

## Decolonising Art History (Level 6)

Single Accredited Course - 5 Credits

**Duration:** 13 weeks

**Fee** €270

**Time:** 7.00-9.00pm / Mondays – Semester II

**Start date:** January 2021 (Date to be advised)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This module aims to provide learners with a critical introduction to the challenges posed by contemporary realities to the traditional art historical canon. Taking critical race theory as a starting point, the module will provide learners with an interdisciplinary approach to interpreting and evaluating key artworks. It will also explore the impact of critical race theory, post-colonialism and global history on the practices of art historiography and museum display.

The module will examine the role of race in contemporary visual art and culture, exploring how the field of art history is inextricably linked to theorising about 'race'. There will be a particular focus on the place of Irish art in the broader canon of Western art history, given Ireland's history of moving from a settler colony to a 'home country' of Empire, to independence – is Irish art really postcolonial? In exploring these questions, a foundation will be provided for learners in the specialist language and vocabulary of art history, and its methods of analysis and investigation to empower further study in the discipline. The module begins with an introduction to some of the key concepts and vocabulary necessary for engaging with art history. It will continue with an introduction to critical race theory, its impact on postcolonial studies and the 'global history' approach. The third section will focus on an engagement with key artworks, with an emphasis on the cultural contexts of art production, reception and display. The objective of the module is to develop independent research, writing, communication and presentation skills, and the focus of delivery will be to encourage active participation in critical discourse.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this module, the learner will/should be able to

Recognise key art works of the canon of art history from a range of art forms including painting, sculpture, and print, and appreciate works of art in the context of the prevalent ideas and historic events in which they were produced.

Understand and be able to use the language and methods of Art History.

Understand and be able to use the language and key concepts of Critical Race Theory.

Understand the important literature and learning resources of the discipline, and, through independent enquiry, using as wide a range of resources as possible, be cognizant of how and why the practice of art history is changing.

Write and present written critical reflections employing academic methods of research and citation.

### COURSE CONTENT

Introducing the History of Art

'Race' and history

Challenging artworks through time

### FURTHER INFORMATION

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### HOW TO APPLY

Application for the course is made direct to the Institute. Please contact [LLLMayo@gmit.ie](mailto:LLLMayo@gmit.ie) for an application form or download from our website [www.gmit.ie/llm](http://www.gmit.ie/llm).