

# Graduate Studies

BURREN COLLEGE OF ART



“As places where the next thinkers prepare to bring art schools, like the Burre important environments. vision and an invaluable the process, research, and embedded in the making

Dr. Carol Becker, Dean of the School of the Arts,  
Columbia University, NYC

generation of artists and  
their talent into the world,  
n College of Art, are  
They are strong of will and  
asset to society protecting  
discipline of thought  
of art.”

## Graduate Studies

PhD in Studio Art : MFA/MA in Studio Art : MFA/MA  
in Art & Ecology : Post Baccalaureate (Higher Diploma  
in Fine Art)

Graduate studies at Burren College of Art are centred on the idea of art as a process of enquiry. Research and experimentation take place in an interdisciplinary studio-based environment supported by engagement with theoretical discourse and professional studies. You choose your own field of enquiry with which to build a vital and sustained practice. You will have a dedicated 200 square-foot studio space with 24/7 access in our large purpose-built studios. Learning and teaching is carried out through one-on-one tutorials, faculty and peer critiques, seminars on research methodology, and critical discussion on historical and contemporary issues in art.

As a student at BCA you will develop the professional skills necessary to survive and thrive as a practicing artist. Discussion with artists and curators takes place weekly through our visiting artist programme, and interaction with galleries and museums is facilitated by study trips to Dublin, London and Berlin. You will also have opportunities to exhibit individually and develop collaborative or socially engaged projects, testing your ideas in our gallery spaces or in the unique social and environmental context of the Burren. The dynamic and immersive experience provided by Graduate Studies at Burren College of Art will prepare you for an active and engaged career as an artist, educator, curator, gallerist and beyond.



Mollie Douthit, 'Flesh of the Texas Sun'

Burren College of Art's graduate programmes are accredited by the National University of Ireland, Galway. You will register as full students of BCA and NUI Galway, with access to university facilities. The programmes operate in association with the Royal College of Art, London and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, which provide visiting faculty. Our academic association with two of the most distinguished art schools in the world places Burren College at the centre of international discourse on contemporary art and education.

## Choosing Your Level of Study at Burren College of Art

**The PhD** is a four year (eight year part-time) programme of research for artists who are committed to attaining leadership in their specialization by generating a contribution to knowledge and understanding in art on an international scale.

**The MFA** is a two year programme for emerging artists who intend to practice professionally and who want the credentials to teach at university level. It is also an entry point for artists interested in progressing to a PhD.

**The MA** is a three semester (Autumn/Spring/Summer) programme that provides a masters level education in artistic practice appropriate to a diverse range of applications, which may include progression to a PhD.

**The Post Baccalaureate** is a one year programme for potential artists who have completed a Bachelors degree in Fine Art or in another subject, but who are not yet ready for an MFA. This programme prepares you for application to an MFA.

Assessment for all graduate programmes is on a credit/no credit basis, without grades.

If you are unsure which level is right for you, contact us informally to ask our opinion. You can do this by emailing an enquiry to Anna Downes at: [admissions@burrencollege.ie](mailto:admissions@burrencollege.ie)



## PhD in Studio Art

The aim of this four year (eight year part-time) intensive research programme is the generation of new knowledge and understanding in Fine Art by means of enquiry conducted through studio-based research. In the programme you receive training in research methods and develop a project based on a key research question. You will develop and test an ambitious body of work that embodies new knowledge in response to your research question, examine the historical and theoretical dimensions of your topic through scholarship, and collaborate with others as appropriate to extend the range of the enquiry.

Full-time PhD students are provided with their own dedicated studio space at Burren College of Art and access to all BCA faculty. Part-time students must have their own studio space and be available for regular contact with their supervisor at BCA. We also offer lectures, seminars, tutorials, exhibition and collaborative opportunities throughout your research period. Assessment is through the production of a final exhibition, supported by a critical analysis of your research process and its contribution to the generation of new knowledge.

### Supervision

Supervision is undertaken by a committee comprising of your main supervisor and faculty from Burren College of Art, the National University of Ireland, Galway, and external experts as appropriate.

### PhD Admissions

Applicants should have a Bachelors degree with Honours in Fine Art (First class or 2:1, or a GPA of 3.50 or above), or a Masters in Fine Art. Applicants with an MFA may apply for a four year programme of research leading to the award of the PhD.

Applicants who do not have an MFA may apply for the MFA with the possibility of progression to PhD, with two options at the end of Year One:

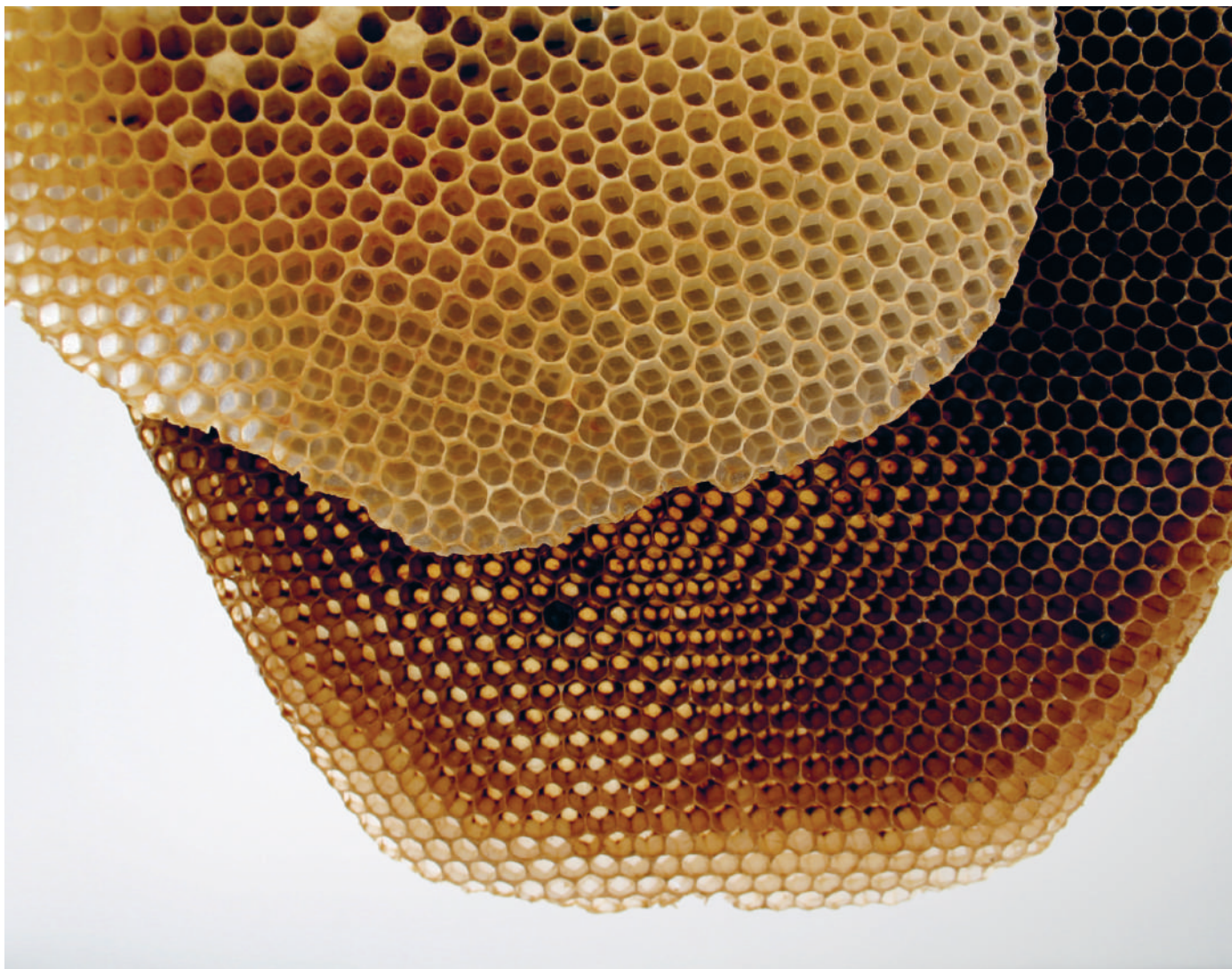
- Research for three more years leading to the award of the PhD
- Research for one more year leading to the award of the MFA





Elizabeth Matthews, 'Persistence of Antigone'





Eileen Hutton, 'Honeycomb'





### Applying for the PhD

We welcome informal enquiries in advance of an application and will assist shortlisted applicants develop their proposals. A proposal for a research project should outline a key research question; the field of enquiry and planned research methods; a statement outlining why you want to pursue a PhD; and a current reading list. All eligible applicants are interviewed.

If shortlisted, you will be requested to revise your research proposal until it is suitable for registration, at which time you will be admitted with effect from either September or January.

To view guidelines for the development of proposals and apply for the PhD programme using our online application form, please visit our website: [www.burrencollege.ie](http://www.burrencollege.ie).

“For me, the PhD at the Burren College of Art was incredibly challenging, rigorous and also transformative. Living in the Burren for 4 years has been an unparalleled experience, and has significantly influenced my artistic practice.”

Eileen Hutton, PhD

## MFA/MA in Studio Art



Arianna Garcia Fialdini, 'Femicide as Plague', Mural.

### MFA in Studio Art

The MFA provides an immersive education in the development of professional practice as an artist. As an MFA graduate you will produce a final exhibition, the quality of which will demonstrate that you have developed the knowledge and skills necessary to survive and thrive as a practicing artist. You will also demonstrate capabilities for critical enquiry through fine art, with the ability to evaluate your work through an informed grasp of the social, cultural and theoretical concerns shaping discourse on contemporary fine art research and practice.

### MA in Studio Art

The MA provides a masters-level education in art appropriate to a diverse range of

applications. As an MA graduate you will produce a final exhibition, the quality of which will demonstrate that you have acquired a masters-level in artistic practice. You will also demonstrate capabilities for critical enquiry through fine art, with the ability to evaluate your work through an informed grasp of the social, cultural and theoretical concerns shaping discourse on contemporary fine art research and practice.

### Course Structure

Studio Research forms the core of the MFA and MA and is comprised of studio-based individual mentoring and rigorous group critiques. Studio Research modules provide for studio-based experimentation and innovation, leading to the production of a substantial body of work. Historical

& Critical Studies modules engage you in intensive critical discourse on contemporary art. Professional Studies modules facilitate the development of the personal, conceptual, technical and organisational skills necessary for professional practice as an artist. They are delivered through seminars, symposia and educational visits to Dublin, London and Berlin.

### MFA/MA Studio Art Admissions

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. The application deadline is 1st February annually, although late applications may be accepted if all places have not been filled. All eligible applicants are interviewed either in person or by phone. Applicants should have a Bachelors Degree with first or upper second-class honours in Fine Art; or a Bachelors Degree with a major in Fine Art with a GPA of 3.50 or above; or evidence of equivalent achievement. In the case of an outstanding portfolio, a Bachelors Degree with a lower second class/2.2 honours/GPA of 3.0 may be accepted.

### Applying for the MFA/MA in Studio Art

To view a list of required application materials and apply for the MFA/MA in Studio Art, please visit our website:

[www.burrencollege.ie](http://www.burrencollege.ie)

### Programme Description (all modules are core)

Module Title	ECTS*
<b>Year 1, Semester 1</b>	
Studio Research 1: Introduction to Art Research Methods	20
Professional Studies 1: Introduction to Professionalism	5
Historical and Critical Studies 1: Bridging Theory and Practice	5
<b>Year 1, Semester 2</b>	
Studio Research 2: Refinement and Coherence of Enquiry and Practice	20
Professional Studies 2: Student Selected Project	5
Historical and Critical Studies 2: Formalising Discourse	5
<b>Year 1, Semester 3, Summer Term, For MA in Studio Art only</b>	
Studio Research Project: The MA Exhibition A studio-based, independent studies module for students seeking to graduate with the award of MA. Students develop a body of work for exhibition supported by a written Artist's Statement.	30
<b>Total for MA in Studio Art</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Year 2, Semester 3</b>	
Studio Research 3: Working Towards an Exhibition	20
Professional Studies 3: Organising and Publicising an Exhibition	5
Historical and Critical Studies 3: The Dissertation	5
<b>Year 2, Semester 4</b>	
Studio Research 4: The MFA Exhibition	20
Professional Studies 4: Exhibition Installation	5
Historical and Critical Studies 4: The Artist's Statement	5
<b>Total for MFA in Studio Art</b>	<b>120</b>

\*European Credit Transfer Accumulation System

## MFA/MA in Art & Ecology



" My graduate experiences at the Burren College of Art allowed me to incorporate and to appreciate open, creative communication and discourse generated from the unique dialogue, insight, and feedback that students have to offer each other in their creative development and growth. "

Ariana Garcia-Fialdini,  
MFA Graduate

### MFA in Art & Ecology

The MFA in Art & Ecology provides an immersive education in the development of a professional practice as an ecologically oriented artist. As an MFA graduate you will produce a final exhibition of both personal and collaborative work, which will demonstrate that you have acquired the skills necessary to survive and thrive as a practicing artist. You will demonstrate capabilities for critical enquiry through fine art, with the ability to evaluate your work through an informed grasp of the social, cultural and theoretical concerns shaping discourse on contemporary art and ecological issues. You will also propose and implement an achievable, interdisciplinary collaborative project that engages with ecological/environmental concerns in the Burren or on a global scale.

### MA in Art and Ecology

The MA provides you with a masters-level education in ecologically oriented art that is appropriate to a diverse range of applications. As an MA graduate you will produce a final exhibition, the quality of which will demonstrate that you have acquired a masters level in artistic practice. You will also demonstrate capabilities for critical enquiry through fine art, with the ability to evaluate your work through an informed grasp of the social, cultural and theoretical concerns shaping discourse on contemporary art and ecological issues.

### Course Structure

Studio Research provides for the development of artistic practice alongside students of the MFA/MA in Studio Art. These modules provide for studio-based experimentation and innovation leading to the production of a substantial body of work. Studio Methodologies are a series of taught studio courses examining the methodology of Art & Ecology with reference to historical examples. Theory and Art & Ecology consists of seminars contextualising the theoretical framework of Art & Ecology. In addition, Environmental Studies draws on expertise from within the College of Science at NUI Galway in engaging with scientific approaches to ecology, with the first module led by an environmental scientist. In the second, lectures and field trips provide

first-hand experience of the Burren as a microcosm of environmental and ecological issues. The third, a distance-learning module, examines the social and political context of global environmental issues.

### MFA/MA in Art & Ecology Admissions

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. The application deadline is 1st February annually, although late applications may be accepted if all places have not been filled. All eligible applicants are interviewed either in person or by phone. Applicants should have a Bachelors Degree with first or upper second-class honours in Fine Art; or a Bachelors Degree with a major in Fine Art with a GPA or 3.50 or above; or evidence of equivalent achievement. In the case of an outstanding portfolio, a Bachelors Degree with a lower second class/2.2 honours/GPA of 3.0 may be accepted.

### Applying for the MFA/MA in Art & Ecology

To view a list of required application materials and apply for the MFA/MA in Art & Ecology, please visit our website: [www.burrencollege.ie](http://www.burrencollege.ie).

### Programme Description (all modules are core)

Module Title	ECTS*
<b>Year 1, Semester 1</b>	
Studio Research 1: Creative Strategies	10
Theory and Art & Ecology 1: Land-based Art	5
Studio Methodologies 1: Materiality and the Land	10
Environmental Studies 1: Ecosystem Science	5
<b>Year 1, Semester 2</b>	
Studio Research 2: Refinement and Coherence of Enquiry and Practice	10
Theory and Art & Ecology 2: Socially Engaged Practice	5
Studio Methodologies 2: Relating Art & Ecology – Individual Responses to Issues in the Burren	10
Environmental Studies 2: Ecology in the Burren	5
<b>Year 1, Semester 3, Summer Term, For MA in Art &amp; Ecology only</b>	
Studio Research Project: The MA Exhibition A studio-based, independent studies module for students seeking to graduate with the award of MA in Art & Ecology. Students develop a body of work for exhibition supported by a written Artist's Statement.	30
<b>Total for MA in Art &amp; Ecology</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Year 2, Semester 3</b>	
Studio Research 3: Preparing an Exhibition	5
Theory and Art & Ecology 3: Essay	5
Studio Methodologies 3: Collaborative Project	10
Environmental Studies 3: The Global Conversation	5
Professional Studies	5
<b>Year 2, Semester 4</b>	
Studio Research 4: The MFA Exhibition	15
Studio Methodologies 4: Collaborative Project 2	15
<b>Total for MFA in Art &amp; Ecology</b>	<b>120</b>

\*European Credit Transfer Accumulation System





John Freeman, 'Miscarried', Video Still



“The MFA course is rigorous and the studio research expectations are very high. The invaluable one on one interaction with faculty truly makes for quite an amazing and unique experience. After successful completion of the program I gained a greater understanding of myself and my standing as an artist.”

John Freeman, MFA

## Post Baccalaureate (Higher Diploma in Fine Art)

The Higher Diploma in Fine Art is the equivalent to the Post Baccalaureate in the United States, and is known informally as the “Post Bac.” This one-year course assists you to find your voice as an artist and prepares you for application to and potential enrollment in an MFA programme. The Post Bac is also applicable for students who have a degree in a subject other than fine art and who wish to transfer onto a fine art educational track by progressing to an MFA programme.

As a student who is in the process of finding your artistic identity, the Post Bac facilitates the development of your voice and studio practice through individually negotiated independent study. As a Post-Bac student you will produce a final exhibition, the quality of which will demonstrate your understanding of fine art practice at the graduate level. You will develop and deepen your understanding of the critical discourse informing contemporary art and be prepared for the next stage of your artistic development.

### Course Structure

Studio Practice and Critique is at the core of the programme, taking the form of negotiated projects for independent study that also involve portfolio preparation and career planning. Studio Courses provide teaching in a choice of disciplines where

you work alongside undergraduate students. Historical and Critical Studies examines key concepts in modern and contemporary art to assist you to contextualise your emerging art practice. The Burren: Culture and Environment introduces you to a wide range of environmental and cultural studies in the west of Ireland, ranging from natural history and geology through archaeology to modern history (one semester only). You will also visit galleries and museums in Dublin with optional visits to London and Berlin.

### Post Bac Admissions

Applicants should normally have a Primary Degree (at National Framework of Qualifications level 7 or 8). A Major in fine art is not required for this programme. Exceptions to the degree requirement may be considered in the case of applicants with sufficient proven professional experience. All eligible applicants are interviewed either in person or by phone.

### Applying for the Post Bac

To view a list of required application materials and apply for the Post Bac, please visit our website:  
[www.burrencollege.ie](http://www.burrencollege.ie)

Module Title	STATUS	ECTS
Year 1, Semester 1		
Studio Practice and Critique 1 (Independent Study)	Core	20
Studio Practice and Critique 2 (Taught)	Core	5
Historical and Critical Studies 1, Introduction	Core	5
Year 1, Semester 2		
Studio Practice and Critique 3 (Independent Study)	Core	20
Studio Practice and Critique 4 (Taught)	Core	5
Studio Practice and Critique 5 (Taught)	Optional	5
The Burren: Culture and Environment	Optional	5
<b>Total, maximum</b>		<b>60</b>

Collette Egan, Walking Drawings Series



“The ideas-based MFA at Burren College of Art encouraged me to rigorously defend myself as a painter. During the program my enquiry as a painter was intense. I developed a stance and a voice, which I am now channelling into professional art criticism and my activities as a curator.”

Simon Bayliss, MFA







Simon Bayliss, 'Wanderer'

## Admissions

Application forms for all our programmes are available online at [www.burrencollege.ie](http://www.burrencollege.ie), as well as information on our application requirements, deadlines and fees.

Should you require further information or wish to discuss your application with us, please contact Anna Downes, Director of Marketing & Admissions on [admissions@burrencollege.ie](mailto:admissions@burrencollege.ie) or by calling +353 65 707 7200.

We look forward to hearing from you.

### Financial Aid for Graduate Students

Aid is available to graduate students through part-scholarships. All successful applicants are invited to apply following their offer of a place on any of our graduate programmes. Further details are available on our website: [www.burrencollege.ie](http://www.burrencollege.ie)

### Acknowledgements

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### Burren College of Art

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