

OUR EXPERTS



BOOK A TALK

Our teaching staff are made up of academics and technicians who are professionals in their own fields and have inspirational career backgrounds across a variety of creative disciplines.

In this booklet, we have included examples of a handful of our incredibly talented artists, designers and creative practitioners who you can book for bespoke talks, with specialisms including film, photography, graphic design, illustration, fashion, textiles, glass, fine art and so much more.

These talks will give your students the chance to hear real-world accounts of what it is like to work in the creative industries. This is a great opportunity for students of various ages who are interested in finding out more about creative career paths subject choices and would like to ask questions about what it takes to succeed in the creative industries.

To book a talk or to discuss other ways that we could work together, please contact us at schools@aup.ac.uk



PROFESSOR STEPHEN FELMINGHAM
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

Drawing
Painting
Contemporary art
Postgraduate

Professor Stephen Felmingham is an artist and educator and has lectured extensively in drawing, painting, print and contemporary art practice on undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across the UK, including Falmouth University, Norwich University of the Arts and Leeds Arts University. He studied at Middlesex University and the University of the Arts London (Wimbledon) where he completed an MA in Drawing in 1999. He gained his doctorate from the University of Leeds in 2014 reading drawing, place and the contemporary sublime. He was nominated a member of the LAND2 Research Network in 2009, was shortlisted for the Jerwood Drawing Prize in the same year and was a finalist in the Celeste Art Prize, New York, in 2010. He speaks regularly both on drawing and art and design pedagogy and his work is represented in collections nationally and internationally and he has exhibited widely in the UK and in Europe.


MEL BROWN

Principal Lecturer & Assistant Dean,
BA (Hons) Illustration,
BA (Hons) Graphic Design

Graphic design
Illustration
Printmaking
Collaboration

Mel's skills and experience are consolidated in her role as Principal Lecturer on the BA (Hons) Illustration and BA (Hons) Graphic Design programmes at Arts University Plymouth, having long since decided that working alongside the next generation of Illustrators & Image-makers was exactly where she wanted to be.

While studying in Bath for her BA (Hons) in Graphic Design and MA in Visual Culture, Mel became obsessed with discarded books, abandoned photographs and seemingly random pieces of ephemera, and a recurring theme in her own practice is the exploration of juxtaposition to transform the use, meaning and interpretation of the things she finds. One of the co-founders and members of Bread & Butter – a Bath & Bristol based collective of Artists, Illustrators, Printmakers & Ceramicists working together to promote and exhibit their work - the power and potential of the collective and creative collaboration has remained an interest ever since.

In 2025 Mel was named as a National Teaching Fellow by Advance HE. The National Teaching Fellowship Scheme (NTFS) recognises individuals who transform student outcomes and champion innovation across higher education, and is the UK's most prestigious award for teaching excellence.


CATHRYN BISHOP

Senior Lecturer and Course Leader
BA (Hons) Interior Design & Styling

Interior design
Establishing a business
Print
Textiles

Cathryn Bishop, the founder and Director of Cornish Interiors, has designed boutique hotels, restaurants and private residences all over the world, as well as working with the National Trust and designing interiors for Plymouth landmarks such as The Glassblowing House and St Elizabeth's House. With over 15 years experience working in the industry, Cathryn established Cornish Interiors in 2003, specialising in interior design and project management of any size and style of interior. She is currently working on projects in New York, Barbados, the Channel Islands and across the UK, with budgets ranging from £75,000 to several millions of pounds.

**MICHAEL FORD**

Lecturer, BA (Hons) Animation & Games

Film and Television
Animation
Visual effects

Michael Ford graduated from the University of South Wales in 2005 with a BA Honours in Animation. Upon graduating, he started work at a VFX facility in Soho, London, as a 3D Animator, working on films, television series, advertising and games. For 13 years Michael has worked on various projects for major studios and clients, as well as small niche productions, either in pre-production or post-production. His list of animation credits includes *Guardians of the Galaxy* (2014), *Fantastic Four* (2015), *The Lego Ninjago Movie* and *The Lego Batman Movie* (2017), *300: Rise of an Empire* (2014), *Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time* (2010), and the TV series *Primeval* (2008-2009). Michael's list of visual effects credits includes *Aladdin* (2019), *Men in Black: International* (2019) and *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom* (2018)

**HEATHER MARTIN**Senior Lecturer and Course Leader
BA (Hons) Fashion Design, and
MA Subject Tutor

Fashion
Textiles
Establishing a business

Heather Martin relocated to the UK from the west coast of Canada to begin postgraduate study with the Glasgow School of Art where she completed a Masters of Research in Design Innovation. In Canada she worked under her own conceptually driven internationally recognised fashion label MONO and comes from a background in education, leading fashion and product design courses at both Emily Carr University and Vancouver Community College. UN-MAKE & RE-CLOTHE is a new practice-based research project for Heather's design firm MONO. It pilots investigations using the constraints of circular economy design ideologies, to generate insight into how design can innovate future capabilities and systems within fashion design.


GAYLE MATTHIAS

Senior Lecturer and Course Leader
BA (Hons) Craft & Material Practices

Crafts
Design
Exhibiting work

Gayle is a practising artist, educator and researcher. Having exhibited nationally and internationally, Gayle has work in the permanent collections of the V&A, Musée de Vienne, Glazenhuys and Ebeltoft Museum of Glass amongst others. Previously, Gayle has worked in the Gallery Education Department at the Crafts Council; she has also been an artist in residence at Bullseye Glass in the USA. Examples of her work can be found in many glass publications. Gayle has worked in a wide variety of kiln-formed glass techniques for over twenty years. She recently presented a paper at the Ireland Glass Biennale 2020 and 'S-O-T Body Repairs: Narrative Pursuits' was published in Arts Journal in 2019. Previously, Gayle was engaged in collaborative research with Tavs Jorgensen, investigating Rapid Tooling for glass casting moulds combined with digital technologies. She is the co-author of papers presented at the GAS conference in Chicago 2014, 'Making Futures' conference in Plymouth, UK (2013), and 'Towards a New Ceramic Future', research presentation at V&A, UK (2012), and is a member of the International 'Glass Virus' think tank.


KIRSTY SMITH

Senior Lecturer & Course Leader for
BA (Hons) Fashion Media & Marketing

Fashion
Photography
Advertising

Kirsty Smith is an experienced Fashion Photographer with an outstanding history of working in the photography industry, Kirsty is skilled in Photography, Creative Direction, Production and Adobe Creative Suite. Working within extreme sports and sportswear, photographer Kirsty has a strong reputation in both editorial and advertising. Over the past fifteen years, Kirsty has shot for clients including Bespokeasia PR, Nike, DC, Adidas, Vans, Quiksilver, Billabong, Element, WeSC, Etnies, Oakley, Harvey Nichols, Calvin Klein, La Perla, Sands Resort, Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, The BBC and Vauxhall.



To book a talk with any of the academics profiled within this booklet, or to discuss other opportunities to collaborate, please contact us at **schools@aup.ac.uk**

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