

International Journal of Art and Design Education

National Society for Education in Art and Design

nsead

Ecologies

The 14th International Journal of Art and Design Education Conference

Online | Thursday 6 November 2025

Arnolfini, UWE Bristol | Saturday 8 November 2025

Artwork: *Untitled* by Dr Rachel Payne (2025)



Research into Education,
Creativity and Arts through
Practice (RECAP)



An Associated College of
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IOE – FACULTY OF
EDUCATION AND SOCIETY

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Conference theme & call for papers

Please submit an abstract of 200 words (max) by 31 July 2025, suggesting how your work links to the main conference theme: forms.office.com/e/HvZqu5BcMU

Artists work at the messy frontier of drafting relations. Artists make connections that previously weren't there, between humans and nonhumans, between disciplines, geographies, media and the senses, to go beyond the descriptive and representational towards new relations and somatics. And since relations are ecological, art is ecological.

- Stefanie Hessler, Director, Swiss Institute

Ecologists seek to explain the relationship between humans and their environment. The ecologies of an art and design classroom encompass constellations of behaviours, personalities, curriculum, pedagogies, and assessment practices, while interconnected challenges to funding, resources and subject expertise threaten ecological collapse in some sectors of arts education. In the theoretical field, ecological thinking can open up the relations between art and education, schooling and the creative economy, or the dynamics that define art, craft, and design disciplines. Exploration of the interplay between students' lived experience, contemporary art practices, or the political intent of policymakers could help to define new, more inclusive models for artistic education. Understanding of disciplinary conventions in drawing or the plastic arts, and their interaction with new posthuman technologies, may point to probable or preferable futures for art education. Paradigmatically, as the fragile ecologies that govern our natural world are threatened by human activity, and post-truth diplomacy tests the social contract, what role does the art classroom play in climate justice, and civic equity?

Talbot explores our relationship with the natural and technological world, weaving together themes of 'rebirth, transformation, sustainability and human resilience amid systemic ecological collapse.

- Arnolfini, Bristol's International Centre for the Arts

Inspired by the concurrent exhibition of works by artist Emma Talbot at the conference venue, Arnolfini, this call invites submissions from colleagues in art and design pedagogy, gallery education, working in creative education at any level, formal or otherwise, students and researchers in the field, and those working in related disciplines to reflect on the ecologies of art and design education.

The following themes may serve as a guide for intending speakers:

Advocacy and activism in teaching the arts • Creative teaching and learning in posthuman contexts • Environmental conservation and art education • Artist teacher practices – 'sustenance' • Rich habitats for artistic education • Inclusion and diversity in the art classroom • Art and design classroom ecologies • Past, present, and future artistic ecologies • Creative economies as educational imperative • Promoting sustainable school curricula • Globalised economies and their attitude to arts education • Artful thinking in the natural sciences classroom • Government policy, schooling, and arts pedagogy

Registration & fees

To book, please visit: ijade-2025-ecologies.eventbrite.co.uk

Early Bird registration (until 31 July 2025)

- Early Bird online-only ticket: £53.00
- Early Bird full conference* ticket: £145.00

Standard registration (1 August - 17 October 2025)

- Standard online-only ticket: £60.00
- Standard full conference* ticket: £170.00

* Full conference ticket includes online attendance on Thursday 6 November, and/or access to recordings, and in-person attendance on Saturday 8 November.

NSEAD member discount and concessionary rates:

Discounted rates are available for members of NSEAD, and staff and students at the host institution (UWE), pricing between £43.00 - £130.00 for early bird registration and £50.00 - £155.00 for standard registration. Please see the booking page for more information and full registration and fee details.

For enquiries, please contact ijade@nsead.org