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# Students relaunch 1970s-style mag

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Stewart Maclean  
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A style and fashion magazine produced in the 60s and 70s by students at the Royal College of Art (RCA) is to be relaunched for the new millennium, with the first issue of the trendy lifestyle publication hitting the streets, and tubes, of London on Monday.

Students at the RCA, the world's only art and design school entirely for postgraduate students, say that by relaunching the institution's Ark magazine - popular among RCA students for nearly two decades - they aim to keep alive the ethos of the publication while giving it "a new twist for today's world."

"Ark was a really distinctive magazine" says student union president, Amelia Johnstone, who will take editorial control of the thrice annual publication. "But our predecessors stopped publishing it in the mid-70s because they found the market flooded with loads of similar publications.

"When we decided last year that we wanted to start up a new magazine for the students here, we looked back at our heritage and decided to bring Ark back, but with some new ideas to represent all that has changed in the time since it was last published."

Describing the magazine as a "comment based publication," Amelia says that the first issue on Monday will feature news of what's been happening in the world of music and fashion, and details of cultural shifts. The name has been altered slightly from its 1970s predecessor, and the new publication will be called Arc to signify the slight change in direction.

"Ark was a critical, cutting edge student publication of a rare and high standard, which changed the face of style magazines forever, and we hope to make a similar mark again, one that is right for 2004," says Amelia. The new Arc, she explains, will be published in tabloid newspaper format.

The plan is to distribute the magazine - funded by the student union at a cost of £2,500 an issue - across campus, as well as throughout London's underground system. "We're determined to make sure that people know what we're doing here," says Amelia.

Arc will be complemented by a weekly radio show, which the art and design students hope will keep contemporary cultural issues in the minds of their listeners. The show will be

launched on January 19 in association with lifestyle magazine Dazed and Confused. The public can listen online, at [www.icradio.com](http://www.icradio.com)

"The new show will complement this new magazine perfectly," says Amelia. "It will be a place to explore all the possibilities that you have with sound."

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