8th September 2021

New Technical Alliance joins The Council for Higher Education in Art and Design

The Council for Higher Education in Art and Design (CHEAD) is delighted to announce the addition of a Technical Alliance to its range of sector specific networks.

CHEAD values and embraces the Technicians professional network who are a vital part of the Higher Education Art and Design core teams providing professional support, teaching, research, specialist facilities expertise and leadership on the technical aspects of creative education. This specialist Technical Alliance will bring together technicians, technical tutors and technical leaders within CHEAD membership institutions and create opportunities to communicate and share best practice. The Alliance's overall aim is to assist CHEAD in achieving its strategic priorities by proactively connecting the technical expertise, knowledge and experience into the wider debates and consultations that promote and advance art and design education in the UK. The Alliance is internationally connected and will complement the work the ETHO network undertakes with the support of ELIA.

"We are delighted to welcome the addition of a Technical Alliance to our range of specialist networks. We are committed to inclusion and to representing the whole range of specialist art and design staff in our 66 member institutions and are excited to engage directly with art and design technicians and support them to build a networked and confident community of practice for new ideas and methods which we can share across the range of networks within the wider CHEAD community."
Professor Sally Wade, Chair of CHEAD

Currently, an art and design technicians' group is convened by Abid Qayum, Head of Technical Services at the Royal College of Art who said about the creation of a Technical Alliance to support and develop this group:

"I am delighted to join forces with CHEAD to build our technical art and design community. It is well recognised that the technical workshops, services and technicians play a vital role in Art & Design Higher Education. These areas have had to constantly evolve and develop to support innovations in technologies to support learning, teaching, research and knowledge exchange in an ever-changing landscape. With the current challenges we face as a result of the pandemic, the technical practice within Art & Design is at a critical moment and communicating and sharing knowledge and good practice is as important as ever. The Technical Alliance would be able to offer CHEAD members a crucial and vital contribution in addressing some of these big challenges."
Abid Qayum, Head of Technical Services, Royal College of Art

The Technician's Alliance aligns with the CHEAD [Strategic Plan](#) and Mission to create a connected community of educators and will underpin our shared commitment to continuously improve practice, provision and pedagogy with an emphasis on innovation and excellence.

For more information, please contact Anna Maloney, Director of Membership and Operations via: anna@chead.ac.uk or see www.chead.ac.uk/technical-alliance/