



# Bachelor of Fine Arts

# BFA



## Why a BFA?

### Create, explore, disrupt.

Discover painting, photography, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, filmmaking, installation and unravel a world of limitless expression and creativity where your hands and imagination are your toolkit. Engage with concepts, materials and methods of making that are indigenous to Aotearoa. At Elam, push the boundaries of your creative thinking, expand your craft, and create a world you can identify with.

## Career possibilities

Our graduates are award-winning contemporary artists, curators in museums and public art galleries, educators and art critics, filmmakers and set designers. As gallerists and arts administrators they offer essential support to our creative communities, and bring glamour to industry 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 range of different media and studio methods in your first year, which will help to inform your specialisations in second and third year. Work alongside leading artists and researchers as you diversify your skillset in studios, workshops, and computer labs where you will develop your skills in art practice, critical thinking and collaboration.



*The course prescriptions below are three examples from a wide range of courses offered in the BFA degree.*

#### STAGE 1 COURSE\*

##### FINEARTS 111 – Fine Arts Studio I

Through a series of three short studio-based projects, students will be introduced to key concepts and practices of painting, sculpture and conceptual practice. Emphasises the acquisition of skills in conceptual thinking and the development of ideas, using a range of approaches to the making and presentation of artworks. Aspects of mātauranga Māori and its relationship to artmaking will also be introduced.

#### STAGE 2 COURSE\*

##### FINEARTS 242 – Contemporary Practices: Image and Materiality

Addresses image-making in a digital world. Explores the relation between the fabrication of individual images and their circulation through mass media using different mediums. Reflection on the different ways artists might embrace or subvert the profusion of internet imagery.

#### STAGE 3 COURSE\*

##### FINEARTS 321 – Fine Arts Studio 3: Capstone Project

A major studio art project that demonstrates an advanced level of practical, independent, inventive, and conceptual enquiry. Students will engage in research and studio investigation using tools, technologies, and methods appropriate to their chosen field or fields of enquiry.



#### Get excited about your course options:

- Indigeneity and Culture: Power and Place
- Systems, Ecologies and Environments:  
Art in the Anthropocene
- Embodiment, Identity and Agency: Art and the Self
- Technology and Material Futures: World-making



#### 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 May 2026.*

“What appealed to me about Fine Art at Elam was the openness and scope of what you can do. Elam offers so many new media I had never tried before, like printmaking, as well as photography, painting, and so much more.”

STELLA BARRY  
Student: Bachelor of Fine Arts

