

Frequently Asked Questions

Visual Arts



Q: What is the difference between the two Year 11 courses offered at Rangitoto?

A: In 11ART (Visual Art) you learn to use a mix of painting, printmaking, drawing and sometimes sculptural techniques. 11DAR (Digital Art) includes photography and design and you learn to use Photoshop and Illustrator.

Q: Can I take both art pathways at Year 11?

A: Yes! You can apply to take both, if you are a motivated art student.

Q: Which senior art subjects do these courses lead into?

A: 11DAR leads more easily into Photography and/or Design. 11VAR leads into all senior subjects - primarily Painting and Printmaking, but also Photography, Design,

Q: Are there materials requirements for art subjects?

A: Yes. All art subjects have a fee which allows for the provision of quality art materials. For Digital Art and Design at Level 2 and 3 a laptop which can run Adobe Create Cloud is *highly* recommended. For Photography at Level 2 and 3 a digital SLR camera of your own is a requirement.

Q: If I did not take art in Year 9 or 10 can I pick it up the next year?

A: Yes. there are no prerequisites at Years 9, 10 or 11. However, you will find you have more success at Level 1 if you have taken Art in junior school as many of the skills needed (especially in Visual Art) are introduced at Years 9 and 10. Painting and drawing successfully takes practice! To do two arts, you would be expected to have excellent time management skills and be very passionate about Art.

Q: If I do not take art in Year 11 can I pick it up at Year 12?

A: Maybe, the prerequisites for senior art are that you have done an Art course at Year 11, unless you have HOD approval. It is difficult to work at the required level if you have missed a year, particularly for senior Painting.

Q: Are the senior art subjects University Approved?

A: Yes. All art subjects are UE approved subjects.

Q: What career pathways or jobs can art subjects lead into?

A: So many! Creative skills are highly valued in today's workplace, and many courses including architecture, graphic design, media design, game design, animation, creative enterprise, fine arts, curating and more are specifically looking for skills learned in these subjects. Even if you don't want to follow an arts career, these skills are transferable to other subjects - and many students really enjoy the balance of having a mix of practical and more written or exam-assessed subjects in the senior school.

Q: I want to take the International Baccalaureate pathway in Year 12. Is art offered?

A: Yes it is. The IB programme is a rigorous two year mixed-media programme which incorporates art history and a written curatorial rationale component alongside a process portfolio and final exhibition.

Q: Will I be able to take NCEA Scholarship in the Visual Arts?

A: Yes, and it is encouraged! All Year 13 NCEA Visual Arts students - Painting, Printmaking, Photography, and Design - are able to sign up to take Scholarship, which involves submitting 8 A3 pages of research, reflection, and process exploration along with their 3.4 folio board. Because you are required to have a Level 3 folio board to submit it is not possible to enroll in Visual Arts Scholarship before you are in Year 13. We are proud to have high levels of success for students in Scholarship.

Q: Do I get to make art about what I want in Year 11?

A: Within a structured framework you will have some choice about how you apply your artists and ideas, however, so that we can focus on teaching key skills and techniques, we have a theme and tasks that are consistent across each course. Within this you can choose your own style, approach, colour palette and arrangement of imagery. We like to encourage individual development of styles at this level - but still use core artist models which are essential to learn

to use for senior art. At Years 12 and 13 you have a larger amount of choice with subject-matter, media, artist inspiration and style.

Q: Are there exams for art? How is it assessed?

A: The external examination for NCEA art is a folio of work that is worth 12 credits at Year 11 and is worked on all year (though this may be changing in future)x. This means for students who struggle with the traditional exam setting, you can work on developing and improving work over a long period of time. At Junior Level we assess all units using the same A0-E8 grading structure as other subjects and consider both practical skill and communication of art ideas. In Year 13, Scholarship is offered in all Senior Art classes.

Q: How many senior art subjects can I take in future?

A: Students working at a higher level may take two art subjects in Years 12 and 13, and some students who want to pursue an art pathway at university level take three arts - but this is rare and dependent on HOD approval.

Q: What other opportunities (like extra-curricular) does the school offer for Art students?

A: We have a yearly exhibition, which is open to all students. Senior artists can enter up to 3 artworks in any media and the exhibition is on at the school for a week. There are awards and prizes for the best work. We also enter students in local exhibition ARtrageous, which is biannual. Yearly local competitions in a variety of media are advertised to students. Staff are always happy to support art projects and ideas within the school and we do offer some regular groups such as the Art Club and Photography Club, which meet weekly and are run by Visual Arts Leaders.

Q: Why take Visual Art?

A: Art is engaging, creative, aspirational, and critical. Art is also an excellent way to explore and share our own individual perspectives and cultures. It helps you to develop fine motor skills, critical thinking, creative approaches and problem solving. Art students are collaborative, empathetic, self-managing and show initiative. We believe learning about art and developing subject-specific skills while developing a lifelong passion for this subject will give you more options for your future, while also contributing to your wellbeing and awareness of global and social issues.

"Imagination is more important than knowledge."

Knowledge is limited, imagination encircles the world"

- Albert Einstein