**Writing on Art 2016 Course Schedule**

**Introduction session: skills and possibilities**

Wednesday 3 February, 6.30 pm (2 hours)

Good art writing involves an intimate knowledge of the field, a love of words and a desire to communicate clearly. It also involves some basic skills and rules-of-thumb: structuring a text, organising an argument and avoiding purple prose. This session introduces some of the techniques needed when writing for magazines, journals, websites or other publications.

**Critical analysis and close readings**

Wednesday 10 February, 6.30 pm (2 hours)

How do we ‘read’ a work? How do we mediate between our own subjective experience and that of other viewers of a work? Can a work be judged on its own terms? What is the role of aesthetics, pleasure, style and humour in appreciating art? These issues are some of the foundations of writing on art. This session looks at how, practically, we might begin to respond to such concerns.

**Contextual analysis**

Wednesday 24 February, 6.30 pm (2 hours)

Contextual analysis is another fundamental concern of art writing. How is a work enriched or impoverished by the social, cultural, critical, urban or architectural context in which it is shown? How does a work fit within recent or longer trajectories of art history? How might differing audiences react to a work or exhibition? This session looks at the ways an art writer might respond to such questions.

**Possibilities, permutations and ethical questions**

Wednesday 2 March, 6.30pm (2 hours)

With guest lecture by critic and curator Chris Fite-Wassilak.

This final session examines some of the broader questions about what we choose to write about, as well as how, when and where we write. These issues are underpinned by ethical, practical, social and aesthetic concerns. This session looks at some of the dilemmas and opportunities of art writing, including the fate of art criticism today.

**One-to-one sessions**

Individual appointments by arrangement

At the start of the course, you will be invited to write a text of between 500 and 1,000 words on an artist or exhibition of your choice. Texts will need to be submitted by 7 March. This session will involve a one-to-one session with Colin Perry. He will give direct feedback on the texts, giving both a critical overview and helping with editorial feedback. The session is confidential, and is designed to encourage writers to explore their own skills, ideas and interests.

Bookings and more information here http://drawingroom.org.uk/events/writing-about-art