



Jane Weinmann, *The Climacteric* 2021

OCA Photography Spring bulletin 2023

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Dear students,

We hope you are well. This Spring 2023 bulletin has opportunities, events, groups, news, dates and more... There's lots going on and we hope this can help signpost you to key dates, information and support with ways to get involved and feedback. Enjoy your studies!

Best wishes, Dan & Photography team



Dr. Dan Robinson,
program leader

EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES

New Blood

Congratulations to **Anna Sellen** who is one of three OCA nominees for the [New Blood Emerging Artists Prize](#).

Source.ie

Prize for New Writing About

Photography. Applications close on 1 August at 5.30 pm. The winning entry will receive £500/€570 and Source will either publish it or commission the winner to write an article for us in the future. All short listed entries will also be considered for publication or for future paid commissions. There is no fee to submit. Further info at: <https://www.source.ie/writingprize2023/>.

Five current Photography degree final year students are also putting together our

Source BAPH OCA online show 2023

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

We recently changed the title of the 'Tutor Led Group Work' area of extra curricular events listings on OCA Learn to be called '[Photography Department Events](#)'. This change aligns this area to the Student Led Events space, and hopes to make it stand out more effectively on your courses dashboard. It does not affect any other areas or events listings. The [Student-Led Events area](#) title remains unchanged. We hope you find this change beneficial, any concerns or queries, please let me know.

Spaces are still available for our extra curricular events in the Photography Department over the coming few months. It would be great if you wanted to attend or tune in to any or all of them! To access the links below for more information and reservations, please make sure you are logged into OCA Learn already in your web browser. All times are UK:

[How to be a creative learner | Weds 17 May 2023 | 18:00](#) | 'How to reflect' with Andrea Norrington

[Photo Assessment support \(1\) | 22 May 2023 | 12:15-12:50](#) and [24 May 2023 | 16:00 - 16:35](#) Drop in sessions, all welcome, for friendly informal PL/PT support.

[Monthly PL open door | Monday 05 June 2023 | 16:15-16:50](#) | informal open Q&A session about studies with PL Dan Robinson

[Reading Group: 'Editing, Presentation, Evaluation' | Mon 19 June 2023 | 18:30-19:30](#) | Informal sessions looking at core reading list texts at stages 1 and 2, bring a cuppa!

[Understanding and using light | Tues 27 June | 18:30](#) | informal session with Derek Trillo

[How to be a creative learner | Weds 12 July | 18:00](#) | 'How to progress' with Andrea Norrington

Thanks to all student involved in helping support [Student-Led Events](#), many of which are listed on the [Student-led activity padlet](#)

FEATURED STUDENT GROUP

A student-led initiative with gathering momentum is **Photography Social Group** — gatherings happen every second Wednesday of each month. To add this event as a monthly reminder to your personal calendar please Click this link [Student Led Events](#) to access the calendar (you will need to be logged into OCA Learn) The event will appear as '6:30pm PH: Photography' on the calendar. Click on that event and then click on "Copy to my calendar"... for more information on this and future sessions as well as recordings of past sessions and organiser contacts please visit the group's padlet [Photography Social Group Padlet](#)



Allan O'Neil. *Untitled*, 2017

TUTOR NEWS

Congratulations to **Helen Warburton** who is taking a 12 month unpaid sabbatical as Programming and Partnerships Manager at National Trust. 🙌 Helen will lead NT arts and culture programming based at the Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal UNESCO World Heritage site in North Yorkshire, taking a break from OCA role from 23/05/23 for 12 months. It's a great opportunity for Helen (and the department) to learn from her external role commissioning art and site-specific residencies. Thanks to Helen and Les Monaghan for carefully managing handover of Helen's students at stage 1.

Thanks to **Dr. Ariadne Xenou** for ongoing support at stage 3. Ariadne will be scaling back to 1 day/week from the end of June. Ariadne remains unit lead for stage 3 units. Dan as program leader will share Stage 3 management with Ariadne and we are increasing specialist tutor involvement. We are also in early stages of developing alumni involvement via group sessions.

Team teaching in new model

We are introducing tutor groups in some stage 1 and 2 units to help continuity of tutor support. Thanks for ongoing feedback and patience as new model systems bed in. Students are being updated via unit level announcements about tutor support, with chances to discuss and feedback at unit and stage level meets. [OCA Tuition policy](#) is on OCA website



Blue Hammond. Expressing Your Vision
- Assignment 4: *Languages of Light*

ASSESSMENT TIMINGS

The recent 'Unit completed by'* cut off date for assessments was 12 May 2023 (see [Assessment Schedules](#)) Invites will be sent by 19th. Completing your unit by the cut off date triggers automatic inclusion in the next assessment (deadline for submission 2 June 2023). *'Completion' means submitting all assignments to your tutor, and having received all tutor feedback reports. The next unit cut off is 09 October 2023. Please

continue to use your assignment feedback tutorials to plan and agree assignment submission timings with tutors. The [student handbook](#) has a section on [planning and time management](#). See also [Assessment with The Open University Webinar Recap](#) where you can access a recorded Webinar and further details including [FAQs](#). Photography has 2 'drop in' [Assessment support surgeries](#) 22 & 24 May. See above.

OU TRANSFER

As OCA makes final preparations for [Transfer to OU](#), I am finding OU input very supportive and am reassured with the direction and longer term opportunities I see for collaboration. The [vision and values in OU's mission](#) are an interesting read. There is ongoing dialogue between OU and OCA student associations around future directions for institution-wide and course level student representation.

GRADUANDS!!

Huge congratulations to our photography students who will graduate following successful completion of the degree at Spring Assessment 2023: Judith Bach, Anna Sellen, Michele Usher and Nuala Mahon. An [OCA degree showcase](#) featuring work from the 22/23 cohort will follow.

COURSE ACTION PLAN (CAP) 22-23

Thanks to our photography student reps who fed into an annual Photography course action plan [here](#) detailing some ongoing improvements we're continuing to address aligned to institution wide OCA priorities for 22-23 (Automation, Efficiency, Reduction, Well-being)

CURRICULUM

The next new model units to go live are 2.3 'Digital Image and Visual Culture' (Summer) and 3.3 'Major Project' (Autumn)



Developer Arpita Shah, Photography Stage 2 unit, Ethics and Representation (OCA, 2022)

COURSE DOCUMENTATION

In our OCA Learn [Photography department](#) under 'Resources' (menu on the left), you can find these documents:

[BAPH Program Specification](#)

[BAPH Unit Descriptors](#)

COURSE STUDENT REPS

Our [photography student reps](#) has been meeting informally with staff supporting feedback and consultation in ongoing course improvement. We would now like to invite interest from potential reps at both stage 1 and stage 2 (new model), and / or with lived experience of equality, diversity and inclusion agendas. (contact Dan if interested).

SHORT COURSES

The next deadline to sign up for Photography related [short courses](#) is 17th May 2023. These can be used by existing students to extend learning, as a non-assessed element for a change of perspective, fill a study gap or gain confidence.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

15th – 21st May. [Link to OCASA info.](#)

Distance learning can be challenging but it doesn't have to be isolating, so please get in touch if you need some help. As part of OCA's learning community you can access a support network of tutors and staff who are there to look out for your wellbeing. OCA's Learner Support team are Mental Health First Aid trained, there is a [Mental Health and Wellbeing section of the Student Handbook](#), with access to the free OCA Wellbeing App.

END. THANKS FOR READING !