Art and Public Sculpture in Liverpool

(CEPD943) 5 credit module (equivalent to 2.5 ECTS)

1. Module Leader

Julie Robson

Biography. Tutor in Art and Architecture at the University of Liverpool, Continuing Education. Freelance art historian, gallery educator and lecturer since 1992, I studied Art History and English Literature at the University of Nottingham, Masters Degree in Contemporary Art at University of Liverpool and have been contributing to the International Summer School since its beginning.

2. Module Description

This course provides an introduction to the wide range of public sculpture and art collections in Liverpool and its role in marketing the city as a tourist destination and gaining World Heritage Site inscription. The wide range of the city’s sculpture will be explored through walking tours, and will include historic monuments and memorials, architectural commissions and modern site specific works. The collections of public art in the city’s galleries and museums will also be examined and students will be able to examine the different materials and processes involved in creating sculpture, and to discuss issues and debates surrounding the patronage, creation and conservation of public art.

3. Module Aims

This module aims to:
• To develop confidence in understanding and communicating complex ideas
• To develop skills in research, collaborative learning and producing and delivering presentations.
• To examine the public art of Liverpool in its historical, social and architectural context and to assess its contribution to the redevelopment of the city through tourism

4. Content

The following topics will be considered on the module:
• Context: social and historical background
• The city’s art collections along with museological aspects such as display, interpretation and presentation.
• materials and processes involved in making art along with their maintenance and conservation
• The role of art in Liverpool’s redevelopment and tourism including its contribution to the city’s World Heritage Site status

5. Module structure

The module will be delivered over a three-week period in six two hour sessions (four hours per week, total 12 hours contact time).
The course will be divided into theoretical and practice based sessions. Group discussion and sharing of knowledge is integral to the course. Each classroom session will begin with an interactive slide-presentation, followed by group discussion and workshop. We will also make several visits to locations around the city, usually in the form of walking tours and gallery workshops. Students should indicate whether they require assistance for these walks and should also wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

6. Teaching methods

The teaching approach will include the following:
- Taught sessions
- Small group working
- Group discussions
- Presentations
- Workshops
- Site visits to galleries and public art in the city

7. Assessment:

Assessment will be by:
- Group presentation (worth 25% of the overall mark)
- Written essay/reflection of 750-850 words (worth 75% of the overall mark)

Standard University policies apply with regard to late submission of assessments. There is no re-assessment opportunity.

8. Course structure:

The course will be interactive in nature, with the sessions highly focused on understanding, interpretation and expression: encouraging students to put theory into practice throughout.

The Indicative schedule is as follows:

**Session One:**
_**Introduction to Public Art and the Collections of Liverpool:**_
This opening session will examine the historical origins of Liverpool’s extensive art collections and public works, in particular the ‘Merchants’ Palaces’ and the city’s monuments and memorials to its worthies and heroes. We will discuss some of the issues and debates surrounding art in the public realm, such as planning, patronage and consultation.

**Session Two:**
_**Hope Street Walk**_
This session will examine the relationship between sculpture and architecture focusing on works in the two cathedrals and site specific sculptures of Hope Street. The session will conclude at the Anglican Cathedral where we will examine the architectural sculptures of Edward Carter Preston along with devotional works created by Arthur Dooley, Elizabeth Frink and Tracy Emin. There will be a particular focus on materials and processes employed by modern artists.

**Session Three:**
_**A City Walk**_
This session will begin with a walk down to the Culture Quarter, looking at some of the monuments, memorials and architectural sculptures discussed last week. We will discuss projects recently carried out by The Conservation Centre and issues concerning the situation of works in public spaces. The tour will conclude with a workshop at the Walker Art Gallery.

**Session Four: The Walker Art Gallery**
The Walker Art Gallery has a wide range of works from Classical sculptures to contemporary installations. The permanent displays include the Ince Blundell Collection; neo-classical works by John Gibson and George Frampton; Italian Renaissance painting; and modern masters such as Auguste Rodin, Edgar Degas and Claude Monet. We will discuss the gallery’s marketing strategies and its role in the city’s tourist industry.

**Session Five: The University Precinct and Victoria Gallery and Museum**
The University has fine examples of architectural sculptures on campus and inside some of the faculty buildings. This session will take a short tour of the Precinct before spending the second part of the session exploring the exhibitions and permanent displays of the Victoria Gallery and Museum.

**Session Six: Presentations and Synthesis**
We will use this concluding session to review and reflect on public art in Liverpool. Students will deliver a group presentation on a work of art as part of their assessment. (Details will be provided in Session One)

9. **Learning outcomes**

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

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<th>Learning outcome</th>
<th>Assessment component which assesses this learning outcome</th>
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<tr>
<td>Develop confidence in understanding and communicating complex ideas in written and spoken language</td>
<td>Written essay/reflection Group presentation</td>
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<td>Research a topic and work collaboratively to produce a written essay/reflection and a group presentation</td>
<td>Written essay/reflection Group presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrate a basic awareness of the skills and knowledge required to plan, deliver and reflect on the contribution of public art to the regeneration of a city</td>
<td>Written essay/reflection Group presentation</td>
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10. Skills

Key skills that will be developed:

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<th>Skill</th>
<th>How this skill is developed</th>
<th>Mode of assessment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Collaboration</td>
<td>Group discussions, activities and tasks in class</td>
<td>Group presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Orally in group discussions, activities and tasks in class, in writing by production of assessed assignment</td>
<td>Written essay/reflection</td>
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<td>Classroom Management</td>
<td>Practice and micro-teaching within the sessions</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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11. Books, ebooks and websites:

The University Website at [www.liv.ac.uk/library](http://www.liv.ac.uk/library) provides access to many relevant books and electronic books, as well as academic journals and databases.

Recommended Pre-Course Reading


Curtis, Penelope, *Patronage & practice: sculpture on Merseyside*, Tate Gallery Liverpool 1989


All three of these books are excellent introductions to 60s Culture and Liverpool, but it is not necessary or required to read all of them. We would recommend choosing and reading one, or at least dipping into the chapters of particular interest to you.

We may also assign readings from these books as preparatory work during the course.

If you are not familiar with the English grammatical system, it would be advisable to also buy or borrow a good grammar reference book and/or a learner’s dictionary.

Examples include:


Core Texts

Curtis, Penelope, *Patronage & practice: sculpture on Merseyside*, Tate Gallery Liverpool 1989

Sharples, Joseph, *Liverpool*, University Press, 2004

**Useful Websites**

http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/walker/

http://www.liverpoolmonuments.co.uk/sculpture/sculptures.html

www.artinliverpool.com