

MA Summer Task

Welcome to the Postgraduate Centre and the 10 Masters programmes at Arts University Plymouth.

We have created two small preparatory tasks for you to complete to introduce and explore some of the key themes that you will encounter on your MA programme. These tasks will be discussed and shared as part of the induction sessions on the Monday of Welcome Week.

These activities are intended to prepare you to think about your creative practice as a postgraduate research project. See it as a warm up that will allow you to hit the ground running when you start the course. It will also give you a taster in how seminars are run and your research shared amongst your peers.

The Tasks:

1. Investigating brilliance

Identify an artwork, design, craft artefact, a photograph or other creative product or pedagogical process that inspires you because of its brilliance. In a sketchbook or on a digital document, annotate an image of this work, describe what this is, making note of the details, especially:

- a) features and form - use of colour, shape, material, composition, plan etc.
- b) display - how does the work meet an audience?
- c) how the work is made?

Prepare this annotated image or description so that you will be in a position to talk through it with a small group of your peers, using it as a guide to identify the details that you feel make this work so successful. We will share these with the group for a few minutes each.

If possible, have a digital or physical version ready to share.

2. Creative Practice as Research

In preparation for your first session read this linked essay by Tim Ingold, which discusses art as a form of research. Make notes of your thoughts and some possible

questions in relation to his text to share in the session:

Author	Date	Title	Link
Ingold, T	2018	<i>Anthropology Between Art and Science: An Essay on the Meaning of Research</i>	http://field-journal.com/issue-11/anthropology-between-art-and-science-an-essay-on-the-meaning-of-research

Don't worry if you find the text a little unwieldy, that is fine! At this stage it's just about looking at ideas, and the task is intended to prompt questions which we can address together as a group when your programme begins. Make notes on what you understand, and what also is less clear. This is how you would approach any text at this level, and this task is a useful starting point for discussing your approach to your discipline and how you can begin to put your practice into a broader context.