

The University for the Creative Arts Partnership

The University for the Creative Arts greatly values the support it provides to the Rising Stars Programme, by giving students and recent graduates, from across the country, the opportunity to meet while developing their confidence and knowledge in preparation for their future careers. Working alongside the New Ashgate Trust, the programme creates a professional atmosphere and a continually developing content to educate those starting out in the Arts and Crafts industry.

The University for the Creative Arts has courses from Foundation, Access, Undergraduate to Postgraduate and PhD levels covering a wide range of Creative Arts Practices. The Rising Stars Programme is suitable for students working in crafts, fine arts and applied arts at all levels.

The Rising Stars Programme includes a symposium, workshops and a selected exhibition. The symposium, held at the University for the Creative Arts, is for all exhibitors and recent graduates and students that wish to build upon their knowledge and skills. Over the past few years there have been some wonderful lectures on business planning, tax issues, applying to galleries, creative programmes for development, insurance requirements, local council opportunities and much more.

All attendees have valued the information given by the speakers, many of which are high profile in their area of expertise. Lectures have always been up to date, touching on current issues and concerns. The speakers have given the audience details and information which is not always readily available.

The Rising Stars Exhibition is a fabulous experience for students and recent graduates; applicants apply with a short statement and images of current work. The selection process is tough, but allows the gallery to exhibit new, innovative and well-crafted work from practitioners of the future. Those who are lucky to get selected for the exhibition can see their work showcased within a gallery setting. A private view allows visitors to see the work and meet some of the makers and artists in a relaxed setting of the New Ashgate Gallery.

An exhibition in print contains images and information of each artist exhibited with articles to help new and developing small creative practices. This catalogue allows visitors to remember the event and information collected as well as keep a reference for the future of some beautiful work.

This year the exhibitors have been invited to participate in a professional practice workshop. The aim will be to encourage them to think about how they promote themselves and how to develop and push their current collections.

The University for the Creative Arts will continue to work with the New Ashgate Trust on this fantastic programme that grows in popularity each year, with the aim of providing students with every opportunity possible to grow and develop their careers in the direction they wish.

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