



UCL Press Release

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For immediate release

Slade School of Fine Art celebrates 150th Anniversary

From Stanley Spencer and Chila Kumari Burman to Rachel Whiteread and Michael Armitage, Slade School of Fine Art has educated and trained generations of world-renowned artists since 1871.

This autumn, the Slade, which is the art school of the University College London (UCL), will celebrate 150 years of fine art teaching and research with a varied programme of events that reflect on the past, showcase the present, and look ahead to the future.

To mark the start of a year of celebrations, Slade is hosting an online event on **Monday 4 October** which will see the launch of the Slade One Fund, aimed at ensuring fair and equal access to, and participation in, art education.

There will also be an exclusive preview of the trailer for the Slade 150 documentary film, which will track key moments from the art school's history, highlighting transformations, firsts, and definitive moments along the way. Through interviews, archives, artworks, and filmography, the documentary will shed light on the Slade's present through the prism of the past, and look to the future, exploring its role at the vanguard of art research and education.

Celebrations will continue with a Slade 150 symposium series and public exhibitions in the UCL Octagon Gallery and the UCL Art Museum, where visitors will be able to see a specially produced time map of the names of all those who have studied or worked at the Slade since 1871 in a collaboration with UCL Culture called *Testing Ground*.

Print Pals: Then and Now is a limited-edition publication to mark the anniversary borne out of a collaboration between Slade and the National College of the Arts (NCA) in Pakistan at the height of the pandemic. It will be produced and printed in both London and Lahore and be available as an open access PDF available to download.

The anniversary will culminate in a landmark event in the summer of 2022. All the activities, along with the launch of the Slade One Fund, aim to provoke critical conversations around access, inclusion and the future of art education.

Slade's Director, Professor Kieren Reed, said:

'It is by reflecting on our multiple histories and learning from how these have informed the present that we can chart our course for the future. We hope that our 150th celebrations will involve the entire Slade community in this milestone year. This is also an opportunity to include the public and the whole arts sector, as well as students past, present and future, in the next chapter of Slade's story.'

Slade School of Fine Art at UCL was founded in 1871, following a bequest to the university from the lawyer and collector Felix Slade. It, has been a leader in fine art education ever

since, fostering innovative, interdisciplinary artistic and art research cultures, and welcoming students from all over the world.

By offering female students education on the same terms as men, the Slade set the stage for UCL to lead Britain in opening up university degrees to women. It has continued to innovate and influence throughout its history, transforming art education, research and practice nationally and internationally.

Follow #Slade150 on social media to keep up to date with all the Slade 150 anniversary year events. You can also register on the [Slade 150 website](#) to receive updates via email.

Notes to Editors

For more information or to interview Slade academic staff, current students or notable Slade alumni regarding the anniversary and art education, please contact:

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Photos with credits sent upon request.

Slade 150 Launch Event:

As well as the launch of the Slade One Fund and an exclusive showing of the trailer for the Slade 150 documentary film, the launch event will include keynotes from:

- Slade Director, Professor Kieren Reed
- UCL President & Provost, Dr Michael Spence
- Emeritus Professor of Fine Art, Phyllida Barlow
- Slade Alumnus, Alvaro Barrington
- Executive Dean, UCL Faculty of Arts & Humanities, Professor Stella Bruzzi FBA

[Follow this link for further details and to book.](#)

Exhibition: Testing Ground

To mark the 150th anniversary, the Slade will take over UCL Art Museum. *Testing Ground* features a wall dedicated to *ThanksToEveryoneForEverything*, a specially produced time map of all the names of those who have studied or worked at the Slade since 1871. It captures important events and initiatives, including the development of the studios and building. Jo Volley, Deputy Director Projects, has been working in the Slade archive collating the names for the project and has made many interesting and thought-provoking discoveries along the way. Jo remarks: "Looking through the registration cards, you get a sense of the young artist, relate to their aspirations and can see their achievements. It is a sort of mini history on the card." Jo studied at Slade 1972-1977 and in 1986 was appointed lecturer at the Slade. She is incredibly knowledgeable about the Slade, so was the perfect person to take on the project.

Testing Ground is a collaborative exhibition curated by Slade staff with UCL Culture, to reflect on and celebrate the Slade's unfolding collective narrative during and beyond this milestone year.

Please find further details on the [Slade 150 website](#).

Limited edition publication: *Print Pals: Then and Now*

In early 2021 at the height of the pandemic, the Printmaking staff and subject leads at the Slade and the [National College of the Arts \(NCA\)](#), Lahore, invited students from across both schools to apply to take part in a unique (lockdown) print collaboration. Students and staff from both institutions were invited to respond to the artwork created work, approaches to print making, the shared histories. The publication, *Print Pals: Here and Now* will be produced and printed in both Lahore and London in limited editions and with an open access PDF available to download online.

There will be an online event hosted by the Paul Mellon Centre to officially launch the publication in Autumn 2021 as part of the Slade 150 anniversary year.

For more information on this project, please see the [Slade website](#).

Slade alumni mentioned on page 1:

- [Stanley Spencer](#) is famous for multi-figure compositions such as in his large paintings for the Sandham Memorial Chapel and the Shipbuilding on the Clyde series.
- [Chila Kumari Burman](#) recently transformed the front of the Tate Britain into a celebration of bright lights for the Tate Britain Winter commission.
- [Rachel Whiteread](#) was the first woman to win the Turner Prize in 1993 and in 2001 her sculpture *Untitled* occupied the fourth plinth in Trafalgar square.
- [Michael Armitage](#) recently showed in *Paradise Edict* at the Royal Academy of Arts. His hanging canvases were also part of the *Piccadilly Art Takeover* this summer.

Slade links:

- [Slade website](#)
- [Slade archive](#)
- [Wikipedia](#)
- [UCL Special Collections](#)
- [UCL Art Museum](#)

Slade research:

- [Slade research homepage](#)
- [Research at the Slade](#)
- [UCL Art Futures](#)
- [Materials Research Project](#)
- [Environment, Ecology, Sustainability](#)

About UCL – London's Global University

UCL is a diverse community with the freedom to challenge and think differently.

Our community of more than 41,500 students from 150 countries and over 12,500 staff pursues academic excellence, breaks boundaries and makes a positive impact on real world problems.

We are consistently ranked among the top 10 universities in the world and are one of only a handful of institutions rated as having the strongest academic reputation and the broadest research impact.

We have a progressive and integrated approach to our teaching and research – championing innovation, creativity and cross-disciplinary working. We teach our students how to think, not what to think, and see them as partners, collaborators and contributors.

For almost 200 years, we are proud to have opened higher education to students from a wide range of backgrounds and to change the way we create and share knowledge.

We were the first in England to welcome women to university education and that courageous attitude and disruptive spirit is still alive today. We are UCL.

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