

**Academic regulations for  
Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Visual Arts**

Technical revisions completed and approved on September 13, 2024

# BILLEDKUNST SKOLERNE

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Danske Kunstakademi

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The Study Board made its comments on August 28, 2024. Then the curriculum was officially approved by Rector September 13, 2024.



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## INTRODUCTION

These academic regulations stipulate rules on the terms and conditions applying to students as regards admission to and the completion of the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) programme at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Arts. The academic regulations comprise two parts:

*Part 1* contains information about the education programme, admission and entrance requirements and the general rules pertaining to the completion of the programme.

*Part 2* contains descriptions of the contents of the various study elements of the programme – including teaching and learning formats, activity requirements and more.

### Legal basis

The academic regulations have been prepared pursuant to the Danish Executive Order no. 1326 of 23 November 2023 on education at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Arts (bachelor and master's programmes).

### Prescribed period of study

The MFA programme is a complete degree programme, which expands the knowledge and insight that the student has acquired in the bachelor's programme. The MFA programme is set to correspond to 180 ECTS credits, corresponding to three years of full-time study.

The academic year comprises two semesters:

- An autumn semester from 15 September to 31 January
- A spring semester from 1 February to 30 June

### Title

The master's degree entitles the holder to use the title *candidatus artis peritiae* (Cand.art.perit.). In English: *Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Visual Arts*.

### Entry into force

The academic regulations enter into force on the first day of the academic year beginning 15 September 2017.



## **PART 1**

### **1. ABOUT THE PROGRAMME**

#### **1.1 Overall objectives**

The objective of the education programmes offered by the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Arts is to educate students, imbuing them with knowledge, methodical skills and professional competencies within the field of visual art.

On an artistic and, where relevant, academic basis the Schools of Visual Arts will also promote and develop the students' artistic practice, method and professional skills, ensuring through practical as well as theoretical learning that students are qualified to work as professional artists, capable of maintaining their own autonomous practice and of solving artistic tasks as well as tasks associated with art presentation, interpretation and learning.<sup>1</sup>

#### **1.2 Objective and basis of the programme**

The Master of Fine Arts Programme (hereinafter the MFA programme) is an educational programme on the practice and theory of visual arts based upon artistic practice and artistic and academic research.

The main objective of the MFA programme is to prepare graduates for a professional occupation with the field of fine art. The programme also qualifies graduates to undertake PhD studies within the field of fine art.

The MFA programme must also:

- 1) expand on the student's BFA programme by offering advanced and specialised studies within the field and similar relevant fields,
- 2) enable each student to independently use and apply the artistic practices and academic/scientific theories and methods within the field of fine art,
- 3) enable the student to develop, present and reflect on their own artistic practise

##### *1.2.1 Basis and objective of the programme*

The core of the MFA programme concerns the in-depth and specialised development of the student's artistic practice, methods and professional/academic skills, including the development of general analytical and artistic competences. The development of an independent artistic practice and the ability to maintain such an artistic practice over time are pivotal to the programme. The programme aims to afford the student's own ideas and practice optimum

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. the provisions on the objective, purpose and structure laid down the Danish Executive Order no. 1326 of 23 November 2023 on education at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Arts (bachelor and master's programmes).

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opportunities of expression in an academic environment that supports experimentation, investigation and a flexible approach to working processes. Experimentation and challenges are considered crucial aspects of the production of finished works and academic insight.

The MFA programme supports, enhances and develops the students' artistic autonomy, enabling them to act with artistic independence during their studies and upon graduation. This concerns the highest degree of independence in terms of formal or conceptual precision in their art, as well as the independence expected in the labour market. Students are expected to grow increasingly able to demonstrate artistic independence during the course of the MFA programme.

The MFA programme gives students competencies that take their starting point in the material and/or conceptual practices that the student chooses to study, build and qualify to the highest level. It is also based on the awareness that experimental artistic practices ensure the best possible foundations of insight and experience in an institution of education where individual artistic practices are combined with a range of common platforms for discussion, critique and the exchange of lessons learnt between students and educators. The practice and profession of fine art cannot be defined within a predetermined curriculum or defined according to specific practical, theoretical and technical skills. Hence, each student is expected to not only assume responsibility for his/her own practice, but also for planning the studies conducted and for identifying individual and collective learning needs.

## *1.2.2 Knowledge base of the programme*

The Schools of Visual Arts are an institution of higher education whose knowledge base encompasses the following three elements:

1. artistic practice
2. artistic research (kunstnerisk udviklingsvirksomhed, KUV)
3. a scientific basis within a defined area

The Schools of Visual Art's research takes the form either as research in art (art history and art theory), research with art (practice based research based on artistic practice) or research for art (practice-based research based on technical practice).

The three types of research are based on two different knowledge bases: academic knowledge on the one hand and artistic practice and research (KUV) on the other. It is common for both of them that they are material-oriented and / or practice-oriented and seek to develop a particular medium or subject in close dialogue with other theoretical, technical and historical research.

## *1.2.3 Educational principles of the programme*

The educational principles underpinning the MFA programme take their starting point in the principles of "Student-Centred Learning", a framework which helps ensure that students take

an active role in the learning process and co-create learning, and that the assessment of students reflects this approach.<sup>2</sup>

These principles form the basis of the contents of the study programme as well as for its management. Student-Centred Learning emphasises reflection and critical thinking, diversity in and among individual students and in the study programme, individual choice, independence and collaboration between students and staff.

Student-Centred Learning is characterised by innovative learning methods that promote learning in an ongoing dialogue with educators and with other learners. It sees students as active co-creators in their own learning, thereby promoting skills relating to problem solving, critical thinking and reflection.

Each student is regarded as a learner who actively takes part in their own learning through their own individual practice and through the choices facilitated by their artistic practice, by the workshops and courses provided at the Schools, and by critical reflection conducted with others.

Students are expected to achieve full independence and autonomy during the course of their MFA programme.<sup>3</sup>

Student-Centred Learning is used as a fundamental educational principle at the Schools because it is compatible with the present-day concept of art and its fundamental demand for originality and artistic independence, both individually and collectively. The emphasis on the student's own responsibility for learning supports their future opportunities for independently carrying out their artistic practice as creative artists.

### **1.3 Learning objectives**

The academic objectives are based upon the Danish Ministry of Culture's qualification framework (kvalifikationsramme) of January 2010.

Upon completion of the degree programme, the student will:

#### *Insight and understanding*

- have acquired in-depth experience within the field of artistic practice as well as extensive knowledge within the field of art, based upon internationally acclaimed artistic practice, artistic research and leading research within the field of visual art,
- be capable of understanding, communicating and reflecting upon the field of fine art and of identifying artistic challenges and academic issues,

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<sup>2</sup> From Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG, 2015).

<sup>3</sup> ESU (European Students' Union); *Overview on Student-Centered Learning in Higher Education – Research Study*, PASCL, Life Long Learning Programme.

#### *Skills*

- master the methods, tools and modes of expression found within the field of visual art and be able to apply relevant academic methods and tools and master analytical and general skills associated with professional work within the field of visual art,
- be able to evaluate and choose between artistic methods and tools and academic theories associated with visual art, and to use these to arrive at new modes of expression and solutions,
- be able to present and mediate artistic modes of expression and to discuss professional and relevant academic issues associated with fine art with fellow artists and non-specialists alike,

#### *Competencies*

- have the ability to deal with artistic and research-related situations that are complex, unpredictable and require new solutions or modes of expression,
- be capable of independent participation in professional and interdisciplinary collaborations while maintaining a professional outlook,
- be able to accept personal responsibility for his/her own professional development and specialization

### **1.4 Structure and completion of the MFA programme**

#### *1.4.1 Structure*

The MFA programme is a specialised course of study where each semester corresponds to 30 ECTS credits. The specialised course of study takes its starting point in the student's own artistic practice, and in keeping with the principle of Student-Centred Learning students are expected to accept responsibility for their own specialisation and to take part in the collective planning of the course of study.

The MFA programme places great emphasis on practice as well as on theory. The practical aspects of the programme are extensive, encompassing the student's own practice, their awareness of art techniques, and theoretical practice, both academic and artistic.

The specialised course of study comprises five closely linked mandatory study elements and an optional study element.

- Artistic practice (Kunstnerisk praksis)
- Critical reflection (Kritisk refleksion)
- Presentation
- Knowledge-based learning (Vidensbaseret undervisning)
- Optional: Internship
- MFA project

Students must also attend the programme's "department assemblies" (afdelingsfor-samlinger). The main objective of these assemblies is to plan courses, discuss issues associated with the study programme, conduct evaluations etc.

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Artistic practice forms the pivotal hub for the study elements *Artistic practice*, *Critical reflection* and *Presentation*, which means that they cannot be separated out into distinct subjects. However, the study elements are partially directed towards different learning objectives.

## *Artistic practice*

A key element of the MFA programme, artistic practice concerns the students' independent work on their own art projects. It accounts for approximately 70 ECTS credits of the total study activities on the MFA programme. Supervision/guidance and group critique supports the evolution of the student's artistic practice.

## *Critical reflection*

The element of critical reflection takes its starting point in the student's *artistic practice*, developing their ability to reflect on their own artistic practice and that of others – and on the process that precedes the finished work. The students will express their thoughts on their own work and that of others at communal reviews of the students' works.

## *Presentation*

The presentation element arises out of the student's artistic practice. The second and fourth semesters are concluded by presentations. Each presentation requires the student to present an art project that will then be assessed by external or in-house critics. This element is inextricably associated with the student's artistic practice.

## *Knowledge-based instruction*

Knowledge-based instruction (workshops, courses, excursions, study groups, etc.) supports the development of each student's artistic practice, offering them tools for critical reflection on their own work and the work of others. Knowledge-based instruction may be oriented towards practice or theory.

Knowledge-based instruction is offered in the form of workshops, courses etc. at the individual specialised MFA programmes, at the Laboratories, and at the Institute for Art, Writing and Research.

## *Internship*

One semester of the MFA programme can be wholly or partially replaced by an internship. An internship has a duration corresponding to 15-30 ECTS points. Depending on the length and content of the stay, additional study elements will be added.

## *MFA project*

The MFA project is part of the completion of the MFA programme and is concluded by a visual arts project. The MFA project is also collective in scope: With supervision from teachers, the students will prepare and employ collective modes of presentation.

## *Completion*

The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Arts uses the ECTS credit system to indicate the relative workloads accounted for by individual courses and study elements. One year of full-time study corresponds to 60 ECTS credits, which in turn corresponds to between 1,500 and 1,800 actual working hours for students within one academic year. Actual working hours include studio work, educator-led teaching, lectures, seminars, workshops, independent study, preparation, etc.





### 1.5 Programme contents

The study programme comprises the following study elements:

Study element	ECTS credits
Artistic practice	70
Critical reflection	25
Knowledge-based instruction	45
Presentation	10
MFA project	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>

The number of ECTS credits stated indicates the relative weight attributed to each study element throughout the total study programme. Part 2 of these academic regulations includes a more detailed description of these study elements' contents, learning objectives, modes of instruction and learning, requirements and assessment.

The exact coursework, etc., for each study element will be determined for each semester.

Students can follow an optional module on *Writing and Research (skrift og forskning)* offered by the Institute for Art, Writing and Research (cf. the academic regulations on optional elements). This optional module corresponds to 30 ECTS credits, which will partially replace the credits otherwise accrued by the study element *Knowledge-based instruction*.

## 2. ADMISSION AND ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

### 2.1 Admission

The admission process for the MFA programme takes place once a year. A maximum of eight places will be available to external applicants each year.

Admission is based on a specific artistic evaluation of each applicant's own artistic work. Each applicant must submit a number of works for assessment by an expert jury. The jury's assessment places emphasis on aspects such as:

- the originality of the work submitted
- the strength of the idea behind the work and on the clarity of the intention underpinning it
- consistency between form and content
- the applicant's potential for further artistic and professional development

Each year a more detailed description of the admission procedure is published on the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Arts' website

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## 2.2 Admission and entrance requirements

Applicants holding a Bachelor's/BFA Degree from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Arts, and whose graduation took place within two years of their application, are regarded as internal applicants and as such are accepted directly into the MFA programme.

Applicants for the MFA programme must hold a bachelor's degree from another artistic place of education. Such applicants as well as bachelors/BFA degree holders from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Arts whose degree is more than two years old will be assessed on the basis of a specific evaluation of the applicant's own work.

Applicants must be able to read, speak and understand English or Danish (or Norwegian or Swedish) in order to follow the teaching provided in the MFA programme. If Danish (or Norwegian or Swedish) is the applicant's first language, said applicant must also have basic English proficiency.

## 3. GENERAL RULES

### 3.1 Assessment

At the end of each semester each student will be assessed, including an assessment of whether the student is deemed to have *passed* or *failed* that semester. The assessment is based on the student's artistic/academic development and participation in the various teaching/instruction activities.

A student will *pass* the semester if they have participated sufficiently in the teaching/instruction provided and performed to a level which matches or exceeds the minimum level of performance required to meet the learning targets set. The requirements concerning active participation in teaching/instruction are described in section 3.2. A total of 30 ECTS credits are awarded when a student passes a semester.

The assessment is carried out by the Head of Studies on the basis of the specific teaching/instruction provided that semester, as described in the relevant semester plan.

If a student fails a semester, the assessment must be supplied in writing and include a plan for the student's work in the next semester. The plan must allow the student to complete his/her programme within the standard timeframe (time to degree) and will form part of the basis of the student's assessment for the next semester.

If three subsequent assessments show that a student does not meet the Schools of Visual Arts' requirements regarding artistic/academic growth and active participation in the teaching/instruction provided, the Head of Studies may, following an interview with the student, decide to expel said student.



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## 3.2 Participation in classes, compulsory attendance etc.

The teaching/instruction at The Schools of Visual Arts takes its starting point in the students' own artistic practice. For this reason students are expected to put considerable effort into precisely this practice. At the start of the academic year, all active students at the Schools, including guest/exchange students, are assigned a studio space of which they are expected to make active use throughout the course of their studies. The Schools of Visual Arts cannot guarantee that students will have the same studio space throughout their course of study.

An attendance rate of at least 80% is mandatory for classroom teaching and individual teaching; this minimum rate applies to each course. The activity requirements set out for individual study elements will indicate which courses are mandatory for students.

If a student has an absence rate of more than 20%, the Head of Studies may declare said student 'inactive' for the semester in question. The Study Administration must be notified of absence due to illness.

## 3.3 Enrolment provisions

The student cannot be enrolled at more than one full-time education programme at a time unless this is done in connection with student exchange schemes.

### *Re-enrolment*

Re-enrolment in the second academic year or later is only possible if there is a vacant place in the programme after the admission deadline.

## 3.4 Maximum time to degree

For students on the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Art's Schools of Visual Arts' MFA programme, the maximum time allowed until the degree is completed is the prescribed time to degree + one year.

Periods of maternity leave/paternity leave, other leave or illness are not counted towards the maximum time to degree.



### **3.5 Credit transfer**

#### *Credit transfer prior to enrolment*

The student must inform the institution about and apply for credit transfers for any previously completed courses/programme modules from other higher education degree programmes in Denmark or abroad for which it must be assumed that credit transfers will be granted.

In each case the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Arts will assign credits on the basis of the courses/programme modules completed and their correspondence to courses and programme modules in the MFA programme. The decision to assign credits will be made on the basis of a professional artistic/academic assessment.

#### *Preapproval of transfer credit*

Students wishing to carry out studies at another institution in Denmark or abroad must apply for preapproval from the Study Board. Applications for preapproval of transfer credits must always be submitted for approval by the Study Board prior to beginning such studies. The application for preapproval must be supplemented by a written recommendation from the Head of Studies.

When obtaining preapproval of studies elsewhere in Denmark or abroad, the student must, upon ending those studies, provide documentation for all courses/programme modules completed and passed at those studies. When obtaining preapproval the student must give the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Arts permission to obtain the necessary information upon the end of the student's studies elsewhere.

Preapproval of credit transfers for studies in Denmark or abroad may be given administratively for the second, third and fourth semesters of the MFA programme if these studies are conducted at an institution in Denmark or abroad which qualifies for credit transfers.

#### *General provisions*

Students can receive mandatory credit transfers corresponding a maximum of 60 ECTS credits prior to enrolment to their MFA programme, corresponding to a total of two semesters, and preapproved credit transfers corresponding to a maximum of 60 ECTS credits can be awarded during their MFA programme, including any internship, also corresponding to a total of two semesters.

The MFA project cannot be credit transferred.

### **3.6 Leave**

The Schools of Visual Arts cannot grant a student leave until said student has completed the first semester of academic year on the MFA programme and passed the assessments or examinations which, according to the academic regulations, are held during the first semester of the academic year.

Students may, however, apply for leave due to maternity/paternity leave, adoption, call-up for compulsory military service or a contract with the Danish Armed Forces.

Leave for any reasons other than those indicated in the above may only be granted with specific, individual approval from the Study Board prior to the onset of the period of leave. The Study Board's approval must be supplemented by written approval from the Head of Studies.

Leave is granted for full semesters only.

While on leave, students cannot attend classes or participate in assessments or examinations within the programme or at any other institutions of education. This means that leave may not be granted in order to allow the student to study at another institution.

The student is not permitted to have access to the Schools' facilities during leave, nor is the student entitled to have a studio space during ordinary leave.

### **3.7 Internships**

Elements of the programme may be substituted for internships completed in Denmark or abroad. Internships may be paid or unpaid and must enable students to plan their subsequent studies based on having become familiar with practical work/methods.

The total amount of elements replaced by internships during the MFA programme may not exceed 30 ECTS credits.

Internships are set up on the basis of a written agreement between the student, the Head of Studies and the internship host.

During the MFA programme, internships may take place in the second, third and/or fourth semesters. It is not possible to conduct an internship during the sixth semester of the programme.

### **3.8 Enrolling in a specific School**

The enrolment process whereby candidates are assigned into their specific Schools (commonly known as "professor schools") takes place once a year. Here current and future MFA programme students will choose their particular course of study in the form of a specific School. Students must indicate their first and second choices ranked in order of priority.

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Detailed rules on how to enrol in a specific School are published every year on the Schools of Visual Arts' INFO-portal.

### *Changing Schools in the middle of an academic year*

If a student wishes to change from one School to another, this change must be approved by the professors of both Schools involved and by the rector. Students must submit their request to change Schools to the Study Administration.

It is not possible to change Schools in the middle of the third academic year.

### **3.9 Active enrolment**

Students who are behind in their studies to an extent corresponding to more than 30 ECTS credits must receive an offer of counselling.

### **3.10 Quality assurance**

Quality assurance at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Arts is ensured through the Schools' quality policies, which comprise policies within the following fields:

1. Recruitment, admission and introductory courses/activities
2. Study environment
3. Pedagogics and educational development
4. Knowledge base
5. Programme strategy and development
6. Study administration
7. Relevance/Employment prospects

The students are consulted on decisions pertaining to quality assurance via the Study Board.

### **3.11 Enrolling in courses/programme modules**

The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Arts are responsible for enrolling the student in courses/programme modules at their relevant level of study, corresponding to 30 ECTS credits per semester.

This enrolment takes place regardless of whether the student has yet to complete courses/programme modules from previous semesters.

### **3.12 Exchange**

The MFA programme is a Danish study programme aimed at the Danish and international art scenes. For this reason students are encouraged to undertake a foreign exchange placement during their studies.

### **3.13 Access to dispensation, complaint and appeal**

The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Arts may grant dispensations from those rules in the academic regulations that are laid down solely by the Schools themselves. Such dispensations must be submitted to the Study Board for approval.



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Complaints pertaining to decisions made under these academic regulations shall be lodged in writing to the rector of the Schools of Visual Arts no later than fourteen days after the student was informed of the relevant decision. The written complaint must state the reasons behind the student's complaint.

### **3.14 Expulsion and other disciplinary measures**

Rules on expulsion and other disciplinary measures can be found on the Schools of Visual Arts' intranet.



**PART 2****4. STUDY ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAMME****4.1 Artistic practice**

ECTS	70
Examination	Internal examination conducted by the relevant supervisor at the end of each semester
Assessment type	Pass / fail
Study programme	MFA Visual arts

*Content*

This study element consists in the student's independent work on his/her own artistic practice, during which the student makes use of the School's facilities such as studio spaces, laboratories, library, project spaces, archives and other places relevant to their project.

*Learning objectives*

Upon completion of the study programme, the student must:

- have acquired in-depth experience within the field of artistic practice as well as extensive knowledge within the field of art, based upon internationally acclaimed artistic practice, artistic research and leading research within the field of visual art,
- be capable of understanding, communicating and reflecting upon the field of fine art and of identifying artistic challenges and academic issues,
- master the methods, tools and modes of expression found within the field of visual art and be able to apply relevant academic methods and tools and master analytical and general skills associated with professional work within the field of visual art,
- have the ability to deal with artistic and research-related situations that are complex, unpredictable and require new solutions or modes of expression,
- be capable of independent participation in professional and interdisciplinary collaborations while maintaining a professional outlook,
- be able to accept personal responsibility for his/her own professional development and specialization

*Teaching and learning formats*

The element *Artistic practice* places emphasis on experimentation and on exploring processes, ideas and materials.

The student's working process and method will be regularly discussed and reflected upon in an ongoing dialogue with relevant teachers. The student will receive personal supervision from the Schools of Visual Arts' staff and from part-time/guest lecturers.

The Head of Studies at the student's MFA programme will act as the student's main supervisor. The student may choose an auxiliary supervisor from among the Academy's tenured



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staff; together with the main supervisor he or she will monitor the student's progress and ensure continuity.

The student will present his/her artistic work to the supervisor. The student and supervisor will discuss this work with a view to ensuring clear feedback, clarifying objectives and intentions, formulating questions and defining areas for further future investigation. The student must develop appropriate study and working methods, analyse processes and results and develop their critical reflection and language in relation to their own practice.

The student is expected to be able to work independently, to have research and development in mind, and to adopt critical perspectives, all with the objective of nurturing and developing their own production of works

### *Study requirements*

- Attending three supervision sessions per semester; two featuring the student's main supervisor and one featuring another supervisor
- Engaging in artistic practice/developing an artistic production
- Engaging in an ongoing dialogue with relevant teachers/lecturers.

### *Assessment*

At the end of each semester each student must have satisfactorily fulfilled the mandatory aspects. This will form part of the overall assessment of the student and of whether the student has achieved a *pass* or *fail* on the semester.

## 4.2 Critical reflection

ECTS	25
Examination	Internal assessment conducted on the basis of the student's level of active participation
Assessment type	Pass / fail
Study programme	MFA Visual arts

### *Content*

Critical reflection is a collective form of learning where a group of students (and possibly a supervisor) engage in a communal conversation that takes its starting point in the students' works. Critical reflection is about putting the artistic practice into words. At communal reviews of the students' works, students will articulate arguments about their own work – and the work of others – in relation to material, contextual, art historical and theoretical deliberations. Critical reflection is also about reflecting on the process that precedes the finished work. Critical reflection may take the form of reviews, group critique sessions, practice groups etc.

### *Learning objectives*

Upon completion of the study programme, the student must:

- be capable of understanding, communicating and reflecting upon the field of fine art and of identifying artistic challenges and academic issues,



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- master the methods, tools and modes of expression found within the field of visual art and be able to apply relevant academic methods and tools and master analytical and general skills associated with professional work within the field of visual art,
- be able to evaluate and choose between artistic methods and tools and academic theories associated with visual art, and to use these to arrive at new modes of expression and solutions,
- be able to present and mediate artistic modes of expression and to discuss professional and relevant academic issues associated with fine art with fellow artists and non-specialists alike,
- have the ability to deal with artistic and research-related situations that are complex, unpredictable and require new solutions or modes of expression,
- be capable of independent participation in professional and interdisciplinary collaborations while maintaining a professional outlook,
- be able to accept personal responsibility for his/her own professional development and specialization

## *Teaching and learning formats*

Within the practice groups, the students engage each other in a mutual conversation about artistic issues, taking an example presented by one or more students as the starting point of the discussion. This is to say that the teaching is based on dialogue and will teach students to present and communicate their own practice to others. The group can focus on conducting a critical review, a reflected review or both.

## *Study requirements*

- Active participation in critical reflection instruction as defined by the School
- A supervisor will take part in critical reflection sessions
- A total of six critical reflection sessions will be arranged

## *Assessment*

At the end of each semester each student must have satisfactorily fulfilled the mandatory aspects. This will form part of the overall assessment of the student and of whether the student has achieved a *pass* or *fail* on the semester.

## **4.3 Knowledge-based learning**

ECTS	45
Examination	Internal assessment conducted on the basis of the student's level of active participation
Assessment	Pass / fail
Study programme	BFA Visual arts

## *Content*

*Knowledge-based learning* takes the form of workshops, courses etc. that focus on specific materials, studies, methods or historical subjects, each of them based on a specific thematic, theoretical or technical basis. It may also be contextual instruction that relates to the student's artistic practice in other ways, e.g. within the fields of art history, art theory, critical



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theory, philosophy or other academic disciplines as well as courses aimed at the business aspects of art. Knowledge-based learning can also include writing classes, excursions and study trips.

Knowledge-based learning teaches students to take in and navigate complex content that strengthens technical, theoretical and research-related aspects of each student's practice and professional ability.

## *Learning objectives*

Upon completion of the study programme, the student must:

- have acquired in-depth experience within the field of artistic practice as well as extensive knowledge within the field of art, based upon internationally acclaimed artistic practice, artistic research and leading research within the field of visual art,
- be capable of understanding, communicating and reflecting upon the field of fine art and of identifying artistic challenges and academic issues,
- master the methods, tools and modes of expression found within the field of visual art and be able to apply relevant academic methods and tools and master analytical and general skills associated with professional work within the field of visual art,
- be able to evaluate and choose between artistic methods and tools and academic theories associated with visual art, and to use these to arrive at new modes of expression and solutions,
- be able to present and mediate artistic modes of expression and to discuss professional and relevant academic issues associated with fine art with fellow artists and non-specialists alike,
- be capable of independent participation in professional and interdisciplinary collaborations while maintaining a professional outlook,
- be able to accept personal responsibility for his/her own professional development and specialization

## *Teaching and learning formats*

Knowledge-based learning takes the form of workshops, courses, seminars, study groups, study trips etc. that focus on specific themes, materials or methods.

In the various departments the instruction will take its starting point in the principles of Student-Centred Learning, meaning that it will be planned on the basis of the students' interests and needs. Those interests and needs will be identified at the so-called "department assemblies" ("afdelingsforsamlingen") and form the basis for the course planning. The instruction offered at the laboratories and the institute is based on the research conducted by the staff and consists of courses specifically targeted at nurturing the students' methodical, technical and theoretical qualifications via continuity and immersion, for example in a specific material, subject or theoretical issue.

On the MFA programme, knowledge-based learning will relate to theory and practice in different ways and to varying degrees. The themes addressed will often cut across different practices and discourses. Art courses may focus on specialised technical and artistic subjects,



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such as painting, performance art, social practices etc., or on practices founded in theory such as feminism, political theory, anthropology etc.

Knowledge-based learning is carried out by tenured associate professors, professors, or part-time/guest lecturers and by PhD and postdoc fellows. All teachers must themselves engage in artistic practice or a research/academic practice.

## Study requirements

- Students must take part in at least three modules per semester (including the study trips)
- Students must actively participate in the course provided

## Assessment

At the end of each semester each student must have satisfactorily fulfilled the mandatory aspects. This will form part of the overall assessment of the student and of whether the student has achieved a *pass* or *fail* on the semester.

## 4.4 Presentation

ECTS	10
Examination	Internal assessment conducted on the basis of the student's individual work and level of active participation. The <i>Presentation</i> element is also assessed on the basis of the work of art produced or a documented process. The assessment involves a review of the work during which the student presents his/her thoughts behind the work/process. The reflections and the work are assessed as a whole.
Assessment	Pass/fail
Study programme	MFA Visual arts

## Content

The Presentation element is aimed towards a joint exhibition featuring individual or collective works or projects (performances, films, concerts, digital works etc.). It involves individual/collective artistic practice as well as collective processes as the students will collectively realise the exhibition/presentation while supervised by their relevant educator(s).

The Presentation element forms part of the annual Open House exhibition, Rundgang.

## Learning objectives

Upon completion of the study programme, the student must:

- have acquired in-depth experience within the field of artistic practice as well as extensive knowledge within the field of art, based upon internationally acclaimed artistic practice, artistic research and leading research within the field of visual art,
- be capable of understanding, communicating and reflecting upon the field of fine art and of identifying artistic challenges and academic issues,



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- master the methods, tools and modes of expression found within the field of visual art and be able to apply relevant academic methods and tools and master analytical and general skills associated with professional work within the field of visual art,
- be able to evaluate and choose between artistic methods and tools and academic theories associated with visual art, and to use these to arrive at new modes of expression and solutions,
- be able to present and mediate artistic modes of expression and to discuss professional and relevant academic issues associated with fine art with fellow artists and non-specialists alike,
- be capable of independent participation in professional and interdisciplinary collaborations while maintaining a professional outlook,
- be able to accept personal responsibility for his/her own professional development and specialization

## *Teaching and learning formats*

The *Presentation* element can be either individual or collective in scope. Students will individually (or working in small groups) prepare an art project that will be presented as part of a group exhibition/presentation at the annual open house exhibition, Rundgang.

## *Study requirements*

- Students must actively take part in the collective course conducted by their supervisor
- Student must create an individual work that will be presented at the exhibition (here, the term 'individual' may also apply to students who work together on a collective work)
- Students must present their work at exhibitions held towards the end of the second and fourth semesters

## *Assessment*

At the end of each semester each student must have satisfactorily fulfilled the mandatory aspects. This will form part of the overall assessment of the student and of whether the student has achieved a *pass* or *fail* on the semester.

The Presentation element is assessed through an internal assessment based on the student's individual work and level of active participation. It is also assessed on the basis of the work of art produced or a documented process. The assessment involves a review of the work during which the student presents his/her thoughts behind the work/process. The reflections and the work are assessed as a whole.

## **4.5 Internship (optional element)**

ECTS	15-30
Examination	The student's performance is assessed on the basis of their attendance and how they have undertaken their obligations at



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	their internship host. The internship is also assessed on the basis of a report submitted upon the completion of the internship.
Assessment	Confirmation of satisfactory completion from internship host, student's own report
Study programme	MFA Visual arts

## *Content*

Students can choose to replace study elements wholly or partially by taking an internship instead. If students engage in internships of shorter duration, less than 30 ECTS, they must complete other study elements at the school's discretion.

## *Learning objectives*

Upon completion of the study programme, the student must:

- be capable of understanding, communicating and reflecting upon the field of fine art and of identifying artistic challenges and academic issues,
- master the methods, tools and modes of expression found within the field of visual art and be able to apply relevant academic methods and tools and master analytical and general skills associated with professional work within the field of visual art,
- have the ability to deal with artistic and research-related situations that are complex, unpredictable and require new solutions or modes of expression,
- be capable of independent participation in professional and interdisciplinary collaborations while maintaining a professional outlook,
- be able to accept personal responsibility for his/her own professional development and specialization

## *Teaching and learning formats*

Internships are directed towards increasing the student's opportunities for employment and take place at external stakeholders (internship hosts) that are relevant to a fine art education. Such a host may be an artist, a cultural institution, a gallery or other producers of culture. The internship must give the student a basis for planning their subsequent studies on the basis of familiarity with practical work.

Internships take place on the basis of a written agreement signed by the student, the Head of Studies and the internship host.

## *Study requirements*

- The student must complete pre-determined tasks/work at the internship host. These tasks should be defined to reflect the learning objectives stated above.
- The student must complete a brief report summing up the course of their internship.

## *Assessment*

At the end of each semester each student must have satisfactorily fulfilled the mandatory aspects. This will form part of the overall assessment of the student and of whether the student has achieved a *pass* or *fail* on the semester.



**4.6 MFA project (fifth and sixth semesters)**

ECTS	30 (divided equally on 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> semester)
Examination	The project is assessed by the student's supervisor and an external co-examiner
Assessment	Pass / fail
Study programme	MFA Visual arts

*Content*

The MFA project constitutes the final presentation of the MFA programme and leads up to the final MFA exam held at the end of the sixth semester. During the project, the student(s) will be supervised while independently working on an individual or collective visual arts project, which is presented in an exhibition and an oral examination. The student will also take part in a group project that will define the parameters of the format of the final presentation.

Students can work individually or work in groups to produce a joint work.

*Learning objectives*

Upon completion of the study programme, the student must:

- have acquired in-depth experience within the field of artistic practice as well as extensive knowledge within the field of art, based upon internationally acclaimed artistic practice, artistic research and leading research within the field of visual art,
- be capable of understanding, communicating and reflecting upon the field of fine art and of identifying artistic challenges and academic issues
- master the methods, tools and modes of expression found within the field of visual art and be able to apply relevant academic methods and tools and master analytical and general skills associated with professional work within the field of visual art,
- be able to evaluate and choose between artistic methods and tools and academic theories associated with visual art, and to use these to arrive at new modes of expression and solutions,
- be able to present and mediate artistic modes of expression and to discuss professional and relevant academic issues associated with fine art with fellow artists and non-specialists alike,
- have the ability to deal with artistic and research-related situations that are complex, unpredictable and require new solutions or modes of expression,
- be capable of independent participation in professional and interdisciplinary collaborations while maintaining a professional outlook,
- be able to accept personal responsibility for his/her own professional development and specialization

*Teaching and learning formats*

The MFA project comprises an individual or collective part and a group-oriented project. Each student will work on an art project that continues directly in the vein of his or her artistic practice so far. This work can also be done collectively.

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The group-oriented project consists in a collaboration between the students and an external curator and with the exhibition venue where their MFA Degree Show will take place.

Individual main supervisors will be attached to each MFA project. Another supervisor may also be assigned to the artistic project.

## *Study requirements*

- Students must actively take part in the collective instruction associated with the final exhibition (MFA Degree Show)
- Students must carry out individual/collective work under the supervision of their supervisor (cf. *Artistic practice*)
- Students must carry out individual/collective work which will be presented at the exhibition
- Students must submit a synopsis (oral/written)
- Students must deliver an oral defence of their project

## *The MFA project process*

The assessment of the student's MFA programme takes place on the 6<sup>th</sup> semester. Prior to the end of the fifth semester of the MFA programme and following preliminary discussions regarding contents and work schedule, the student must submit a written or oral (filmed) synopsis (1–2 pages or 3–5 minutes) to the relevant Head of Studies. The synopsis must include a presentation of and/or sketch for a project or study to be completed during the sixth semester of the programme. The Head of Studies will recommend the student for their final MFA assessment based on this synopsis.

The MFA assessment takes place during the sixth semester of the programme. The assessment of the student's work and process is carried out on the basis of an oral dialogue between the student, the Head of Studies responsible and an external co-examiner.

The discussion will commence with the student presenting a result of the work undertaken during the semester, which is compared with the approved synopsis. In order to document the working process the student may, for example, present one or more works of art, or a detailed sketch for a proposed work, or a thoroughly documented account of a work process.

One of the keys factors taken into account is that the student's intention is supported by the presentation in one or more media freely chosen by the student. The student's presentation and oral defence should document the student's ability to:

- define and carry out an artistic investigation of a specific issue and to maintain and develop an independent practice to high standards throughout one or more projects,
- discuss and analyse an artistic process and a completed work of art and to present and mediate this visually and in language,
- apply methods, tools and modes of production associated with the field of fine art,
- place their own artistic work within relevant historical, theoretical and cultural contexts



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## *Assessment*

The MFA project is assessed on the basis of the individual/collective work and on the student's active participation. The project is graded as pass/fail. An overview of the student's studies is attached to the Master's Degree certificate.

In the event of the student failing to achieve a pass on their MFA assessment, he/she may, when agreed with the Head of Studies responsible, submit a new final project for reassessment.

The project is assessed by the supervisor and an external co-examiner.

