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**CONTEMPORARY**

**ART**

**ACADEMY**

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## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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Artist: Michael Paramore

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Prepared by: Zavier Ellis & Mathew Gibson

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Date: January 2026

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### INTRODUCTION

This development plan has been prepared following an initial consultation with Michael Paramore. It reflects his current practice, ambitions, and the specific challenges he has identified in progressing his work beyond his existing networks. The purpose of this plan is to clarify focus areas and outline how targeted one-to-one mentorship could support Michael in navigating the contemporary art world with greater confidence and strategic understanding.

### CONTEXT

Michael is an established painter with a disciplined studio practice, working consistently alongside full-time employment as a software engineer. He paints most evenings, attends weekly life drawing sessions, and has completed the Turps Correspondence Course, which he found valuable in accelerating his critical development.

He has participated in collective-led exhibitions and organised group shows, and he continues to submit work to open calls, with mixed results. While satisfied with the quality and direction of his practice, Michael feels unsure how to move beyond peer-level networks and informal exhibition contexts into more visible, public-facing opportunities.

Michael is financially independent and not driven by commercial sales. His primary motivation is for his work to be seen, discussed, and situated in appropriate professional contexts.

### AMBITION

#### Short-Term

- Organise and participate in exhibitions in Guernsey and Dublin, with the intention of developing a London exhibition opportunity.
- Submit work to the Contemporary British Painting Prize.
- Continue scaling up the size of paintings, including large-format works.

#### Medium-Term

- Build on the exhibition activity above, refining presentation and contextual positioning.
  - Develop confidence in identifying and approaching appropriate institutions, curators, and opportunities.
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## Long-Term

- Establish a sustainable professional presence beyond informal or peer-led networks.
- Situate the work within contexts that feel intellectually and critically appropriate, rather than commercially driven.
- Maintain a strong studio practice while navigating the art world with clarity and confidence.

## SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

For Michael, success is not defined by commercial representation or sales, but by having his work seen, discussed, and taken seriously in the right contexts. This includes participation in respected exhibitions, prizes, and public-facing platforms that align with the nature of his practice.

## CHALLENGES

- Limited knowledge of how to access public galleries and institutional opportunities.
- A lack of clarity around routes into exhibitions beyond open calls and artist-led initiatives.
- Feeling isolated geographically and professionally, with limited access to higher-level critical feedback.
- Reduced confidence when navigating the art world outside the studio, despite strong studio commitment.

## NEEDS

- Focused professional development support, particularly around navigating institutions, exhibitions, and curatorial contexts.
- Continued critical input to support the development and positioning of the work.
- Access to mentors with experience of public exhibitions, prizes, and non-commercial contexts.
- Guidance on balancing studio practice with necessary professional activity without compromising creative momentum.

## CAPACITY

Michael has a consistent studio routine and flexibility to engage in mentoring sessions during weekdays (11am–3pm) and most evenings, excluding Tuesdays. While he is not currently working towards fixed deadlines, he is open to aligning mentoring support with future exhibition opportunities and prize submissions. He has not set a fixed budget but has the capacity to invest in professional development where value is clear.

## WHAT WOULD MAKE THIS EXPERIENCE VALUABLE

The most valuable outcome for Michael would be increased confidence and fluency in navigating the art world beyond the studio. This includes understanding how and where to position his work, who to approach, and how to engage professionally without pursuing commercial representation. Support that demystifies these processes and provides higher-level insight would be particularly beneficial.

## PROPOSED SCHEDULE

### MONTH 1 (MAR)

#### WEEK 1 – Narbi Price (Artist)

- Artist crit
  - Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session
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**WEEK 2 – Kirsty Ogg (Curator)**

- Mentee to present prior experience, current interests and aspirations, highlighting areas needing support, development, or specific attention
- Mentor presents summary of experience
- Explore exhibition ecosystem & opportunity
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

**WEEK 3 – Sarah Kent (Art Critic, Curator, Artist)**

- Analyse critical context of mentee's practice
- Mentor to advise on research & furtherment of contextual awareness
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

**WEEK 4 – Kirsty Ogg (Curator)**

- Follow-up session to Week 2
- Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

**MONTH 2 (APR)****WEEK 1 – Narbi Price (Artist)**

- Follow-up artist crit

**WEEK 2 – Rebecca Pelly-Fry (Curator)**

- Mentee to present prior experience, current interests and aspirations, highlighting areas needing support, development, or specific attention
- Mentor presents summary of experience
- Explore exhibition ecosystem & opportunity
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

**WEEK 3 – Sarah Kent (Art Critic, Curator, Artist)**

- Follow-up session to Month 1 Week 3
- Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

**WEEK 4 – Rebecca Pelly-Fry (Curator)**

- Follow-up session to Week 2
- Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

**MONTH 3 (MAY)****WEEK 1 – Joanna Whittle (Artist)**

- Artist crit
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

**WEEK 2 – Andrew Etherington (Curator)**

- Mentee to present prior experience, current interests and aspirations, highlighting areas needing support, development, or specific attention
- Mentor presents summary of experience
- Explore exhibition ecosystem & opportunity
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

**WEEK 3 – Ella Lewis-Williams (Art Writer, PR & Communications Specialist)**

- Analyse critical context of mentee's practice
  - Mentor to advise on research & furtherment of contextual awareness
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- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

#### **WEEK 4 – Andrew Etherington (Curator)**

- Follow-up session to Week 2
- Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

#### **MONTH 4 (JUN)**

##### **WEEK 1 – Joanna Whittle (Artist)**

- Follow-up artist crit

##### **WEEK 2 – Michael Petry (Curator, Writer, Artist)**

- Mentee to present prior experience, current interests and aspirations, highlighting areas needing support, development, or specific attention
- Mentor presents summary of experience
- Explore exhibition ecosystem & opportunity
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

##### **WEEK 3 – Ella Lewis-Williams (Art Writer, PR & Communications Specialist)**

- Follow-up session to Month 3 Week 3
- Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

##### **WEEK 4 – Michael Petry (Curator, Writer, Artist)**

- Follow-up session to Week 2
- Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

#### **MONTH 5 (JUL)**

##### **WEEK 1 – David Risley (Artist)**

- Artist crit
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

##### **WEEK 2 – Max Presneill (Curator, Artist)**

- Mentee to present prior experience, current interests and aspirations, highlighting areas needing support, development, or specific attention
- Mentor presents summary of experience
- Explore exhibition ecosystem & opportunity
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

##### **WEEK 3 – Emily Steer (Art Writer)**

- Analyse critical context of mentee's practice
- Mentor to advise on research & furtherment of contextual awareness
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

##### **WEEK 4 – Max Presneill (Curator, Artist)**

- Follow-up session to Week 2
- Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

#### **MONTH 6 (AUG)**

##### **WEEK 1 – David Risley (Artist)**

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- Follow-up artist crit

#### **WEEK 2 – TBC**

- Mentee to present prior experience, current interests and aspirations, highlighting areas needing support, development, or specific attention
- Mentor presents summary of experience
- Explore exhibition ecosystem & opportunity
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

#### **WEEK 3 – Emily Steer (Art Writer)**

- Follow-up session to Month 5 Week 3
- Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

#### **WEEK 4 – TBC**

- Follow-up session to Week 2
- Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

#### **MONTH 7 (SEP)**

#### **WEEK 1 – Zavier Ellis (Co-founder)**

- Review

#### **CONCLUSION**

Michael has a strong, committed practice and a clear desire to progress beyond his current networks. Targeted one-to-one mentorship focused on professional development and critical positioning would support him in accessing appropriate contexts for his work and developing confidence in navigating the contemporary art world. A bespoke mentoring structure would allow this support to remain responsive as his priorities evolve.

#### **Investment Summary:**

- 1-hour 1-2-1 mentoring sessions - £95 each (Fees are paid in monthly instalments starting two months ahead of the planned start date, or immediately if the programme begins sooner)
- Start Date: March 2026
- Session Frequency: Weekly
- Optional supplementary 1-2-1 mentoring sessions - £95 each
- Optional course add-ons - £95–£295

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