

RUSKIN SCHOOL OF DRAWING AND FINE ART

INTRODUCTION

The Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art was founded in 1871 by John Ruskin who was, at that time, the first Slade Professor of Fine Art. The original title of the school was 'The Ruskin School of Drawing'; the words 'and Fine Art' were added to the title in 1945.

Before Ruskin founded the Ruskin School of Drawing, there was already an Oxford School of Art in residence in the former Cast Gallery of the University Galleries (subsequently, the Ashmolean Museum) in Beaumont Street. This School was run according to the 'South Kensington' method of teaching. This was a system intended to encourage British artisanship and design by means of a painstaking attention to technical detail and the study of work by selected masters of the field. The system was staged in levels of difficulty and 'appropriateness', life drawing not beginning until stage 11 and use of any artistic medium other than pencil until stage 13. This school was founded in 1865 and membership was a mixture of artisans wishing to improve their technical skills, ladies (chiefly daughters of dons) and a few undergraduates. The head of the School was Alexander Macdonald.

Ruskin disliked the 'South Kensington' system believing that it crushed the imagination. When he accepted the Slade Professorship in 1870 he gradually took over the rooms occupied by the Oxford School of Art and also its pupils. The former Cast Gallery was converted into two rooms for the Ruskin School by the construction of partition walls. These rooms were named the Turner Room (later renamed the Eldon Room) and the Raffaele (*sic*) Room. The students were divided into two Schools: the 'Upper School' or 'Professor's class' included undergraduates and ladies; the 'Lower School' was made up of the working class artisans for whom the 'South Kensington' system had originally been designed. The terms 'Upper' and 'Lower' reflected not only the social position of the pupils but also their location: the 'Upper School' remained in the former Cast Gallery while the 'Lower School' was relocated to the basement of the Ashmolean. Ruskin appointed Alexander Macdonald as the first Ruskin Master of Drawing.

Ruskin also began to replace the 'South Kensington' system with methods of his own. To this end, he gathered together a collection of casts, sketches and paintings which he placed in a series of numbered cabinets in the Turner Room (later renamed the Eldon Room). The intention was that his pupils should study and copy these articles and thus learn the finer technical points of artistic creation. There were three series: the *Educational* and *Reference Series*, which were for the use of the 'Upper School' or 'Professor's class'; and the *Rudimentary Series* devised for the use of the 'Lower School'. Each series was accompanied by a printed catalogue. The *Catalogue of the Educational Series* was first published in 1871, followed in 1872 by the *Catalogue of the Rudimentary Series*, originally entitled *Instructions in the Preliminary Exercises arranged for the Lower Drawing School, Oxford*. The *Catalogue of the Reference Series* followed in 1874. These catalogues were in a constant state of revision until Ruskin resigned from the Slade Professorship for the second time in 1885.

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The copy of the deed of Declaration of Trust of 31 May 1875 (in RS 1 and RS 1A) describes "a collection of drawings and a sum of £5000 ...given to the University by Mr Ruskin for the endowment of a Master of Drawing" who was to be responsible for the teaching of Fine Art in the University. The Trust Fund was to be placed in the care of the Ruskin Trustees who should comprise "the Vice-Chancellor of the university for the time-being and the Slade Professor of Art for the time-being... by virtue of their offices; and ...four non-official trustees ...the said John Ruskin is Trustee for life". The first four non-official Trustees were HRH Prince Leopold; the Very Reverend HG Liddell, DD, Dean of Christ Church; HW Acland, DM, Regius Professor of Medicine; and the Reverend HO Coxe, MA, Bodley's Librarian. New Trustees were to be chosen by Ruskin during his lifetime and by surviving Trustees after his death, "nomination to be approved by the University in Convocation". The Ruskin Trustees were to furnish annual accounts of the expenditure and income of the Ruskin Fund; have the management, superintendence and control of the Ruskin Collection; appoint the Master of Drawing; and make rules concerning the duties of the Master of Drawing.

When Ruskin died in 1900, the composition of the Board of Ruskin Trustees was extended to encompass membership from a wider range of University bodies. The composition was changed twice more, in 1961 and 1977.

In 1918, the General Board of the Faculties created a Committee for the Fine Arts to oversee the teaching and examination of Fine Art and the History of Art throughout the University. In 1945, this Committee took on some of the responsibilities of the Ruskin Trustees. In 1961 responsibility for the Ruskin School and the Certificate in Fine Art was transferred from the Committee to the reconstituted Ruskin Trustees. This transfer left the Committee for the Fine Arts responsible only for the Diploma in the History of Art and the Laurence Binyon Prize; it was accordingly reconstituted and renamed the Committee for the History of Art (*Oxford University Gazette*, 27 April 1961, pp1067-9). In 1977 a new Committee for the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art was established as the supervisory body for the School and in 1978 the new degree course of Bachelor of Fine Art was introduced which replaced the previous Certificate course. The School awarded its first degree in Fine Art in 1981 (which became a full honours degree in 1992). The School introduced its DPhil programme in October 2006 and the degree of MFA in 2015.

The Ruskin School remained in the Ashmolean Museum until 1974 when it moved to 74 High Street. The Print-making Workshop was relocated to Bullingdon Road.

The first transfer of material from the School to the Archives took place in 1992 and comprised RS 1 to RS 43. There were subsequent small transfers in 1994 (RS 44 and RS 45), 1995 (RS 46 and RS 47) and 1997 (RS 48 to RS 51 and RS 53 to RS 63). RS 52 was received from an outside source in 1997. Further small transfers of material continue to take place: 2008 (RS 64 to RS 67 with additions to RS 42), 2009 (RS 1A, 6A, RS 31A with an addition to RS 65/6) 2011 (RS 68-119) 2012 (RS 120-34) 2013 (RS 135-42) 2014 (RS 143-52), 2015 (RS 57A, RS 122A, RS 128A and RS 155-66 with additions to RS 33, RS 53-4, RS 102 and RS 106).

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A series of Second World War fire watch wages and attendance books relating to the Slade and Ruskin Schools are preserved in the records of the Ashmolean Museum (see AM 28).

A copy of 'A Report on the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art in Oxford, May 1975' made by the Council for Academic Freedom and Democracy is also held by the University Archives (see Pamphlets 149).

Minutes of the Committee for the Fine Arts, 1918-61 are also held by the University Archives (see DC 5/1-2).

Bibliography

The Ruskin Art Collection, Catalogue of the Rudimentary Series by John Ruskin, edited by Robert Hewison (Lion and Unicorn Press, 1984).

The Ruskin Masters of Drawing

1871-1922	Alexander Macdonald
1922-9	Sidney W Carline
1929-49	Albert D Rutherford
1949-64	Percy F Horton
1964-71	Richard Naish
1971-84	Phillip Morsberger
1985-7	David Tindle
1988-9	Vacant
1990-2000	Stephen Farthing
2000-1	Vacant
2002-10	Richard Wentworth
2010-	Vacant

Head of the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art

2010-14	Jason M Gaiger
2014-	Hanneke Grootenboer

<i>Compiled 1994</i>	<i>Revised 2015</i>
<i>Revised 2011</i>	<i>Revised 2016</i>
<i>Revised 2012</i>	
<i>Revised 2013</i>	
<i>Revised 2014</i>	

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- RS 1 Volume labelled 'The Very Reverend HG Liddell, DD', containing copies of the following: 'Declaration of Trust of a Collection of drawings and a sum of £5000...given to the University by Mr Ruskin for the endowment of a Master of Drawing', 31 May 1875; *Catalogue of the Educational Series*, 1874; *Catalogue of the Reference Series*, c1874; and *Instructions in the Preliminary Exercises arranged for the Lower Drawing School, Oxford*, 1873 (in later editions, this pamphlet is re-titled *Catalogue of the Rudimentary Series*). 1873-5
- RS 1A Copy of RS 1, inscribed 'HW Acland MD', with valuation of items in the Educational and Reference series. c1883
- The Vice-Chancellor's volume containing the same copies of documents is OUA, WPγ/26/9. The volume issued to HO Coxe, Bodley's Librarian, is Bodleian Library, GAOxon b 80. The original of the declaration of trust of 1875 is OUA, WPβ/26/9.
- RS 2/1-2 Minute books of the Ruskin Trustees. 1875-1977
1. 1875-1975
 2. 1975-7
- After Ruskin's death in 1900, the Ruskin Trustees took a larger part in the internal administration and financial management of the Ruskin School. In 1945 a certain amount of responsibility regarding the academic arrangements for the School was transferred to the Committee for Fine Arts.
- RS 3 Bank pass book of the account of the Ruskin Trustees. 1904-27
- The account was closed in 1927 and all monies transferred to the University Chest.
- RS 4 Cash book for the Ruskin School of Drawing. 1929-39

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- RS 5 Combined balance sheet and accounts of the Ruskin School, 1930-40, and of the Ruskin School and the Slade School of Fine Art 1940-4. 1930-44
- Between 1940 and 1944 the Slade School of Drawing and Fine Art was evacuated from London to Oxford and combined its finances with the Ruskin School.
- RS 6 Cash book of the No 1 Account for the Ruskin School of Drawing and the Slade School of Fine Art. 1942-5
- RS 6A Cash book of the No 2 Account for the Ruskin School of Drawing and the Slade School of Fine Art. 1939-45
- RS 7 Minutes of the Sub-Committee of the Committee for Fine Arts. 1946-60
- RS 8 Minutes of the Ruskin Liaison Committee. 1974-7
- The Ruskin Liaison Committee was formed to create a link between staff, students and Ruskin Trustees in order to 'discuss the policy of the School concerning such matters as academic requirements, student welfare, examination and course structure'.

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RS 9/1-6

Files relating to meetings of the Ruskin Trustees and matters considered by them. 1958-77 *See also RS 52*

1. Correspondence, minutes, reports and memoranda, chiefly concerning the financial and academic future of the Ruskin School; and loan of Ruskin watercolours to an exhibition at Burlington House, London. 1958-9

2. Correspondence, minutes and memoranda, chiefly concerning the financial future of the Ruskin School; campaign against closure of the School; recommendations of Sub-Committee of Fine Arts re new examination in History of Art; and selection of new Trustees. 1958-62

3. Correspondence, reports and memoranda, chiefly concerning job description and election of new Master of Drawing; and financial future or possible closure of the Ruskin School. 1961-3

4. Correspondence, reports and minutes, chiefly concerning the future academic development of and financial arrangements for the Ruskin School; the need for expansion of the Ruskin School; handover of Mastership from Naish to Morsberger, 1971; Committee of Enquiry into the Ashmolean Museum; examiners' reports; and loans by, or exhibition and deposit of articles in, the Ruskin School. 1964-71

5. Correspondence, reports, memoranda and minutes, chiefly concerning the Committee to Review the Future of the Ruskin School; draft decrees for the degree of Bachelor of Fine Art, 1977; staff salaries; and establishment of the Liaison Committee. 1971-7

6. 'Report of the Committee to review the Future of the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art'. 1976

This was published as Supplement *No. 1 to the University Gazette vol. cvii (December 1976)

RS 10/1-3

Files chiefly relating to meetings of the Committee for Fine Arts and matters considered by it. 1941-8, 1951-61

1. Correspondence, minutes and memoranda, chiefly concerning drafts of a syllabus for the Certificate in Fine Art; draft decree recognising the Ruskin School as an Institution approved for the purpose of higher study; Hope Collection; and election of Percy Horton as Ruskin Master of Drawing. 1941-8

RUSKIN SCHOOL OF DRAWING AND FINE ART

- RS 10/1-3 Files chiefly relating to meetings of the Committee for Fine Arts and matters considered by it. 1941-8, 1951-61 *contd*
2. Correspondence, minutes, memoranda and reports, chiefly concerning Report for Congregation on the revival of the Diploma in History of Art; matters raised by staff and students; the future academic development of the Ruskin School and possibility of removing it from the Ashmolean Museum; and the Dr Vaughan Cornish Bequest. 1951-8
3. Minutes and memoranda, chiefly concerning the future responsibilities of the Ruskin School; the possible re-establishment of the Committee for Fine Arts; and the teaching and examination of History of Art. 1959-61
- RS 11/1-2 Files relating to financial matters. 1951-69
1. Accounts sheets and projected expenditure sheets; and circulars giving information concerning financial status of the Ruskin School. 1951-64
2. Circulars and correspondence, chiefly concerning accounting procedures; expenditure estimates; and accounts sheets submitted to the University Chest. 1964-9
- RS 12 File relating to the United States Forces Veterans Scheme containing correspondence concerning general course administration and individual students; two sets of application forms, one arranged chronologically according to year of study, the other arranged in alphabetical order according to student name; and vouchers for each year of study. 1952-63
- Between 1952 and 1963 the Ruskin School participated in a scheme devised by the United States Government after the Korean War to allow veterans of the United States Forces an opportunity to go on to higher education in Britain. Courses were paid for with vouchers from the United States Government.
- RS 12A Application documents in the holograph of RB Kitaj. 1956
- Kitaj applied to study at the Ruskin School in 1956 under the United States Forces Veterans Scheme. These documents were extracted from RS 12 (before transfer to University Archives).

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RS 13/1-3

Catalogues of the Educational and Rudimentary Series. 1874, 1878

1. Printed copy of the *Catalogue of the Educational Series.* 1874 (duplicate of the copy included in RS 1)
2. A version of the revised *Catalogue of the Educational Series* in the holograph of Dr DP Chase, Principal of St Mary Hall. 1878
3. A version of the revised *Catalogue of the Rudimentary Series* in the holograph of Dr DP Chase, Principal of St Mary Hall. 1878

Dr Chase was an amanuensis of Ruskin.

RS 14

Documents relating to a petition made by the Ruskin Trustees to the Chancery Division of the High Court to ascertain ownership of certain of the casts, drawings and paintings placed in the School by Ruskin during his tenure of the Slade Professorship and included by him in either the *Educational*, *Reference* or *Rudimentary Series*, comprising the statement made by Alexander Macdonald concerning his working relationship with Ruskin and his part in the early development of the Ruskin School, 1900, with covering letter addressed to Professor Thompson, 1913; four exercise books* containing an inventory of the objets d'art included by Ruskin in the three teaching series and a statement of Ruskin's behaviour toward the Ruskin School after his resignation of the Slade Professorship, compiled by TW Jackson, one of the Ruskin Trustees; three letters by TW Jackson, referring to the contents of these books and the statement made by Macdonald; letters from the solicitors Morrell, Son and Peel; and copy of the Order made by the Chancery Division of the High Court on 17 March 1903. 1900-1903 and 1913

* The four exercise books are each labelled with a letter. The book labelled 'A' lists the contents of the Ruskin Art Collection, held in the Ashmolean Museum; 'B' contains Jackson's statement; 'G' contains an inventory and statement regarding the Guild of St George, founded by Ruskin in Sheffield; and 'L' contains extracts from correspondence with Ruskin, referred to in the previous statements.

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- RS 15 Miscellaneous documents relating to the early years of the Ruskin School, comprising manuscript copy of extract of the Deed of Trust and of the decrees relating to the foundation of the School, 1873; Hebdomadal Council notices concerning the Report of the Keeper of the University Galleries, 1907; letter from Macdonald concerning student numbers, 1907; memoranda and related correspondence concerning rooms allocated to the Hope Collection in the Ashmolean Museum, 1921; printed appeal by Carline for more accommodation for the Ruskin School, 1923; and correspondence with Carline concerning the holdings of the Ruskin School, 1928. 1873-1928
- RS 16 Correspondence between Carline and Rutherstone chiefly concerning the purchase of the goodwill and equipment of the Oxford School of Drawing, Painting and Design, 49 Cornmarket, Oxford, by Carline from Rutherstone, 1922; correspondence concerning exhibition of prints from Turner's *Liber Studiorum*; and correspondence between the Keeper of the Department of Fine Art, Ashmolean Museum and Rutherstone. 1929-30
- RS 17 General correspondence file of Albert Rutherstone, Ruskin Master (1929-49), chiefly concerning the Ruskin Trustees; receipt of gifts and bequests to Ruskin School (including Sir HW Acland Bequest, 1938); status of Charles Bell as a Ruskin Trustee; emergency war-time storage of valuables at Northwick Park; and loans and exhibitions. 1929-46
- RS 18 Typescript draft and proof copies of the new prospectus for the course leading to the Certificate in Fine Art, with draft contracts of employment for life models for the Ruskin School. 1945
- RS 19/1-9 General correspondence files of Percy Horton, Ruskin Master (1949-64). 1949-64
1. Correspondence with the Delegacy for Extra-Mural Studies concerning the possibility of Horton giving a series of extension lectures in Art Appreciation. 1952-3
 2. Letter from Maurice de Sausmarez encouraging students of the Ruskin School to participate in the Leeds University Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture, 29 October 1952 (with a print, c19th century, entitled 'Grammar School at New College, Oxford'). 1952

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RS 19/1-9

General correspondence files of Percy Horton, Ruskin Master (1949-64). 1949-64 *contd*

3. Correspondence with the Keeper of Western Art and the Director of the Ashmolean Museum chiefly concerning the Art Society Annual Exhibition; and action taken following the publication of libellous articles in *Isis* about Horton. 1951-5

4. Draft, proof and final copy of memorandum 'authorised by the Ruskin Trustees to be circulated to members of Congregation for consideration with Council's decision in the matter of the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art' concerning the future of the Ruskin School. 1958

5. Correspondence with the University Chest concerning School finances, annual accounts and re-decoration charges and estimates; with Proctors concerning student discipline and action against libellous article in *Isis*; with the University Registry concerning staff employment regulations and National Insurance payments. 1948-59

6. Proof and final copy of 'Observations by the Ruskin Master on Council's Letter of 9 June 1959'; and open letter to the Registrar from the Secretary of the Ruskin Trustees in answer to Hebdomadal Council's decision to advise against the closure of the Ruskin School, 1960. 1959-60

7. Correspondence chiefly concerning the campaign on behalf of the Ruskin School to prevent Professor Wind's plans for the future of the School from taking effect, including letters of support from artists and art historians offering to join the campaign (signatories to the series of open letters written to *The Times* include Edward Bawden, Sir Kenneth Clark, Jacob Epstein, Henry Moore, John Piper, John Rothenstein, Carel Weight and Carl Winter); election of new Ruskin Trustee after the death of AH Smith; and enquiries to and answers from other universities and art schools concerning History of Art and Architecture courses. 1959-60

8. Review of teaching of Art History in the Ruskin School together with a collection of syllabuses from other universities and art schools; and review of size and efficiency of the Committee for Fine Arts. 1960

9. Catalogue of *Retrospective exhibition of Paintings and Drawings by Percy Horton on his retirement*, 1964; with typescript draft of undated obituary and curriculum vitae of Horton. 1964

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- RS 20 Correspondence between the University Registry and the Ruskin Master, chiefly concerning the status of the Ruskin School Certificate in Fine Art as a recognised teaching qualification; staff salaries and medical checks for tuberculosis; and student fees. 1963-8
- RS 21 Correspondence between Naish and Morsberger chiefly concerning plans for a sabbatical year to be spent at the Ruskin School by Morsberger, 1967-8, and domestic and employment details arising during the period before Morsberger took up the post of Ruskin Master, 1970; and applications, references and shortlist of candidates for the post of Ruskin Master, 1970. 1970
- RS 22 *Future of the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art.* Supplement to the *Oxford University Gazette* volume civ. Aug 1974
- RS 23 Replies to invitations to the private view of Phillip Morsberger's one-man show at the Ruskin School on 23 February 1974. 1974
- RS 24 Letters and memoranda concerning the course structure and objectives at the Ruskin School submitted to Phillip Morsberger by members of the School staff; with list of collections of Americana in Oxford Libraries. c1976
- RS 25 *Report of the Committee to Review the Future of the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art.* Supplement to the *Oxford University Gazette* volume cvii. Dec 1976
- RS 26/1-3 General correspondence of Philip Morsberger, Ruskin Master (1971-1984). 1976-80
1. Correspondence chiefly concerning support for and details of the new degree of Bachelor of Fine Art; the Ruskin Trustees; the Ruskin Liaison Committee; the Committee of the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art; and staff salary scales. 1976-7
 2. Staff file, chiefly containing minutes of staff meetings; staff rota lists; and staff proposals concerning the future academic direction of the Ruskin School. 1976-7

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- RS 26/1-3 General correspondence of Philip Morsberger, Ruskin Master (1971-1984). 1976-80 *contd*
3. Draft decrees and letters of support from Heads of Houses concerning the new degree of Bachelor of Fine Art. 1980
- See RS 80 for additional correspondence of Philip Morsberger
- RS 27 *Notes on the Technique of Painting* by Allan Gwynne-Jones (a pamphlet written by a member of the Ruskin staff). c1959
- RS 28 Fragments of inventory of objets d'art with instructions concerning the manufacture and purchase of furniture to house the three teaching series for the Ruskin School in holograph of John Ruskin. c1869-72
- RS 29 Holograph letter from John Ruskin to his assistant, Crawley, from Brantwood, giving instructions for the transportation of some Turner drawings from Oxford to Huish Fine Art Galleries, London for an exhibition. 12 Feb 1878
- RS 30 Fragment in holograph of John Ruskin, of passage entitled 'The Scheme of University Education for a Noble Florentine Youth'. c1870-80
- RS 31 Letter from John Ruskin to Alexander Macdonald, sent from Brantwood, giving details of lessons to be given on geometric constructs and perspective, 1884; with contemporary description of the construction of geometric proportions of a pillar at St Aubin de Guérande and list of Ruskin's three objectives for the art student (all in the holograph of Ruskin). 1884
- RS 31A Letter from John Ruskin to Alexander Macdonald giving details of lessons to be given on drawing firm pen outlines. c1884
- RS 32 Ephemera relating to John Ruskin comprising Japanese postcard, c1900-20; cigar packet for 'John Ruskin' cigars; and printed notice offering an 81st birthday greeting to John Ruskin on behalf of Oxford University, 1899. 1899-c1920

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- RS 33 Course handbooks (Prospectuses until 1994) for the Ruskin School. 1920-9, 1942-5, 1949-55, 1959-61, 1968-73, 1975-2000, 2003-4, 2013-15
- These include the handbook for the DPhil, 2014-15 (the DPhil programme was introduced in 2006) and the prospectus for the degree of MFA (introduced in 2015).
- RS 34 Christmas and greetings cards designed by Albert Rutherstone. c1912-40
- RS 35/1-3 Prints and engravings by Ruskin School students. 1930-9
1. 1930-2
 2. 1932-6
 3. 1937-9
- RS 36 Press cuttings relating to the Ruskin School. 1954-83
- RS 37 Ruskin School Dance: correspondence with University Proctors; invoices and receipts; and invitation lists for the Dance at the Randolph Hotel. 1934-8, 1946, 1948, 1952
- RS 38 List of candidates for the Ruskin School Anatomy examinations giving results and some comments by examiners. 1947-8
- RS 39 Photograph of Percy Horton with Henry Moore. c1964-9
- RS 40 Account book of the Ruskin School Sketch Club. 1965-9
- RS 41 *The Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art under Sidney Carline (Master 1922-29) and his staff*, catalogue of the exhibition held from 9 July to 28 August 1977. 1977
- RS 42 Posters advertising the services of the Ruskin School. 1938, 1951-52, 1963-4, 1972-4 (summer Print Workshop 1973), 1975, 1978-9

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- RS 43 Completed certificates for the Certificate in Fine Art and the National Diploma in Design. 1959-66
- RS 44 Correspondence concerning the Centenary Appeal of the Ruskin School (1971). 1970-1
- RS 45 Correspondence and other papers concerning the establishment of and appeals for donations toward the Geoffrey Rhoades Commemoration Fund. 1980-6
- RS 46/1-2 *The Laboratory at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art: A Feasibility Report.* 1995
1. Draft copy of the above report, Dec 1994
 2. Published copy of the above report, Jul 1995
- In August 1994, the Ruskin School set up a research unit called the Laboratory with the aim of supporting the production of new work in the visual arts. It hoped to achieve this by promoting collaboration between fine art and other subject areas at Oxford University. The title is no longer used but the work of the Laboratory continues as a commissioning and visiting scholar programme. See also RS 140-1.
- RS 47 Letter from the Ruskin Master (Sydney Carline) and his assistants (Gilbert Spencer, Stanley Spencer, Paul Nash, Richard Carline and Albert Rutherstone) to the Secretary of the Oxford Arts Club relating to their withdrawal from a proposed exhibition, 1925; with related undated (?1970s) note from Richard Carline to Philip Morsberger. 1925-c1970s
- RS 48 Correspondence with and concerning the Ashmolean Museum and the use of the Ruskin Master's room there. 1968-74
- RS 49 Correspondence relating to the disposal of the cabinets provided by John Ruskin for the housing of his art collection at the School. 1970-1

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- RS 50 Plans of the Ashmolean Museum, showing areas used by the Ruskin School, 1968 and 1970; with letter from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation referring to a plan (not present) of a mezzanine proposal for the School, 1973. 1968-73
- RS 51 Papers relating to the School's use of the Sunken Court at the Ashmolean Museum. 1974
- RS 52 Papers of Sir William Hayter, Warden of New College, as Chairman of the Ruskin Trustees. 1959-72
- RS 53/1-7 Agenda papers and minutes of the Departmental Committee (to 1977, 'staff meetings'). 1976-2006
1. 1976-80
 2. 1980-2
 3. 1982-4
 4. 1984-96
 5. 1996-8
 6. 1999-2000
 7. 2001-6
- RS 53/1-4 are signed minutes
- RS 54/1-2 Agenda papers and minutes of the Joint Consultative Committee (to 1977, the 'School Committee; to 1984 the School Consultative Committee). 1976-84 and 1997-2004
1. 1976-84
 2. 1997-2004
- RS 55 Agenda papers, with related correspondence, of the Standing Committee of the Committee for the Ruskin School. 1978-85
- RS 56 Lists of students with summaries of fees paid. 1949-72
- RS 57 Pass lists for the Certificate in Fine Art. 1947-79

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- RS 57A Pass lists and final mark sheets for individual students for the Degree of Bachelor of Fine Art. 1980-95
- RS 58 Pass lists, examiners' reports, correspondence and other papers relating to examinations for the Diploma in Design and Certificate in Fine Art, and in the History of Art and History of European Painting. 1952-67 and 1970-9
- RS 59 Class and tutorial lists. 1962-79
- RS 60 Proposed design for a Ruskin School of Drawing scarf. c1975
- RS 61 Correspondence relating to Percy Horton, especially to Philip Morsberger's notice of him for the *Dictionary of National Biography*. 1978
- RS 62 Photograph of a portrait of John Ruskin with related correspondence. 1982
- RS 63 Memorandum, with related correspondence, on the procedure for the maintenance of academic standards at the School, prepared for the Departmental Committee. 1988
- RS 64/1-4 Card registers of students. c1929-96
1. Register of students B-Z, c1929-96
 2. Register of models, 1979-96
 3. Register of part-time students, 1992-6
 4. Register of students taking life drawing classes, 1993-6
- There are no cards for students with a surname beginning with the letter A in the main register (RS 64/1). There is no indication where the cards are or why they have been removed. The amount of detail given on this main register of students varies considerably. Many of the cards only record the name of the student and date they were in attendance, sometimes the address or college is given and details of termly payment of fees.

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RS 64/1-4 Card registers of students. c1929-96 *cont*

Some of the cards from the late 1970s onwards (the 1980s in particular) give additional details of classes taken, names of tutors and examinations. The register of models used by the Ruskin School (RS 64/2) records the name and address of the model and the number of hours worked. There is some overlap between the register of part-time students (RS 64/3) and the register of students taking life drawing classes (RS 64/4) as all the students taking life drawing classes are described as part-time.

RS 65/1-8 Photographic portraits of the Ruskin Masters. undated (c1900-2000)

1. Alexander Macdonald, (Ruskin Master 1871-1922)
2. Sydney Carline, (Ruskin Master 1922-9)
3. Albert Rutherford, (Ruskin Master 1929-49)
4. Percy Horton, (Ruskin Master 1949-64)
5. Richard Naish, (Ruskin Master 1964-71)
6. Philip Morsberger, (Ruskin Master 1971-84)
7. David Tindle, (Ruskin Master 1985-7)
8. Stephen Farthing, (Ruskin Master 1990-2000)

These are contemporary photographs which have been collated to form a series of photographs of the Ruskin Masters. RS 65/1 is a photograph of a portrait of Alexander Macdonald by Sir Hubert von Herkomer, held by the Ashmolean Museum and RS 65/6 consists of two photographs of Philip Morsberger taken by a visiting printmaker, Robert Gardner, in 1975.

RS 66 Photographic portraits of John Ruskin. 1882, 1893

RS 66A Photograph of the bust of John Ruskin held in the Ashmolean Museum. c2010

RS 66B Four mounted photographs of the bust of Ruskin apparently in a workshop or office. c1990s

On the reverse is a description of the bust, where it has been located since its creation in 1881 and a list of known copies of the bust and other related works.

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- RS 67 Photograph of RB Kitaj with the Director of the Museum of Modern Art, David Elliott, and Ruskin Master Stephen Farthing. 1996
- RS 68 Posters advertising exhibitions of students' work. 1950-8, 1961-9, 1971-2
- RS 69 Invitations to exhibitions of students' work including certificate exhibitions, 1950-3, 1963-5, 1970-4, 1976-7 and degree exhibitions, 1980-91. 1950-91
- The degree course of Bachelor of Fine Art replaced the Certificate course and the first degree exhibition was held in 1980
- RS 70 Catalogues for the 'Annual Exhibition of Students' Work' giving the names of students and the genre of their work. 1964-72
- RS 71 Poster advertising an exhibition by staff and visitors. 1957
- RS 72 Invitations to the exhibitions of staff work, 1977-8 and 1980-2, including an invitation to the 'one man show' by Philip Morsberger in 1974 (see RS 23). 1974, 1977-82
- RS 73 Catalogues for 'Staff Exhibitions' giving the name of the artist with the title and price of the work and including a catalogue for the 'one man show' by Philip Morsberger in 1984. 1978-84
- RS 74A Catalogues for the 'degree show' (certificate show until 1979) giving the names and some biographical details of students and description of their work. 1978-9, 1981-2, 1986-7, 1989-92, 1996-7, 1999-2009
- The degree show was an exhibition of work submitted by students for the degree course of Bachelor of Fine Art. This replaced the Certificate course in 1979 and the first degree exhibition was held in 1980

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RS 74B Posters for the 'degree show'. [1980?], 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 2004-7, 2011-15

There was no poster for the degree show for 2012 but a series of individual cards for each student, an example of which is listed here. The first names of all of the students exhibiting are on the reverse of each card.

RS 75 Papers relating to exhibitions of past and present students and teachers giving the names of exhibitors. 1934, c1970s

The papers include a catalogue of an exhibition held in the Warren Gallery, London.

RS 76 Catalogues and papers relating to exhibitions hosted by the School. 1979-96, 2011

RS 77 Installation photographs of the Alba Tayler Exhibition. 1981

RS 78 Draft introduction by the Ruskin Master for a catalogue for the students' exhibition. c1970s

RS 79 Exhibition schedule for Hilary Term and Trinity Term. c1980s

RS 80/1-5 Papers of Ruskin Masters Philip Morsberger (1971-84) and David Tindle (1985-7), and Acting Head of Department John Newberry (1988-9). 1970, 1976-89

1. General correspondence of the Ruskin Master including letters relating to proposed bequests to the School. 1972, 1976-89

See RS 26 for general correspondence of Philip Morsberger

2. Constitution of the Union of Students in the School, replacing the former Sketch Club. 1970

3. Papers for a 'Meeting of Full-Time Staff' discussing changes to the role of the Ruskin Master in the management of the School. 1983

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- RS 80/1-5 Papers of Ruskin Masters Philip Morsberger (1971-84) and David Tindle (1985-7), and Acting Head of Department John Newberry (1988-9). 1970, 1976-89 *cont*
4. Papers relating to the formulation of rules for the School. 1986
5. Photocopies of news cuttings about the new School premises at 74 High Street, 1975, and the work of David Tindle, 1988. 1975 and 1988
- RS 81 General correspondence of Stephen Farthing, Ruskin Master (1990-2000). 1990-6
- RS 82 Papers relating to the appraisal of the structure and teaching of the Fine Arts course. 1990
- RS 83 List of students in each teaching year. 1978
- RS 84 Details of preliminary year projects and essay lists. 1978-9
- RS 85 List of classes available for part-time students. 1989
- RS 86 Catalogue for an exhibition of students' work sponsored by the Oxford Student Arts Council (OSAC) and held at the Oxford Playhouse, with a description of the terms of reference of OSAC. 1970
- RS 87 Poster for an exhibition organised by the Oxford Student Arts Council, 'Student Artists in Oxford' held at the Museum of Modern Art. 1971
- RS 88 Poster for the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, which includes details of an exhibition of recent work by Ruskin students, called 'Focus on Drawing'. 1983
- RS 89 Papers relating to an exhibition 'Four Painters from The Ruskin Four Years On', held at Christ Church Picture Gallery. 1985

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- RS 90 Postcard advertising an exhibition 'Nine Painters', held at the Sue Rankin Gallery in London, described as 'recent work by painters who trained together at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art and The Royal Academy Schools'. 1985
- RS 91 Exhibition layout plans showing location of exhibitors in the Ruskin School, including plans for degree shows. 1986, 2010
- RS 92 Postcard advertising an exhibition, 'Strange event', by Na Hyun in the Dolphin Gallery, St John's College, with a précis of the concept of the project. 2004
- RS 93 Postcard advertising an exhibition 'Degree Show 1981-2011' at Modern Art, Oxford, described as an 'exhibition of memorabilia celebrating 30 years of the Degree Show'. 2011
- RS 94 Papers relating to degree show exhibitions, including exhibition layout plans; drafts of letters of invitation; timetables; discussions on production of catalogue; and press releases. 1993-8, 2000-5, 2009-11
- RS 95 Correspondence with printers and the artists relating to the production of postcards for the exhibitions of Annabelle Mundy in 1999 and Peter Lynch in 2000. 1999-2000
- RS 96 Poster for the 'lmh pre-degree show'. c2000
- RS 97 Press release for 'The Last Two Strides', an exhibition of work by final year students 'conceived in anticipation of the coming degree show'. 2007
- RS 98 Poster for 'Powerhouse', an exhibition of work by DPhil students in the old Osney power station; with an exhibition layout plan and exhibition statement. 2011

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- RS 99 Poster and location map for 'L' Alchimie du portrait', an exhibition of paintings by Stephen Farthing and five students from the School, held in Paris. 1996
- RS 100 Table showing payments made to teaching staff, visiting teachers and 'critics'. 1958-9
- RS 101 Staff list. 1965
- RS 102 Lecture lists. 1978-2005, 2010-11
- RS 103 Timetable showing a projected Bachelor of Fine Art degree course of sixty students with staffing for the three terms of each year. c1979
- RS 104 Papers relating to the admissions procedure. 1980, 1993, 1996-7
- RS 105 Reports and related correspondence of the Sub-Committee on Examining Procedures, 1988-9, with report of the Working Party on the Preliminary Examination, 1990. 1988-90
- The Sub-Committee on Examining Procedures was set up in January 1989 and was appointed to consider a letter from the Junior Proctor to the Committee for the Ruskin School. The Working Party on the Preliminary Examination was set up by the Standing Committee of the Committee for the Ruskin School in June 1989 to consider the question of the preliminary examination.
- RS 106 Papers collated as a 'welcome pack' for first year students sent out before the beginning of Michaelmas term, including letters of introduction to the department and the expectations of staff, reading and equipment lists, timetables, lecture lists and departmental safety rules. 1993, 1995-8, 2003-4
- RS 107 *Number not used*

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- RS 108/1-4 Correspondence files relating to the arrangements for visiting artists to the School. 1991-5
1. Surendran Nair, 1991-2
 2. Shigeaki Koeda, 1992-4
 3. Siddhartha Ghosh, 1992-5
 4. Malu (Maria Luiza) Fatorelli, 1993-4
- RS 109 Invitation to 'The John Latham Dinner' hosted by the School at St Edmund Hall. 1992
- RS 110 Correspondence and related papers of Stephen Farthing relating to Axis – Visual Arts Exchange & Information Service. 1993-5
- The main objective of Axis was to develop a National Artists Register. Stephen Farthing served on the Board of Directors of Axis from 1993
- RS 111 Photographs of students and their artwork taken for the brochure for the Degree Show, 1991, with a copy of the brochure. 1991
- RS 112 Photographs of artwork with the name of the student artist on the reverse. c1990s
- RS 113 Photographs of unidentified students at work possibly taken for a publication. c1990s
- RS 114 Photographs of unidentified artwork by students. c1990s
- RS 115 Black and white photographs of three paintings by Ruskin painted in 1846 and 1875. c1990s
- RS 116 '*subscribe*', 'a magazine of occasional artwork & appropriation', apparently produced by students at the School. 1993
- RS 117 Booklet entitled '*a world wide web server at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art*', apparently containing screen shots from the School website perhaps created to publicise the website. 1995

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- RS 118 ‘Recollections of [the] Ruskin School’, an account by a Balliol student of Modern History who also attended some classes at the School in 1928. 1977
- RS 119 Photocopy of an article by Dorothy J Aitchison: ‘The Slade School of Fine Art at the Ashmolean Museum, 1939-41’. 1988
- RS 120 Lecture handouts for series of lectures delivered by Julian Stallabrass. 1999-2000
- RS 121 Lecture handouts for a series of lectures on ‘Key Concepts in Cultural Theory’. 2000-1
- RS 122 Lecture handouts, 2004, including for the guest lecture delivered by Taru Elfving in 2003. 2003-4
- RS 122A List of tutorials for Hilary term 2005, giving the names of students and tutors. 2005
- RS 123 *Number not used*
- RS 124 *Number not used*
- RS 125 *Number not used*
- RS 126 *Number not used*
- RS 127 Lecture handouts and synopses, reading lists and essay questions for first year students of Art History. 2001-6
- RS 128 Preliminary and Second Public Examination question papers for the degree of Bachelor of Fine Art (BFA) for the topic ‘History and Theory of Visual Culture’. 2006-10

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- RS 128A Examination question papers for the Bachelor of Fine Art (BFA) final examination in 'History of Art from the thirteenth century to the present day'; photographic paper, 1980-91 and essay paper, 1981-7 and 1990. 1980-91
- RS 129 Course details for second year students of Art Theory, 1996, and lecture handouts for second year students of Art History, with details of the extended essay required to be submitted. 1996, 2000-6 and 2009-10
- RS 130 Papers relating to the examination paper and extended essay for third year students of Art History. 2005
- RS 131 Press releases issued by 'The Laboratory' announcing the award of the Helen Chadwick Fellowship and the Arts and Humanities Research Board Fellowship and a copy of an article announcing the name of the scientist-in-residence. 2003
- RS 132 Poster for 'Art & Anatomy Summer School, 2011'. 2011
- RS 133 Memorandum compiled by Philip Morsberger for the Committee on the Ruskin School giving details of the staff employed, statistics of the number of students taking the certificate course in Fine Art, accommodation, and the future careers of students. 1972
- RS 134 Copy of *The Sight of Kingfishers*, an article written by Justin Coombes to accompany the degree show exhibition celebrating the work of graduates of the Ruskin School since the award of the first degree in Fine Art in 1981. The exhibition was held at Modern Art Oxford. 2011
- RS 135 Correspondence relating to the appointment to a Tutorship in Fine Art with details of the successful applicant and the work subsequently undertaken by them. 1994-7

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- RS 136 Correspondence with some agenda papers for the Oxford Joint Planning Meeting. 1994-5
- The Joint Planning Meeting was set up as discussion group consisting of representatives from the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford and the Ruskin School.
- RS 137 Correspondence and related papers regarding the residency of the artists, Marina Abramovic, 1994-5 and David Peat, 1998. 1994-5 and 1998
- RS 138 Correspondence relating to the award of a Fellowship in the Creative and Performing Arts scheme administered by the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB); giving details of the successful applicant and the proposed research project as administered by the Ruskin. 1999
- RS 139 Inventory of equipment at the Ruskin School as at July 1994. 1994
- RS 140/1-21 Correspondence and related papers for projects undertaken and supported by The Laboratory. 1994-2004
1. Joseph Beuys Lectures. 1994-2002
 2. Website development and Jake Tilson Erna Plachte Residency. 1994-5
 3. Richard Wentworth at Christ Church Picture Gallery. 1994-6
 4. Virtual Sculpture Vessel. 1994-6
 5. Raiding the Voicebox. 1994-6
 6. Buoy by Stefan Gec. 1994-7
 7. Gas Station. 1995-6
 8. Tumblong. 1995-8
 9. Hidden Cities. 1995-6
 10. INSERTS. 1995
 11. Working Practices. 1995-6
 12. The Segsbury projects by Simon Callery. 1996-2004
 13. Exhibition of Cornelia Hesse-Honegger. 1996-7
 14. Artist's residency at the Maison Francaise. 1996-8
 15. Metropolis: Cities of the Imagination. 1997
 16. Cleft surgery and facial appearance. 1997-9

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- RS 140/1-21 Correspondence and related papers for projects undertaken and supported by The Laboratory 1994-2004 *cont*
17. Praeterita: Photographs by John Riddy. 1998-2001
18. Of All Places. 1998
19. John Ruskin and the Geographical Imagination. 1999-2000
20. Year of the Artist: Artists in Residence at Oxford University Museum of Natural History and Museum of the History of Science. 2000-1
21. 4 Minute Fellowship. 2001
- See also RS 46 and RS 141
- RS 141 Papers relating to the administration and funding of The Laboratory. 1993-2002
- See also RS 46 and RS 140
- RS 142 Papers relating to the establishment of the Helen Chadwick Fellowship, with some details of post-holders. 1997-2004
- RS 143 Feasibility study proposal for the School to occupy the Outpatients building at the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ) site; drawn up by Niall McLaughlin Architects. 2010
- RS 144 Brochure entitled 'Foundation for the Future: Developing the collegiate University estate' compiled by the University Estates Directorate and the Development Office. The brochure showcases a selection of University development projects amongst which is the proposal for the School to move to the Outpatients building at the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter. 2010
- RS 145 Conservation plan for 74 High Street compiled by Estates Services and including details on the history and significance of the site. 2012

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- RS 146 Catalogue to an exhibition by Ruskin doctoral students held in the Ashmolean Museum entitled 'In-Site'. 2012
- RS 147 A note from the Ruskin Master, Richard Wentworth, on the start of the Ruskin DPhil programme in 2006 with a list of recent visitors to the Ruskin. 2006
- RS 148 A summary list of visitors to the Ruskin. 2009-10
- RS 149 An invitation to participate in a discussion on the possibility of housing the Ruskin and the Museum of Modern Art Oxford together in a purpose-designed building. 2011
- RS 150 Alphabetical lists of students recording name, student status, college if applicable and fee paid, possibly for a specific class. 1996 and 2007-8
- RS 151 Alphabetical list of those attending a life drawing class recording student status, attendance and fee paid. 2010
- RS 152 Degree show 'box set' containing photocopies of work by both the finalists and some staff at the Ruskin. 2008
- The idea of the box set appears to be that each year the finalists give a small collection of artwork they have created to the staff at the Ruskin, who then contribute some of their own work to the set. The box set is described by Ruskin staff as a sort of 'in-house gift giving' and has become a tradition.
- RS 153 Poster for The Joseph Beuys Lectures 2003, 'A Place for Art – The Directors of three major institutions discuss their visions for working with artists in times of structural and professional change'; presented by the Laboratory at the Ruskin School. 2003
- The Joseph Beuys lectures were one of the projects undertaken by The Laboratory. See RS 140/1

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- RS 154 Poster advertising 'New Build' an installation by Richard Woods.
2005
- 'New Build' was a tenth anniversary project of The Laboratory and was commissioned by the Ruskin in association with New College.
- RS 155/1-7 Signed minutes and agenda papers of the Committee for the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art. 1977-2008
1. 1977-83
 2. 1984-93
 3. 1993-7
 4. 1993-6
 5. 1997-2001
 6. 2002-5
 7. 2006 and 2008
- The Committee was established in 1977 as the supervisory body for the School. RS 155/1-3 are signed minutes
- RS 156 Annual reports of the Committee for the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art. 1991-2001
- RS 157 Agenda papers of the Laboratory at the Ruskin School Research Committee (to 1999, Laboratory at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art Advisory Steering Group). 1997-9, 2002-3 and 2006
- The Advisory Steering Group was reconstituted as the Ruskin School Research Committee in June 1999 and the first meeting was held in November 1999.
- RS 158 Agenda papers and minutes of the ICT Committee. 2000, 2004-5
- RS 159/1-2 'Chairman's Book' for the preliminary examination for the Bachelor of Fine Art (BFA), including signed minutes of meetings of the examiners for the preliminary examination, exam timetables, examiners' reports, examination results, pass lists, copies of medical certificates and letters of appeal. 1978-2007
- 1 1978-92
 - 2 1993-2007

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- RS 160 ‘Chairman’s Book’ for the final examination for the Bachelor of Fine Art (BFA), including examiners’ reports, pass lists and correspondence relating to individual students. 1996-2007
- RS 161 Departmental Safety Book, 1982-95, with minutes of the departmental safety advisory committee, correspondence with students on safety matters and with the University Safety Office. 1982-95
- RS 162 Papers relating to the report of the review of the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, with the ten year ‘long term planning report, 1998-2008’. 1998
- RS 163 Papers relating to the Joint Division-Education Committee review of the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art. 2012
- RS 164 Passport-style photographs of first year students, where they are identified on the reverse, 1996, and of identified students but the year of admission is not given. 1996 and undated
- RS 165 Invitation to the opening of the new Fine Art building at 128 Bullingdon Road, with leaflet describing the facilities available and other associated material. 2015
- RS 166 Poster for ‘The Ruskin Drawing Sale’, advertised as a fundraiser for the 2016 Degree Show. 2015