



Bachelor of Fine Arts

BFA

Why a BFA?

Create, explore, disrupt.

Discover sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, installation and painting and unravel a world of limitless expression and creativity where your hands and mind are your toolkit. At Elam, you will hone your identity and explore the ways it can be expressed. Push the boundaries of your thinking, expand your craft, and begin creating a world you can see yourself in.

Career possibilities

Our graduates have constructed scenes as cinematographers and set and prop designers, they're curators and art auction specialists, they provide voices for creative spaces as critics and journalists and bring glamour to the forefront as fashion designers and stylists. Become an agent of change here in Aotearoa New Zealand and across the globe.

"During my studies I put a post-it note at the back of my mind about the potential of working as both an artist and a teacher. It seemed like an option that would support my growth exponentially.

"I enjoy exposing students to new and different models of practice. The tertiary environment offers all kinds of possibilities and so I'm invested helping students recalibrate accordingly. Consistently, I find Fine Arts students often go the extra mile for their work – it's part of wanting to make work with impact."

SHANNON TE AO

Ngāti Tūwharetoa

Artist and Lecturer, Whiti o Rehua School of Art, Massey University

Graduate: Bachelor of Fine Arts

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Hons)

Grad Dip in Teaching (Secondary)

"Students focus on making art while participating in small group discussions to refine their projects. They develop insight into art's power to foster dialogue and contribute to societal and environmental change.

"I'm passionate about helping you deepen your practice through experimentation and self-discovery. I provide methods and histories that connect people, archives and places, energising their creative work."

ALEX MONTEITH
Associate Professor

Top: Kato'one Koloamatangi, *To Pa*, 2023, Installation view, Bachelor of Fine Arts

Far left: Grace Carter-Knight, *Lucilia sericata* from *Pin Cushion*, 2023, Bachelor of Fine Arts



Discover both practical and theoretical elements! You will explore a variety of different art media and practices in your first year, which will help to inform your choice of specialisation in second and third year. Work alongside leading artists and researchers as you diversify your skillset in workshops, labs, and studios where you will develop your skills in critical thinking and collaboration.



STAGE 1 COURSE*

FINEARTS 110 – Introduction to Fine Arts Technologies

Introduces students to a range of technical workshops and skills for artistic practice. Students will develop a set of technical competencies and build their capacity to think through making. Students will be inducted into best workshop practice, whakaute, health and safety protocols, and be assessed as safe workshop users while working under direct supervision.

STAGE 2 COURSE*

FINEARTS 223 – Printed Matter: Publication

Introduces students to print publication as a site of contemporary practice exploring ways in which artists, designers, and activists have made use of the printed form as a social medium. Students will experiment with the format and materiality of printed media, and the experience of viewing, through the production of self-published works such as artist's books, posters, and zines. Technical workshops will develop skills in digital and handmade print and production methods.

STAGE 3 COURSE*

FINEARTS 320 – Creative Methods for Studio Practice

Explores methods for studio practice through an introduction to different approaches for making and thinking creatively. Methods are drawn from the visual arts as well as examples located in poetic, embodied and philosophical orientations to the world. Students apply these in relation to their artistic practice, as well as experiment with developing their own working methods.



Get excited about your course options:

- Embodiment, Identity and Agency: Art and the Self
- Ideas and Contexts for Creative Practice
- Image, Object and Materiality: What is an Image?
- Indigeneity and Culture: Power and Place



Available conjoints:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Science

**Course availability may be subject to change. For a full list of courses and up-to-date information visit our website. Published June 2025.*

“At Elam you're constantly surrounded by a diverse range of people, and with that comes a diverse range of ideas. Through conversations in the community here, you're made aware of different concepts, artists, and resources that inform your work in ways you couldn't have imagined otherwise.”

AUDREY GOGGIN
Student: Bachelor of Fine Arts

