



TECHNICAL

STRATEGY

→ Tiggy Pretty
2023

NORWICH
UNIVERSITY
OF THE ARTS

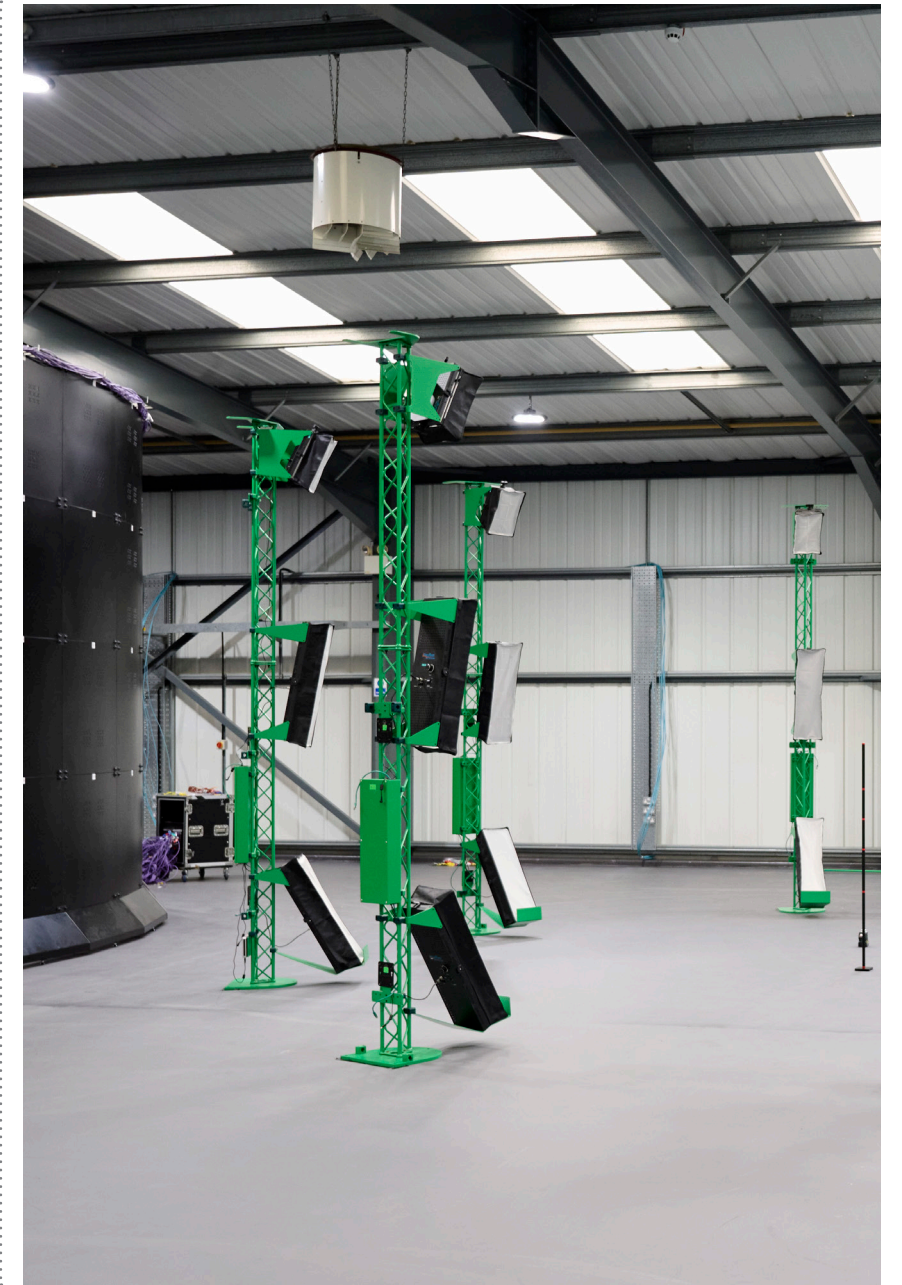
→ Andi Sapey
2024



At Norwich University of the Arts we believe that technical pedagogy is fundamental to creative pedagogy, research and knowledge exchange.

The art of teaching and learning through the hands-on application of materials, equipment, processes and techniques is crucial to our students and the world around them.

Workshops and technical resources are more than just passive environments to make things. Each one can activate other forms of learning and the creation of new knowledge by empowering students to explore relationships between processes, materials and their creative practice.



→ Andi Sapey
2024



Whether using digital, traditional, or emerging methods and technologies, our hands-on approach enables our students to develop their creative thinking and prepares them for life beyond their studies. It equips them with the skills required across all industry sectors, and enables our researchers and industry partners to engage with us in practical, creative R&D.

This strategy seeks to bring these elements closer together and embed technical skills delivery and learning in the student journey.

The strategy aims to:

- Champion transdisciplinary experimentation, making and creating
- Create environments where users can explore relationships between materials, technical processes and creative practice
- Enhance creative disciplinary expertise and focus
- Enable learning, experimentation and critical thinking to combine with access to high quality industry standard resources and highly skilled technical expertise
- Support academic portfolio developments and Research and Knowledge Exchange initiatives
- Provide sector leading facilities where digital and material creating can come together.

→ Denisa Ilie
2023



Accessibility, Sustainability, Transdisciplinary.

Making and creating sits hand in hand with creative thinking and academic accomplishment. From Year 0 through to Postgraduate study and beyond, our students and staff co-create new knowledge and new ways of thinking through research, debate, collaboration, experimentation and discovery.

Students need to be in workshops, working with technicians, to realise the scope of their creative ambitions or working in creative teams of varying expertise to create the work itself.

We must equip our students with knowledge and skills to live more sustainably and enable them to make ethically informed, innovative and sustainable approaches to their practice, make a positive impact to their chosen industry after graduation, and to change the world around them.

We want our technical provision and workshops to be exemplars of accessibility, but what does this mean? Accessibility is not just about physical access to resources. It encompasses equality, diversity and inclusion, and it is about access for students and staff who have different experiences and identities, and different technical knowledges.

Get accessibility and sustainability right, and transdisciplinary making and creating will follow, making an exceptional creative journey for everyone.

STRATEGY



Creative education is made up of inter-related learning experiences, which bring together ideation, conceptualisation, exploration, analysis, critique, making and re-making, acquisition of different knowledges, and the development of technical proficiencies. These learning experiences do not happen in a set order, and they are not the sole preserve of one particular learning experience. They happen across studio practice, lectures, seminars, tutorials, crits, assessments, and technical workshops.

As a workshop provision our aim is to provide technical experiences of making and resources that are recognised as sector leading platforms for innovation, experimentation and creative pedagogy, that attract committed students and staff to enhance our reputation as a world leading provider of creative education, research and knowledge exchange.

Our technical team and workshop resources enable the development and realisation of new knowledges. They help our students and staff to have new ideas and to make them tangible, becoming partners in their creative journey, encouraging experimentation, embracing failure and celebrating success.

OUR AIM

OUR Aim

→ Andi Sapey
2024

→ Tiggy Pretty
2024



→ Denisa Ilie
2023



Our workshop resources and technical teams are the catalysts for creation. They encourage curiosity and experimentation and support predictive and non-predictive making through digital, traditional, and emerging methods and technologies. They are partners in creative discovery, empowering students, supporting their creative thinking and building their confidence and technical ability.

This strategy sets out objectives and transformational initiatives to help us achieve our vision.

We want to develop our resources, the structure to deliver those resources and a technical team that operate and deliver those resources through a model that can grow and develop in synthesis with our academic portfolio, research and knowledge exchange activity.

In doing this we can make a positive impact in shaping our world for the future.

Committed to the experience of our students and staff, we will create inclusive and accessible environments that support our vibrant community of makers and creators.

Our technical resources provide a visible and social dimension to student learning that cannot be achieved through academic study alone. We will

OUR VISION

create areas where everyone can focus on their practice without distraction, bouncing ideas and discovering their identity as a practitioner.

Our workshops will be spaces where students can overcome feelings of vulnerability or anxiousness often associated with academic study or assessment. In the workshops they can feel safe, confident and free to express themselves through exchanges with materials, technologies, technical staff and each other without judgement.

We will be exemplars of accessibility. We will work together across our specialist subject teams to create a culture where everyone feels they are valued and belong, where opportunities are equal, and in which we celebrate the diversity of our students and colleagues.

Through a network of dedicated expert staff, we will champion transdisciplinary making and material thinking. Using a wealth of experience our technicians will become collaborators in our student's journeys.

We will work alongside students and other staff to shape our world through creative practice, providing an extraordinary experience for everyone.

We are unique, and this can only happen in Norwich.



OBJECTIVES

At the core of creative arts education is a commitment to making and the material and digital realisation of ideas and concepts. We believe that workshops and other creative technical facilities are places where new knowledges are developed, and technical skills are acquired and refined.

Technicians are essential enablers of creative of arts education, with specialist knowledges and commitments to technical learning and workshop-based pedagogy.

→ Owen Richards

Our technical strategy has six objectives:

- People: To ensure staff are in place to develop holistic technical pedagogy which can support and enhance the creative ambitions of our students and community at large
- Accessibility: To be exemplars of accessibility where students and staff who have different experiences and identities and different technical knowledges can co-create
- Specialist Subject Teams: To create specialist subject teams that promote unexpected encounters and can develop in synthesis with our academic portfolio and Research and Knowledge Exchange activity, creating environments to generate experimentation and debate
- Resources: To provide an interrelated range of workshops and technical facilities, and services that identify Norwich as a sector leading provider of creative education, research and knowledge exchange
- Sustainability: To embed sustainability in everything we do creating value for society by taking responsibility for our economic, cultural, social and environmental impacts
- Visibility: To acknowledge the value that technical staff and our resources provide, through technical staff recognition, career development and enhanced workshop and technical resource visibility.