators, artists and audiences might interpret it in distinct ways from very diverse perspectives. Nevertheless, it is quite agreeable that the development of contemporary art has been connecting to and influencing by complex socio-cultural factors internationally since mid-20th century. To identify and to construct critical discourse on relevant socio-cultural issues is probably the most comprehensive way to conceive the development of art and culture in our contemporary era.

Through its combination of theoretical investigation and supervised studio practice, students are able to examine the nature of art and culture within its contemporary context. Wide range of issues in connection to current trends of contemporary art and culture will be discussed along with the study of relevant art theories, movements and artists’ works. Both local and global perspectives are to be employed in the discussion.

Students are expected to acquire informed awareness on those issues and to develop critical response within own creative practice. The choice of art form(s)/media, the relevant media skills and techniques as well as their relations with the identified topics/issues are considered to be the emphasis of the creative practice.

**VASE 7200 Extended Context/Extended Media** (6,8,0) (E)

The course expects students to experiment beyond traditional artistic media by exploring possibilities of employing creative practices like craft, popular communication media, expanded