



RA

Royal Academy Schools
Prospectus

I would like to start my introduction to this prospectus by thanking you for your interest in our postgraduate programme.

As the reputation earned by the RA Schools and its students continues to grow worldwide, the selection of a new intake of students is our most significant annual task. We are committed to providing an open, informed and critical environment that supports the professional and personal progress of those studying here.

Although our studios are steeped in the atmosphere of history and tradition, I am keen to emphasise that we are a school of contemporary art. We value versatility and collaboration; our programme attracts individuals with distinct, diverse artistic identities who wish to develop and exchange ideas.

This prospectus contains all the information you will require to apply for a place on our programme. I am extremely proud that the Royal Academy Schools remains both independent and free to all who study here.

Eileen Cooper RA
Keeper of the Royal Academy

The RA Schools is an independent art school focused on the professional development of the artist. Being an independent institution gives us the freedom to invent what we do and underpinning that invention is always the question, 'what is useful to the artist?' We aim to clarify an endeavour, to examine a practice and support its singularity.

Eliza Bonham Carter
Curator & Head of Schools

The Royal Academy Schools thrives on the exceptional ability, commitment and intellectual inquiry of our students. Our aim is to provide an environment in which you can test out and re-evaluate your practice.

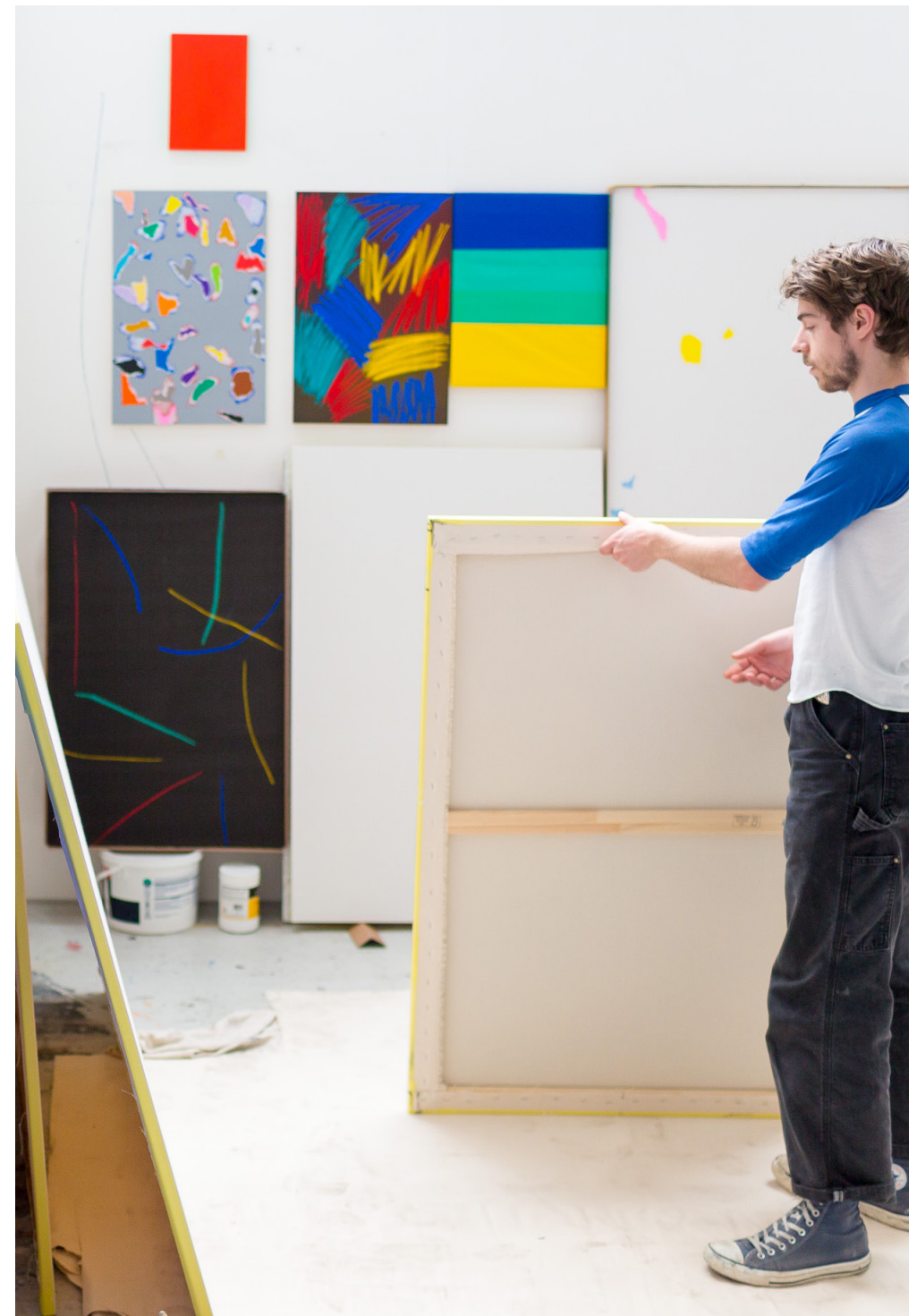
We welcome applicants who want to engage at an advanced level with their own work, and importantly, the work of their peers. As a student at the RA Schools you will form part of a diverse group of motivated individuals who aim to develop their work in an environment of discourse and investigation.

A total of 40-55 places are available at the RA Schools at any one time, set across three year groups.

The high tutor/student ratio ensures that the individual art practice is subject to sustained discussion and that conversations with visiting artists can be as long and in-depth as they need to be.

The comparatively small size of the schools also allows us to be in a constant state of evolution, inflected by the contribution and experience of our participants. Your ideas and interests are at the heart of the programme.

The RA Schools does not charge tuition fees to anyone. It is part of the Royal Academy of Arts (RA) and is supported by the RA's own endowment, by corporate supporters, trusts and foundations, Friends of the Royal Academy, individual patrons and fundraising events such as the Annual Auction.



About the programme

The programme is three years, full-time. We welcome artists working in all media and representing a diverse range of positions and approaches. Students work closely with each other, with an emphasis on constructive critique and peer learning.

You will have a studio space whatever the nature of your practice, as spacious and open plan as possible. Students have access to specialist workshops in all media and instruction in new skills and technical support in realising projects is available.

A full programme of lectures, seminars and visiting artists forms the structure of the working week and exposes you to new voices and methodologies.

Course structure

Each of the three years group has a designated Year Tutor who will work closely with you and your peers:

Year 1 Mary Maclean
Year 2 Richard Kirwan
Year 3 Brian Griffiths

Tutorials

In addition to core staff you will meet an array of visiting artists from a range of perspectives for one-to-one tutorials.

Last years visiting artists were:

Neil Rumming
Bridget Smith
Nick Fox
Danny Rolph
Cathy Pilkington RA
Francis Summers
Daniel Sinsel
Sally O'Reilly
Vanessa Jackson
Peter Davies
Hayley Newman
Martin Westwood
Richard Wilson RA
Andreas Reiter Raabe
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Mark Titchner
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Milika Muritu
Nooshin Farhid
Clarrie Wallis
Nicholas Stewart
Gary Hume RA
Juan Bolivar
Maria Fusco
Maurice Carlin





Artist Talks

A programme of talks, screenings, performance, selected and invited by the second year and representing a multitude of approaches. Last year's talks:

Karin Ruggaber
 Phoebe Unwin
 Simon Martin
 Vincent Hawkins
 Alice Channer
 Bedwyr Williams
 Charlotte Moth
 Ed Atkins
 Humphrey Ocean RA
 Katrina Palmer
 Malcolm Le Grice
 Marcus Coates

Monday Lectures

Delivered by key thinkers, writers, scientists, cultural theorists, film-makers and so on, the lecture series covers theoretical, philosophical and political ground. Recent speakers:

Nina Power
 Jonathan Miller
 Dawn Ades
 JJ Charlesworth
 Brian Dillon
 Ellen Mara De Wachter
 Piers Gough RA
 Am Nuden Da
 Ann Dumas
 Jonathan Ree
 Alexander Duttman
 Tony Benn
 Gareth Jones
 Esther Leslie
 Darian Leader
 Roger Cook
 Jeremy Gilbert Rolfe

Group critiques

In the autumn and summer terms, you will present work for regular group feedback, led by your year tutor and involving visiting artists.

Cross-year events

In the spring term all students participate in weekly cross-year critiques, seminars, site visits, workshops and other events.

Top: Clockwise from far wall:
 paintings by Marisa J Futernick,
 paintings by Aimee Parrott,
 sculpture by Coco Crampton

Left: Charlie Billingham,
 Schools Show 2013 installation view



Exhibitions

Year 2

A major exhibition of second year work is held in the galleries of the Royal Academy during spring term, marking the halfway point of the programme. This is an opportunity to make important decisions, evaluate your progress and work as a group to install the show. For historic reasons the event is called 'Premiums'.

Year 3

At the end of your third year individual studios are transformed into large exhibition spaces that attract thousands of visitors and professional scrutiny. Third years are assisted in the realisation of major new projects and the presentation of a highly developed, ambitious body of work.

Texts

The written component of the programme is an opportunity to explore ideas that arise in the studio in a different form.

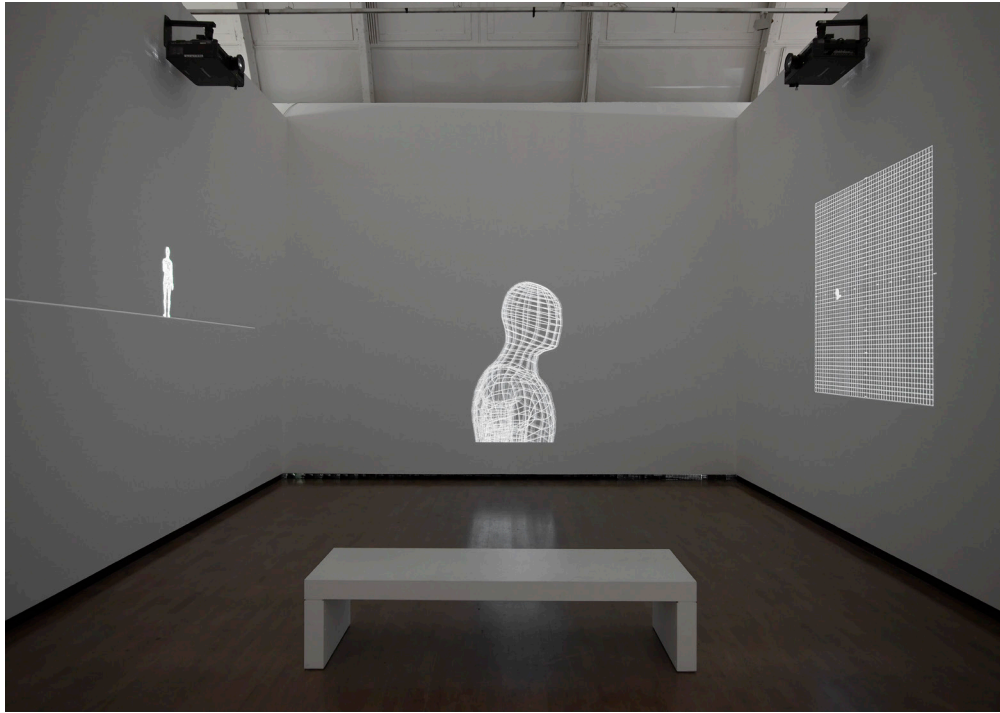
A short piece completed during the first year addresses themes and concerns informing your practice. Later in the second year and over the summer break you produce a longer text (approx 6000 words). This text may or may not be formally academic, it could be written as a letter, an article, a script. Practitioners in the field of art-writing read and work through your writing with you, investigative research and reading are highly valued.

Travel Opportunities

Whilst at the RA Schools you can apply for a number of short-term exchanges and residencies. Currently these include: Peter Doig Studio, Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, University of the Arts, Tokyo, Tropical Lab, Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore, Red Mansion Foundation Residency, Beijing, China, Glenfiddich Residency, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

There are further opportunities to travel to America for shorter investigative visits.

We organise an annual, subsidised group study visit – in recent years to *Documenta* in Kassel, Frankfurt, New York, Berlin, Rome and *Venice Biennale*.



Left, clockwise from top:
Video installation by
Julie Born Schwartz,
sculpture by Paul Schneider,
sculpture by Coco Crampton.



Professional Practice

Many aspects of managing a career as an artist are discussed one to one in tutorials and other conversations. We hold further specialised seminars covering subjects such as accounting, copyright law and the operations of galleries, curators and critics.

Third years are offered the opportunity to gain teaching experience, with art schools across the country from Glasgow to Falmouth.

Events

We curate a number of public events each year including lectures and panel discussions. These have included Georg Baselitz, Anselm Kiefer, Tracey Emin in conversation with Mathew Collings, Thomas Hirschhorn, Richard Wentworth, Glenn Brown, Jan Verwoert, 'A Talk' with Andreas Rieter Raabe, Franz West and Sarah Lucas; Wolfgang Tillmans, Wim Wenders, Richard Tuttle in conversation with Richard Schiff, VALIE EXPORT, Chris Kraus, Nicolas Bourriaud, Vanessa Jackson and Carlos Cruz-Diez.

We have hosted a number of symposia that have grown out of discussions within the RA Schools. For further information and webcasts please see royalacademy.org.uk/raschools/schools-events

Facilities

Our specialist workshops are staffed by experienced and skilled instructors. All staff are practicing artists, with extensive exhibition and studio experience. Experimentation with new technical skills is supported through a series of workshops timetabled in response to you and your peer-group's needs. Where we cannot provide you with direct support in a particular medium we endeavour to connect you to our extensive network of external workshops and instruction.

Our facilities include:

Wood Workshop

Stretcher-making facilities for painters, plus a full range of power, hand and industry standard wood working tools including mitre, vertical, circular, fret and band saws, drills, and a lathe.

Sculpture Workshop

A range of materials and approaches including metal work, plaster and clay works, resin, casting, rubber mould making and a spray booth area.

Printmaking Workshops

Etching, relief and screen-printing. A range of presses, processing equipment and editioning facilities.

Epson Digital Suite

Large format digital printers designed to print on a wide range of substrates supported by a series of Mac workstations, scanning equipment and additional portable laser and inkjet facilities.

Media Suite

Full editing equipment; green and blue screen facilities and software capabilities for digital moving image production. Photographic, audio-visual and media presentation equipment for loan includes high-end digital SLR cameras, High Definition video cameras, a large format camera, lighting, monitors, production backdrops and sound recorders.

Photographic Darkroom

Available for black+white analogue photographic works.

Bookable Project Spaces

Provided short-term to facilitate work that may need more room or focus outside of the open-plan studio spaces.

IT Suite

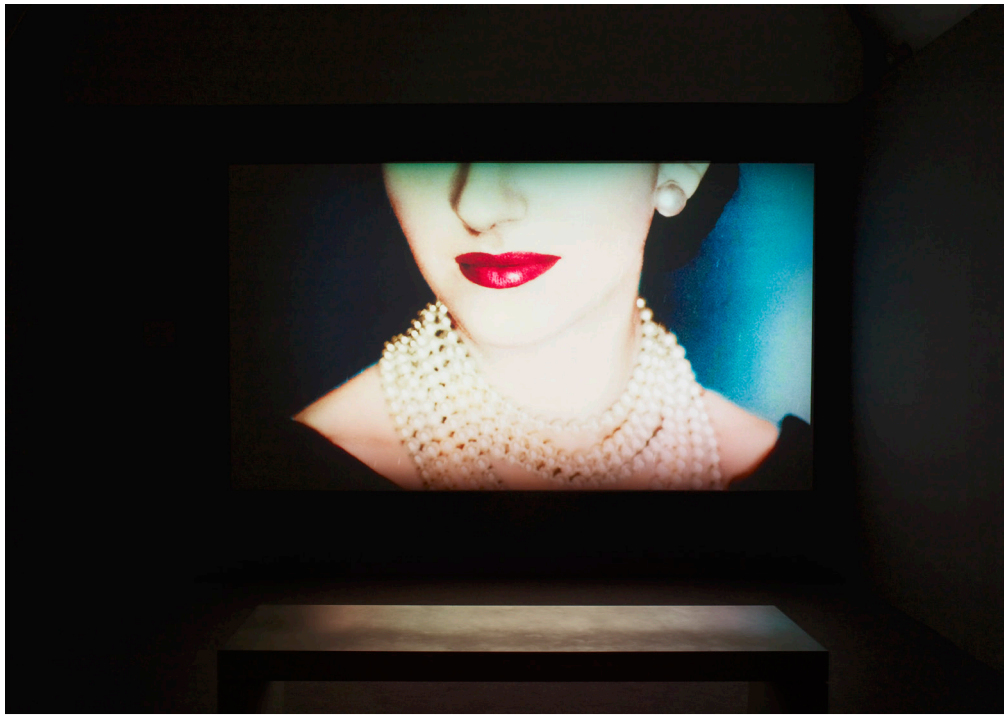
Fully networked PCs with printing and photocopying facilities. Wi-Fi is available throughout the studios.

The Royal Academy Library

Books, exhibition catalogues, monographs, art magazine subscriptions and periodicals on international contemporary and historical art are all available on loan. Special library collections also include examples of early printed and illustrated books, and the RA's permanent collection of paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings and photographs.



Following pages, clockwise from top left: Video installation by Julie Born Schwartz, work by Tom Owen, work by Sarah Shoughi, work by Stephen Forge, Hannah Perry, installation view





Opening times

Term Time

Monday to Friday, 8am – 9pm

Saturday 9am – 6pm

Closed Sunday

Summer Term

Monday to Friday, 8am – 10pm

Saturday, 9am – 6pm

Sunday, 10am – 6pm

Holidays

Monday to Friday, 9am – 6pm

We aim to keep the studios open whenever possible.

Left: View of Mary Ramsden's studio

Below: Ariane Schick in her studio



Staff

Keeper of the Royal Academy

Eileen Cooper RA

Curator & Head of RA Schools

Eliza Bonham Carter

Programme & Alumni Relations Manager

David Cooper

Senior Lecturers

Brian Griffiths
Richard Kirwan
Mary Maclean

Head of Material Processes

Mark Hampson

Print Tutors

Guler Ates
Leigh Clarke
Hen Coleman
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Simon Lawson

Digital Media Instructor

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Michael Landy RA

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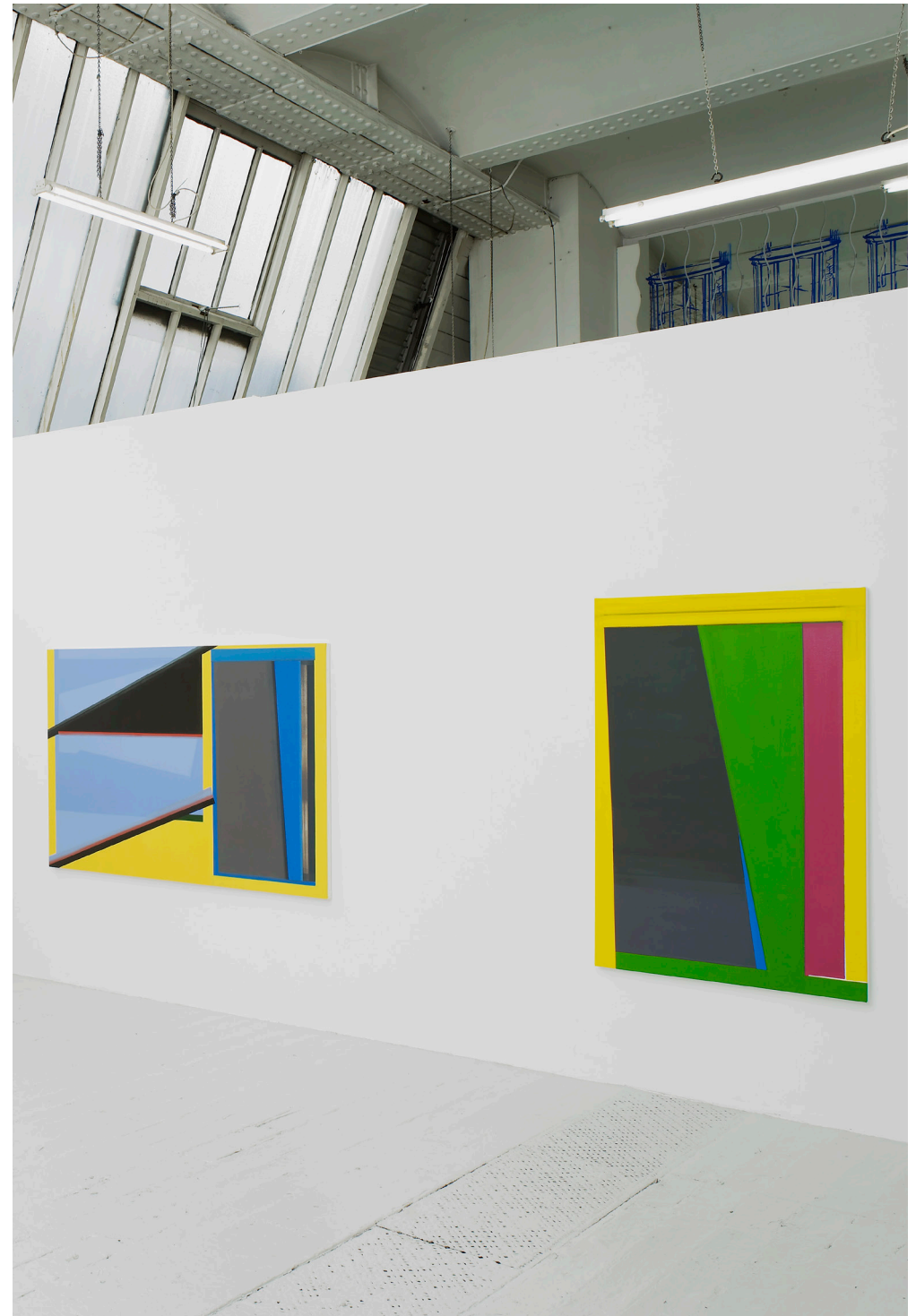
Tim Green

Professor of Computer Vision

Roberto Cipolla

Visiting Professors

Jane Harris



What to consider

The programme is full-time and intensive. You will need to be in the studios and workshops making work, you will need to participate in group crits, sign up for tutorials, attend lectures and talks, produce two texts and work towards two shows. You may need to find time outside of this to undertake a part-time job, in the evenings and at weekends. This must be planned for outside of studio hours.

We are able to offer bursaries and materials grants and though these only contribute a small amount towards full living costs it does mean that more time can be spent in the studios and less earning money. We will support you in applications for any eligible funding opportunities.

You may choose to use the sustained time at the RA Schools to concentrate in the studio or you may also take part in exhibitions externally. However we must emphasise the necessary pre-eminence of your commitment to the RA Schools programme and requirements over other demands.

The postgraduate diploma is not a Masters degree. Those on the programme study here in order to develop as professional artists, rather than to gain a qualification.

Entrance Requirements

Candidates have usually gained a BA (Hons) Degree in Fine Art or have equivalent experience. In recent years we have accepted candidates straight from BA but the majority have been working independently as artists.

We consider applications from those who have an MA but currently none of our students have this qualification. Candidates may have exhibited widely in group or solo shows, but it is not required.

Who should apply?

There are between 10-17 places per year group. The current age range is from mid-20s to mid 40's, with no upper age limit for candidates.

In an applicant we look first for evidence of a strong practice; second that the candidate is looking for evolution in their work and that their practice is not fixed; third that they have a desire and capacity to be critically engaged with their own work and that of others.

When offering a place at the Schools, we aim to put together a diverse group that represents the breadth of contemporary art practice.

Key Dates

Open Days

8 October 2014	2.15pm
15 October 2014	2.15pm
22 October 2014	2.15pm
29 October 2014	2.15pm

Application Submission Period

Wednesday 1 October –
Monday 1 December 2014

Deadline for all Applications + References

Monday 1 December 5pm

Shortlisted Applicants Notified

Late January 2015

Interviews

February 2015

How to apply

1
Download the *Application Form* from our website royalacademy.org.uk/raschools

2
Complete the *Personal Details + Education* sections (Part 1).

3
Complete the *Application Statement* (Part 2) in support of your work. This should be no more than 500 words. Hand-written statements are not advised.

4
Complete the *Declaration*.

5
Complete the *List of Works* (Part 3) - you will find guidelines about how to do this on the following pages.

6
Go to royalacademy.org.uk/raschools to pay the application fee online. Then record the booking reference number on your application form in Part 1.

7
Send Part 4 – *Reference*, to a lecturer or personal tutor from your undergraduate college. If you have not recently graduated you should seek a referee that is familiar with you and your work, whom is also an artist or an art professional.

8
Instruct your referee to email their reference to admissions@raschools.org.uk. Make sure that your referee is aware of the deadline.

9
Post your Application to the Royal Academy Schools or deliver it by hand between the hours of 9am – 5pm (weekdays only) to:

ADMISSIONS 2015/16
RA Schools
Royal Academy of Arts
Burlington House
Piccadilly, London
W1J 0BD
UK

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We will only accept applications between Wednesday 1 October – Monday 1 December 2014. The deadline for application is Monday 1 December at 5pm.

We guarantee that all correctly submitted applications are given careful consideration. We will not provide confirmation of receipt. If you want to ensure we have received your application, use a postal service that allows you to track your parcel. This is recommended for applicants posting from outside of the UK.

When posting, the insurance value of your application should be noted as zero. We will not accept applications that are marked as valuable as we will be charged.

Do not supply original work, a portfolio of work or any certificates to accompany your application. This will not be accepted and we are unable to return it.



List of Works and Disc of Works

Alongside your Application Statement you can submit:

Up to 16 images of (mostly) recent work.

Up to 15 minutes of (mostly) recent video work.

A proportion of both.

Do not send 16 images and 15 minutes of film - we will not be able to look through all of your work if you do.

Images

We only accept images in JPEG format on CD or DVD.

All images should be in RGB mode.

Dimensions should not exceed 1400 x 1050 (roughly 1.5MB in size).

All images should be Mac compatible – test your disc on a Mac before submitting your application.

Do not submit images in any other format. TIFF, PowerPoint, PDF, PSD formats etc. will not be accepted.

Video

We only accept video on a PAL format DVD.

If submitting time-based works, you should include a maximum of three works.

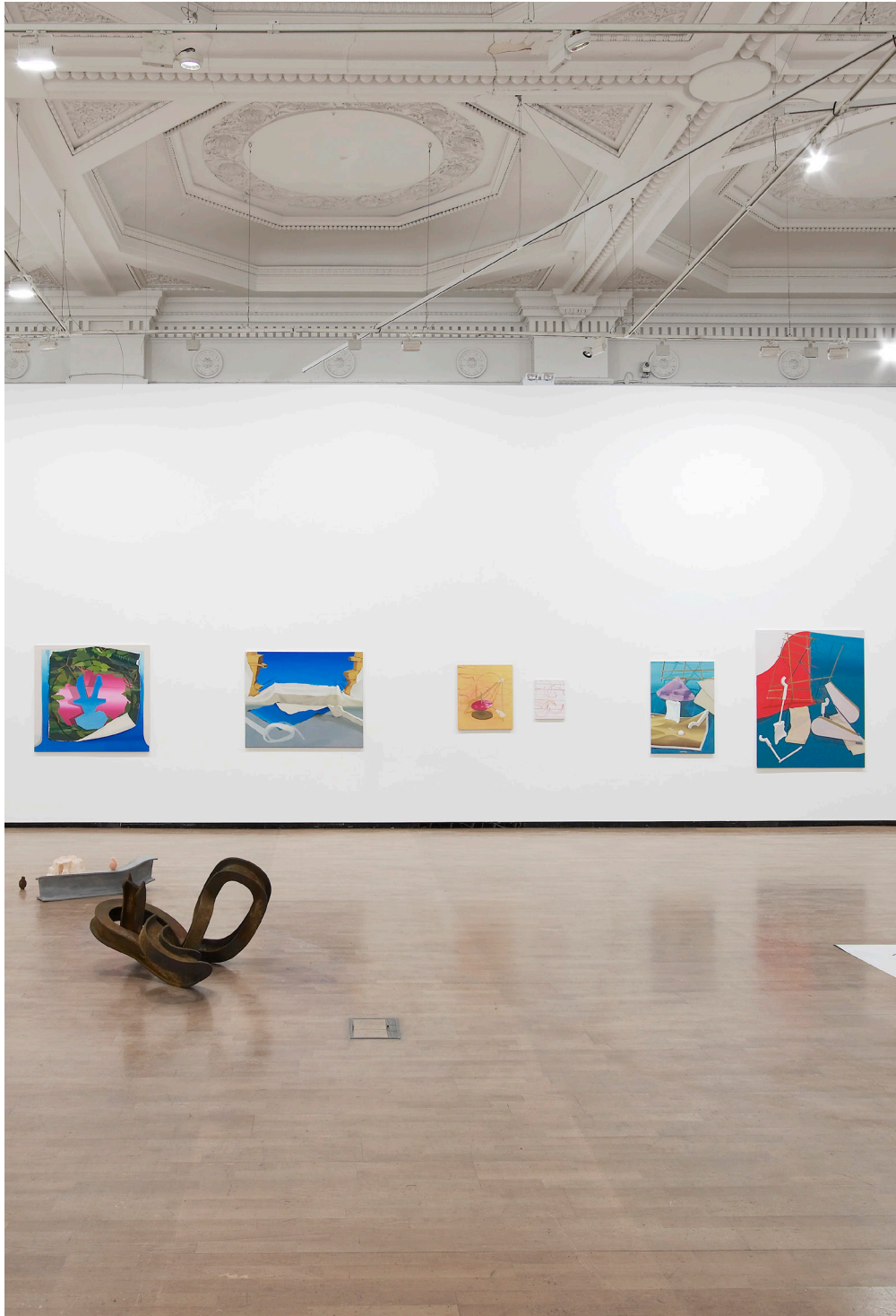
If your films are longer than five minutes we recommend submitting shorter extracts.

Do not submit video in any other format - QuickTime, AVI, MKV etc. will not be accepted.

Though useful, keep details of listed works to a minimum.

Clearly label your disc with your full name.

We are not able to return your disc.



Left: Installation view,
Premiums Interim Projects 2013.
Paintings by Ellen Macdonald;
sculptures by Gabriel Stones

Below: Video and live performance
work by Alice Theobald

Interviews

We do not offer places without interviewing the applicant

If you are shortlisted for interview you will be informed in January 2015

Interviews will take place in February 2015

Interviews last for approximately 30 minutes

You should bring a selection of work to your interview that best represents your current practice

The interviewing room has ample wall and floor space and is equipped with a video projector

If relevant you can also bring supporting sketchbooks or notebooks

We do not restrict the number of works that you can bring to your interview but be aware that you will be given only 10 minutes to set up



International candidates

This section applies only to those who wish to apply who are a national of a country outside of the European Economic Area (EEA).

We welcome International applications however our independent status renders us ineligible to the UK Borders Agency for International Student Visas. Therefore international candidates accepted to the RA Schools need to be successful in their application for a UK VISA on the Exceptional Promise Visa scheme. We will do all that we can to support this application.

www.artscouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/our-priorities-2011-15/developing-talent-artists/tier-1-visas/

International candidates should be aware that the criteria for the Exceptional Promise Visa and that of the RA Schools are not completely aligned. It is unlikely that many candidates will fit both criteria. We strongly advise international candidates to speak with us directly before making an application to us.

Please email admissions@raschools.org.uk by 30 October 2014 and we will set up a video call with you in the first week of November. We will assess your eligibility for the visa and outline the application process. If your CV does not convey the criteria outlined by the Exceptional Promise Visa scheme you may not be invited to a video call.

In your email please include:

- Part 1 of your application
- CV outlining any exhibitions, press coverage, prizes
- Skype/Google Hangout ID/email
- Specify an appointment time when you would be available to speak between 9am – 6pm GMT 3-6 November 2014

Following pages, clockwise from top left: Joe Frazier, installation view, Schools Show 2013; Adham Faramawy & Eddie Peake, Graduation Day 2013. Wall painting in background by Eddie Peake; work by Alex Chase White





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And others who wish to remain anonymous

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