VCE Studio Arts 2017–2022 Study Summary

Study summary

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| **Please Note: This study summary includes excerpts from the VCE Studio Arts Study Design. The summary is not a substitute for the VCE Studio Arts Study Design. Users are advised to view the full accredited study design and other resources on the VCAA website.** |

Scope of study

VCE Studio Arts introduces students to the role and practices of artists in society. Student research focuses on critical, reflective and creative thinking, the visual analysis of artworks and the investigation of how artists have interpreted sources of inspiration and influences in their art making. Students examine how artists develop their practice and have used materials, techniques and processes to create aesthetic qualities in artworks. They study how artists have developed style and explored their cultural identity in their artwork. Students use this knowledge to inform their own studio practice and to support art making.

The role of artists in society includes their relationships with others in the art industry and the presentation and exhibition of artworks in art galleries and exhibition spaces. Students research aspects of the art industry including the presentation, conservation and marketing of artworks.

Rationale

The creative nature of the visual arts provides individuals with the opportunity for personal growth, the expression of ideas and a process for examining identity. Exhibitions of artworks offer an insight into the diverse interpretations of life and experiences of artists. Engagement with artworks facilitates creative thinking and the development of new ideas; it also supports connection and exchange within local, national and global communities.

VCE Studio Arts encourages and supports students to recognise their individual potential as artists and develop their understanding and development of art making.

Structure

The study is made up of four units:

Unit 1: Studio inspiration and techniques

Unit 2: Studio exploration and concepts

Unit 3: Studio practices and processes

Unit 4: Studio practice and art industry contexts.

Each unit contains between two and three areas of study.

Entry

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 prior to undertaking Unit 4. Units 1 to 4 are designed to a standard equivalent to the final two years of secondary education.

Cross-study specifications

For the purposes of this study the following specifications apply. Specific details of the scope of each specification are provided in the unit overviews and in the introduction to the relevant areas of study. These include:

Studio practice

Artists explore individual ideas, subject matter and conceptual possibilities based on artistic influences and inspiration and may draw on particular styles from different periods of time and culture.

Studio process

In their studio practice, artists create artworks using a studio process. For the purpose of this study the studio process consists of five key stages: explore, develop, refine, resolve and present. At each stage of the studio process the student uses creative and critical thinking to document on the studio process.

Investigating studio practices

The investigation of studio practices supports the development of the student’s own practice. The research focuses on the visual analysis of subject matter in artworks and investigates how artists have interpreted sources of inspiration and influences in artmaking.

Visual language

Visual language is an integral component of studio practice and refers to communication of ideas through experiences, images and objects. Artists use visual language to communicate the exploration, development and resolution of artworks.

Aesthetic qualities, art elements and art principles

In their studio process artists use art elements and art principles to explore and express their ideas and to create aesthetic qualities. Artists use and consider art elements and art principles to create aesthetic qualities when they explore, develop, refine, resolve and present artworks.

Unit 1: Studio inspiration and techniques

In this unit students focus on developing an individual understanding of the stages of studio practice and learn how to explore, develop, refine, resolve and present artworks. Students explore sources of inspiration, research artistic influences develop individual ideas and explore a range of materials and techniques related to specific art forms. Using documented evidence in a visual diary, students progressively refine and resolve their skills to communicate ideas in artworks.

Students also research and analyse the ways in which artists from different times and cultures have developed their studio practice to interpret and express ideas, source inspiration and apply materials and techniques in artworks.

Unit 2: Studio exploration and concepts

In this unit students focus on establishing and using a studio practice to produce artworks. The studio practice includes the formulation and use of an individual approach to documenting sources of inspiration, and experimentation with selected materials and techniques relevant to specific art forms. Students explore and develop ideas and subject matter, create aesthetic qualities and record the development of the work in a visual diary as part of the studio process.

Through the study of art movements and styles, students begin to understand the use of other artists’ work in the making of new artworks. Students also develop skills in the visual analysis of artworks. Artworks made by artists from different times and cultures are analysed to understand developments in studio practice. Using a range of art periods, movements or styles, students develop a broader knowledge about the history of art.

Unit 3: Studio practices and processes

In this unit students focus on the implementation of an individual studio process leading to the production of a range of potential directions. Students develop and use an exploration proposal to define an area of creative exploration. They plan and apply a studio process to explore and develop their individual ideas. For this study, the exploration proposal supports the student to identify a direction for their studio process. This process records trialling, experimenting, analysing and evaluating the extent to which art practices successfully communicate ideas presented in the exploration proposal. Students will select some of these potential directions from which to develop at least two artworks in Unit 4.

The study of artists and their work practices and processes may provide inspiration for students’ own approaches to art making. Students investigate and analyse the response of artists to a wide range of source material and examine their use of materials and techniques.

Unit 4: Studio practice and art industry contexts

In this unit students focus on the planning, production and evaluation required to develop, refine and present artworks that link cohesively according to the ideas resolved in Unit 3. To support the creation of artworks, students present visual and written evaluation that explains why they selected a range of potential directions from Unit 3 to produce at least two finished artworks in Unit 4. Once the artworks have been made, students provide an evaluation about the cohesive relationship between the artworks.

This unit also investigates aspects of artists’ involvement in the art industry, focusing on a least two different exhibitions, that the student has visited in the current year of study with reference to specific artworks in those exhibitions. Students investigate the methods and considerations of the artist and/or curator involved in the preparation, presentation and conservation of artworks displayed in exhibitions in at least two different galleries or exhibitions.

Assessment

Satisfactory completion

The award of satisfactory completion for a unit is based on a decision that the student has demonstrated achievement of the set of outcomes specified for the unit. This decision will be based on the teacher’s assessment of the student’s performance on assessment tasks designated for the unit.

Levels of achievement

Units 1 and 2

Procedures for the assessment of levels of achievement in Units 1 and 2 are a matter for school decision.

Units 3 and 4

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority will supervise the assessment of all students undertaking Units 3 and 4. In the study of Studio Arts students’ level of achievement will be determined by School-assessed Coursework, the School-assessed Task and the end-of-year examination.

* Percentage contributions to the study score in Studio Arts are as follows:
* Units 3 and 4 School-assessed Coursework: 10 per cent
* Units 3 and 4 School-assessed Task: 60 per cent
* End-of-year examination: 30 per cent.

School-assessed Coursework

Unit 3

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| Outcome | Marks Allocated | Assessment tasks |
| **Outcome 3**  Examine the practice of at least two artists, with reference to two artworks by each artist, referencing the different historical and cultural context of each artwork. | **30** | Assessment tasks may include a combination of the following:   * structured questions * an annotated visual report * an essay * a presentation using digital technologies * a series of short responses * an oral presentation with supporting visual evidence. |

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School-assessed Coursework for Unit 3 contributes to 5 per cent.

**Unit 4**

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| Outcome | Marks Allocated | Assessment tasks |
| Outcome 3  Compare the methods used by artists and considerations of curators in the preparation, presentation, conservation and promotion of specific artworks in at least two different exhibitions. | **30** | Assessment tasks may include a combination of the following:   * structured questions * an annotated visual report * an essay * a presentation using digital technologies * an oral presentation with visual evidence from the exhibitions visited. |

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School assessed coursework for Unit 4 contributes to 5 per cent.

School-assessed Task

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| Outcomes | Assessment tasks |
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| **Unit 3 Outcome 1**  Prepare an exploration proposal that formulates the content and parameters of an individual studio process, including a plan of how the proposal will be undertaken.  **Outcome 2**  Progressively present an individual studio process recorded in written and visual form that produces a range of potential directions, and reflects the concepts and ideas documented in the exploration proposal and work plan. | The Assessment tasks for Unit 3 Outcomes 1 and 2 are:  An exploration proposal and a visual diary that presents an individual studio process, which explores and develops the concepts and ideas set out in the exploration proposal, and produces a range of visual explorations and potential directions which will for the basis of at least two finished artworks in Unit 4. |
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| **Unit 4 Outcome 1**  Present at least two finished artworks based on selected and evaluated potential directions developed through the studio process, which demonstrate refinement and application of materials and techniques, and that realise and communicate the students ideas expressed in the exploration proposal. | The Assessment tasks for Unit 4 Outcomes 1 and 2 are:  The presentation of at least two finished artworks with an evaluation of the studio process. |
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| **Outcome 2**  Provide visual and written documentation that identifies and evaluates the extent to which the artworks reflect the selected potential directions, and effectively demonstrates a cohesive relationship between the artworks. |  |
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School-assessed Task for Units 3 and 4 contributes 60 per cent.