

**Stage 1:** Exploratory

**Project Title:**

The Square Route; 64 Drawings.

Summer Induction 2026

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**Units:**

**Unit 2** - (A/601/4198) – Recording and responding in art, design and media.

**Unit 3** - (K/601/4200) – Experimentation with materials and processes in art, design and media.

**Scenario:**

The square is a dominant design format. Beloved of Instagram, familiar to vinyl lovers and highly apparent in Victorian ceramic tile designs. A square format offers a distinct compositional challenge; favoured by Dutch abstract painters; (see Jan Riske and Jan J. Schoonhoven and also found in the decorative landscapes of Gustav Klimt).

The key ethos to **The Exploratory Phase (the first part of the course)** is that new approaches in thinking, making and reflecting – are embraced; to assist the development of the project set out below we also suggest you acquire a copy of 'Drawing from Life- The Journal as Art' by Jennifer New. Published by the Princeton Architectural Press.

This summer brief requires you to record a series of journeys and experiences in a square format.

- This is not a project that looks inward dealing in self and identity
- This is a project that deals in experiencing and recording the world around you
- This project asks you to think about the way in which you record sensations and responses to things seen, felt, touched, heard, tasted and experienced.
- This project, in order that it is absolutely inclusive, does not require representational drawing or complex technology, all you need is black ink pens and paper.

**Practice – A Summer Diary of Observation and Experience**

Over the Summer, (if we define this as the months of June and July, then add a couple of days in Early September)- this gives us a nice square number. July and August both have 31 days, plus two days in September equals 64 days.

Therefore, this summer please make **64 8cm square drawings**, using the following directions and stimuli, overleaf.

- In order that the drawings made can create a collaborative piece, on joining the course in the autumn, please make each drawing 8cm by 8cm
- Please make each drawing in black and white. (ball point pen, dip pen, black and white collage; material either found or created).
- In terms of mark-making, think stipple, cross-hatch, flat tone, graduated tone, continuous or broken line
- Please follow this guidance carefully, as a working creative practitioner a key lesson is to work with the design parameters set by the brief.



(left) Untitled drawing, Cornelius Guillame. 1962

### **Stimuli- create 64 drawings inspired by the following**

- Textures and patterns found in your daily life.
- Recordings of typographical elements found within a five-minute walk from your home address.
- Drawings Inspired by nature and geometry in your locality
- Weather conditions
- Non-figurative drawings that reflect mood, ambient sound, even scraps of conversation heard within your environment,

- Investigate examples of automatic drawing to inform your work.
- Draw the sky, the ground, the horizon and whatever is under your feet

### **Mindfulness**

Be open minded, about the creation of this series of drawings, try to break your creative habits, if you find yourself making work that feels just like something you did before, change the materials and approach, hold the pen in a new way. Be brave and don't fear failure. Don't think, I don't want to work using these parameters, or ideas, as a creative individual your role is to interpret and re-define.

### **Evidence Required for Submission –**

- **A series of 64 square 8cm x 8cm drawings in black and white exploring composition, contrast, texture, collage, letter and diagrammatic forms juxtaposing the various stimuli suggested above.**

**Assessment Criteria;** (Unit components to be addressed, note this initial project does not cover all unit criteria)

### **Unit 2 - Recording and responding in art, design and media.**

#### 1. Develop skills in the use of visual language for recording and responding

- 1.1 Select appropriate visual language to record topics/subjects/areas/themes.
- 1.2 Plan and carry out thorough and wide-ranging recording from a broad range of given contexts.
- 1.3 Utilise a range of processes to record visual responses.
- 1.4 Demonstrate the ability to challenge preconceptions.
- 1.6 Demonstrate the ability to use recording and responding in support of creative activity.

### **Unit 3 - Experiment with materials and processes.**

#### 1.Experiment with materials and processes

- 1.1 Identify the characteristics and uses of a wide range of materials and processes
- 1.2 Carry out wide ranging experimentation with traditional and more unusual materials and processes
- 1.3 Utilise a range of processes to record materials and processes explorations
- 1.4 Demonstrate the ability to challenge preconceptions.