

University for the Creative Arts at Farnham (UCA)

<http://www.ucreative.ac.uk/>

The University for the Creative Arts at Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham, Maidstone and Rochester is a group of five renowned art schools, which have recently joined to become one University College offering both graduate and post-graduate study opportunities across a wide range of arts. The College at Farnham has a long and successful history in arts education and has trained some of Britain's best-known artists and designers. The College is set on the edge of a small, traditional English town with tranquil streets and miles of rolling countryside surrounding it. It houses both fine-art and design based courses from painting, print-making and sculpture through to photography, animation, film and video, graphic design, 3D Glass and Ceramics, textiles, illustration, interior design and computer games design. This range of courses compounded with great facilities and an excellent library provides a diverse and stimulating environment enabling students to develop their ideas and projects in an original and imaginative way.

MA PROGRAMME

Enrolment for the MA in photography will take place in September 2009 offering a student the opportunity to study full-time for one or two years ending with a group exhibition of work to be shown at both a local and a London venue. The MA course is divided into two stages (each is one year with a summer break in between year 1 and 2), each culminating in a separate award. The recipient of the Hasselblad scholarship may be able to join stage 1 or stage 2 of the course depending on their folios of work and their choice of how they want to study.

- **Stage 1, Semester 1** deals with history, theory and research methods in both academic writing and practical photographic skills, students are asked to produce a research proposal, a body of experimental practical work and a critical appraisal of their practice contextualising it in the wider world of photography.

- In **Stage 1 Semester 2** they develop these skills through a practical body of work, it is expected that this will have a level of resolution appropriate to indicate that they can progress through to the final stages of production of a major photographic project. They will also produce a thesis proposal in semester 2, which deals with issues connected to their own work.
- By **Stage 2 Semester 3 and 4** they will be ready to go into the final stages of production for the realisation of their major project and complete a thesis or dissertation on a subject of their choice. They will also undertake a professional work placement and will gain the opportunity to join the UCA photography employment forum on www.fotofolios.co.uk.
- There are clear exit points at each stage of study. After successful completion of semesters 1&2 students can exit with a PGCert, after semester 3 a PGDip and finally after semester 4 an MA in photography.

Hasselblad Scholarship winners would be interviewed and assessed to determine whether they should enter stage 1 or stage 2 of the course.

Each week the student would attend a number of different lectures and seminars based around research methods, photography history/theory and contemporary photographic practices. There would also be a series of visiting lecturers coming to the college to give talks about their own work, these visitors would come from a number of different disciplines including film, photography, animation and fine-art. Students will also attend tutorials with specialist staff and critical reviews of their work.

Research and Professional Connections

The photography department at UCA Farnham has a wide range of professional connections and contacts including membership of the Association of

Photographers (AOP). Students are able to undertake high quality placements in a wide range of organisations or with photographers and art directors all over the country. Local and London based companies and photographers in particular have supported our programme by offering placements to students these have included organisations such as: Chris Boot Publishing, The Victoria and Albert Museum, Oxfam and Pocco Books as well as photographers such as Melanie Friend; Mario Testino and Jem Southam. Our on line job forum www.fotofolios.co.uk forms an important connection for the course to the professional world and employability within the global field is a main research interest for the staff team.

Research plays a significant role and UCA has highlighted Photography Department at Farnham as a primary area for research development in 2009 and 2010. We will be developing research strands related to key, high level researchers from within the department and have already formed a research cluster, The BookRoom (www.thebookroom.net) with its own collection (which is used as a teaching resource) and a series of study days/seminars. Photography at Farnham has important international connections and we are working on a research initiative to create a global photography network and archive.

The staff in the photography department are; Anna Fox, Martin Pover, Karen Knorr, Emmanuelle Waeckerle, Jason Evans, Peter Renn, Mark Bolland and Kathy Kubicki (one of the editors of the new journal *Photography & Culture*). They embrace a diverse range of practices from documentary through to fine-art and all have specialist experience in teaching as well as this many of us exhibit and publish our work internationally.

The department of photography also has a number of visiting lecturers who are mainly young cutting edge practitioners such as

Trish Morrissey (recently exhibited in New York),
Eileen Perrier (portrait photographer),

Clare Strand (has an exhibition coming up at the Folkwang Museum in Essen),

Jason Evans (just exhibited at the Brighton PhotoBiennale and a regular writer for Aperture Magazine, New York) and

David Moore (recent publication *The last Things* published by Dewi Lewis).

These visitors come to work on specific projects or workshops.

The visiting lecturer programme also includes a series of lectures by major international artists, photographers and film makers such as Martin Parr, Joachim Schmid, Helen Sear, Wolfgang Tillmans, Liam Gillic, Jane & Louise Wilson, Isaac Julien, Nick Broomfield, Laura Mulvey, Michael Newman, Chris Townsend, Melanie Manchot, Wendy McMurdo, Dan Holdsworth, Paul Smith, Brian Griffin, Rut Blees Luxemburg, Jananne Al-Ani, Charlotte Cotton, Joy Gregory. There is also a programme of technical workshops that include digital photography, studio skills, advanced colour/black & white printing and medium/large format cameras.