



Curriculum, Master's programme in Fine Art (*Masterstudium i billedkunst*)

120 ECTS credits

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Table of contents

PART 1	2
1.1. BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE PROGRAMME	2
1.2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME	2
1.3. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS	2
1.4. THE PROGRAMME'S LEARNING OUTCOMES	2
1.5. STRUCTURE AND PROGRESSION.....	3
1.5.1. <i>Course Structure</i>	4
1.5.2. <i>Exchange Programmes</i>	4
1.6. TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS.....	5
1.7. ASSESSMENT.....	5
1.8. QUALITY ASSURANCE.....	5
PART 2	6
2.1. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 1 ST YEAR	6
2.1.1. <i>Artistic Practice 1</i>	6
2.1.2. <i>Thematic Focus 1</i>	7
2.1.3. <i>Exhibition Practice 1</i>	8
2.1.4. <i>Thematic Focus</i>	9
2.1.5. <i>Theory for Practice 1</i>	10
2.2 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, 2 ND YEAR.....	11
2.2.1. <i>Artistic Practice 2</i>	11
2.2.2. <i>Theory for Practice 2</i>	12
2.2.3. <i>Exhibition Practice 2</i>	13
2.2.4. <i>Exhibition Practice 3</i>	14

PART 1

1.1. Brief Outline of the Programme

Programme name	Master's programme in Fine Art
Programme code	MABK
Qualification for	MA in Fine Art
Duration of study	2 years – full time study
ECTS credits	120
Medium of instruction	English

1.2. Brief Description of the Programme

The programme offers teaching at the highest level in contemporary art on a variety of contemporary art practices, including painting, drawing, photography, video, film, sculpture, installation, performance and new media, etc.

The programme is interdisciplinary and not medium-specific.

The programme accommodates students who are not proficient in Norwegian, and all courses can, if necessary, be taught in English.

1.3. Admission Requirements

Admission to the Master's programme requires a three-year degree in fine art (Bachelor's degree of 180 ECTS credits or equivalent). The first degree must include specialisation in a subject, course or course group of at least 80 ECTS credits within the discipline of the Master's programme.

The following criteria will be prioritised:

- independent practice and artistic research
- motivation
- suitability for the programme
- previous relevant experience

All applicants must document proficiency in English.

1.4. The Programme's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the programme, students should be able to

- conduct independent, high-level research into artistic questions, ideas or issues through experimentation and production
- study complex artistic or theoretical references and other relevant methods
- articulate artistic questions and issues that are relevant for developing their own and others' practice
- analyse, contextualise and discuss their own and others' works, including presenting, defending and articulating their work within a critical framework
- use informative and analytical methods to propose, articulate and reflect on different interpretations and critiques of artworks and ways of approaching artistic questions
- contextualise and discuss key concepts in cultural practice and theory
- develop networks for dialogue or collaboration with others on their own work and independent projects and research
- express their artistic questions in writing, employing a vocabulary suited to their practice
- understand experimental strategies as well as appropriate ways to present and disseminate writing practice
- produce a final research paper where they, in a reflective way, articulate questions and ideas that inform or shape their practice
- have a comprehensive understanding of different exhibition or presentation formats, including their

- histories, contexts and conventions
- present their own works in appropriate and varied forms of display, in collaboration with curators, fellow students or others
- communicate in visual, spatial and material ways in order to engage the viewer

1.5. Structure and Progression

At the core of the study programme is students' work in the studio. Tutorials and group critiques support the development of the student's individual practice. The programme is based on the understanding that contemporary art is closely linked to historical, social, political and cultural contexts.

Emphasis is therefore placed on analysing and contextualising artistic practice within a broad perspective, with a particular emphasis on art history, philosophy, anthropology, architecture, political theory, psychoanalysis as well as other disciplines and contexts that are part of the students' own practice.

The programme offers approaches with references to the art field, but it also extends to other disciplines and encourages a critical discourse within the practices we teach.

Writing practice is a point of emphasis. With support from the Academy's writing teachers and publishing facilities, we encourage students to develop their own voice and publish their own texts in a variety of formats.

The public dimension of the students' practice is an important part of the programme. Students are encouraged to enter a dialogue with fellow practitioners, as well as various actors and spaces in the art field, in order to reflect on how their practice relates to modes of circulation. The programme includes public platforms such as exhibitions, the Open Academy, performances, events and lectures, and encourages students to participate and critically reflect on these formats and their content.

The programme is organised according to four course categories: *Artistic Practice*, *Thematic Focus*, *Theory for Practice* and *Exhibition Practice*.

Artistic Practice: Artistic practice is a central aspect of studying at the Academy of Fine Art. Students develop their thinking, artistic strategies and experiments, as well as produce works independently. This may involve technical instruction, artistic production, engaging in the works of other artists, reading literature and theory, archival research, fieldwork, collaborative and discursive practices, or any other type of activity that is relevant for the student's questions and interests.

At the beginning of every academic year, each student is allocated, based on a system of student prioritation, a new main advisor among the Academy of Fine Art's academic staff. The main advisor will oversee their development and provide continuity, and guide the students' development and provide continuity through individual tutorials as well as through group critique sessions. The main advisor groups are a mix of students from the BA and the MA programme.

Central to the group critique sessions are formal presentations, critiques and analysis. Allowing students to have their works, artistic questions and intentions discussed by their fellow students allows individual students to test out and reflect on the various interpretations generated by the works. These discussions may reveal connotations, implications, issues or solutions that the student has not yet considered, and they may also corroborate his or her artistic decisions. Group critique aims to develop the ability to both enter the work and to obtain a critical distance to it; that is, to assume the dual role of producer and external viewer. Further, the ability to interpret and discuss other artists' works is crucial because it helps students to reflect on how their own works may be received in public space. By engaging in discussions about the works of others, students will also develop a critical vocabulary and tools to analyse and question artworks. Discussing other students' works is an exercise in interpreting art, thinking aloud and reflecting on possible perspectives, approaches and solutions.

During the first year of the programme, the main emphasis will be on experimenting and exploring processes, ideas and the use of materials. By the end of the second semester, students must have completed one or more works that demonstrate their ability to incorporate both their own independent research as well as the critical perspectives of their main advisor and group critique peers, with an eye towards developing the student's future production. During the second year of the programme, the emphasis will be on students developing and producing their graduation projects.

Thematic Focus: The Academy of Fine Art offers a wide range of thematic workshops, seminars and lectures that aim to enhance the students' practice, gain an understanding of the history and context that shape contemporary art, and experiment with new artistic strategies and materials.

Thematic Focus courses will to varying degrees relate ideas and topics to artistic production. Topics will often cut across different practices and discourses, potentially including technical specialisations, interdisciplinary practices and relevant social, political and cultural questions.

Theory for Practice: By engaging with theoretical and art historical approaches, Theory for Practice contributes to students' development of a language and frame of mind that can support reflection on the work of oneself and others. These approaches can involve writing practice but conversations are of equal importance. During their final year, students will write a research paper that enhances their ability to examine and contextualise their graduation project.

Exhibition Practice: Developing ways to present an artistic project in public spaces is a central part of any artist's practice. The Academy of Fine Art offers a number of occasions where students may experiment with exhibition practices and learn to finalise their work so that it can be viewed and discussed in public. This may be in the format of an exhibition, performance, reading, intervention, radio transmission, publication or other modes of public expression. In tandem with the student's own exhibition practice, students are offered courses and workshops aimed at producing knowledge about different exhibition or presentation formats, including their histories, contexts and conventions.

1.5.1. Course Structure

ECTS credits are used to indicate the amount of work required by each course. 60 ECTS credits correspond to a year of full-time study. One ECTS credit corresponds to 25 to 30 actual hours of work for the student. Actual hours of work include teacher-led instruction, lectures, written assignments, seminars and independent studies, etc..

Overview of all the courses, with ECTS credits:

	10	10	10	ECTS
1.sem	ARTISTIC PRACTICE BK501 40 ECTS		THEMATIC FOCUS BK503 3 ECTS	30
2.sem			THEORY FOR PRACTICE BK504 4 ECTS	30
3.sem	ARTISTIC PRACTICE BK521 40 ECTS		THEMATIC FOCUS BK513 6 ECTS	30
4.sem			EXHIBITION PRACTICE BK535 10 ECTS	30

1.5.2. Exchange Programmes

Students are encouraged to be actively involved in the broader international art scene and to spend a portion of their studies at approved institutions abroad. This should normally take place during the second semester, within one of the following exchange programmes:

- ERASMUS (European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students)
- KUNO, a Nordplus network of Nordic and Baltic art academies
- bilateral agreements with other institutions, as well as approved student-initiated projects

The Academy of Fine Art in Oslo is a member of ELIA, the European League of Institutes of the Arts.

1.6. Teaching and Learning Methods

The programme consists of independent studio-based work, as well of tutorials and teacher-led instruction and group critique sessions. The working and learning methods may consist of tutorials, seminars, workshops, lectures, group critique, exhibition practice and student-initiated projects.

The programme's coursework requirements include the following:

- studio production and the development of artistic practice
- tutorials with main advisor and other teachers
- active participation in workshops, seminars and lectures (minimum 80% attendance)
- follow-up on feedback from teachers and fellow students
- participation in and moderation of group critique sessions
- development of exhibition projects under curatorial guidance
- practical/collaborative instances

Further information about the coursework requirements is included in the individual course descriptions.

Provisions on absence and leave are provided in the regulations concerning studies at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts (*Forskrift om studiene ved Kunsthøgskolen i Oslo*).

1.7. Assessment

The required coursework must be approved in order for a student to receive a final assessment in the given course.

Semester 1

Thematic Focus and Exhibition Practice will be assessed by the teacher of the given class.

Semester 2

The course Artistic Practice will be assessed by the main advisor at the end of the semester. The courses Thematic Focus and Theory for Practice will each be assessed by the teacher of the given class.

Semester 3

The courses Theory for Practice and Exhibition Practice will be assessed by the teacher of the given class.

Semester 4

The final examination in Artistic practice will take place in the fourth semester as part of the individual graduation project at a venue of choice. The work will be assessed by two examiners, of whom at least one is external. The course Exhibition Practice will be assessed by the teacher of the given class.

For further information on how courses are assessed, see the individual course descriptions.

All the courses in the programme are graded pass/fail, and every course must be passed in order for the student to achieve the degree.

Further provisions on assessment and exams have been laid down in the regulations concerning studies at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts (*Forskrift om studiene ved Kunsthøgskolen i Oslo*).

1.8. Quality Assurance

The Oslo National Academy of the Arts has systems for assuring and enhancing the quality of all parts of the education. Students are important contributors to this work, for example by participating in student evaluations and the annual learning environment survey.

PART 2

2.1. Course Descriptions, 1st year

2.1.1. Artistic Practice 1

Kunstnerisk praksis 1

Brief Outline of the Course

ECTS credits	40
Course code	BK501
Course level	MA
Course delivery	1st and 2 nd Semester
Prerequisites	Admission to MA in Fine Art
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	MA in Fine Art

Brief Description of the Course

Artistic practice is a central aspect of studying at the Academy of Fine Art.

Students develop and produce their works independently. This may involve technical instruction, artistic production, contemplating the works of other artists, literature reviews, archival research, fieldwork or any other type of activity that is relevant for the student's artistic practice.

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students should be able to

- independently explore artistic questions, ideas or concerns through experimentation and production; study of complex artistic or theoretical references and other relevant methods
- analyse, contextualise and discuss their own and others work, including the presentation format, within a critical framework
- consider different interpretations of their own and others works, as well as problems and challenges that are relevant for developing their own and others' practice

Teaching and Learning Methods

The student's work, process and methods will be developed, analysed and assessed in an ongoing dialogue with teachers and fellow students. Tutorials will be provided by the academic staff as well as by guest teachers.

Students participate in regular group critique sessions. By presenting their own work and contributing critically to discussions of artworks of their peers, students will reflect on one another's work and analyse individual practices.

The work will be presented and discussed individually in order to provide feedback and clarify goals and intentions, articulate questions and define areas for further research. Students should also develop appropriate research and working methods, analyse processes and final works, and develop a critical framework and language in relation to their own practice. Further artistic output will be necessary in all subsequent semesters.

Coursework requirements:

- studio production and the development of an artistic practice
- participation in at least four tutorials with the main advisor as well as four tutorials with other teachers
- active participation in group critique sessions throughout the year
- follow-up on feedback from teachers and fellow students
- participation in the midterm assessments at the end of the first semester

Assessment

The required coursework must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

The course will be assessed at the end of the second semester by the student's main advisor.

The following will be assessed:

- the student's production as seen in relation to the course's learning outcomes

The course is graded pass/fail.

2.1.2. Thematic Focus 1

Brief Outline of the Course

ECTS credits	3
Course code	BK503
Course level	MA
Course delivery	1st Semester
Prerequisites	Admission to MA programme
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	MA in Fine Art

Brief Description of the Course

The Academy of Fine Art offers a wide range of thematic workshops, seminars and lectures to enable the students to enrich their own practice, gain an understanding of the history and context that shape contemporary art, and engage critically with issues in contemporary art, culture and society.

These various methods will hereinafter be referred to under the label "class" (Norw. *kurs*).

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students should be able to

- discuss and analyse their ideas and investigations with fellow students
study and work in a critical dialogue or collaboration with others

Teaching and Learning Methods

The course will to varying degrees relate theory to practice, and topics will often cut across different practices and discourses. Participation and the exchange of ideas are essential so it is expected that students follow and participate actively.

Coursework requirements:

- active participation (minimum 80% attendance) in one elective course

Assessment

The required coursework must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

The student will be assessed by the teacher of the given class. The assessment will be seen in relation to the course's learning outcomes.

The course is graded pass/fail.

2.1.3. Exhibition Practice 1

Utstillingspraksis 1

Brief Outline of the Course

ECTS credits	7
Course code	BK505
Course level	MA
Course delivery	1st Semester
Prerequisites	Admission to MA programme
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	MA in Fine Art

Brief Description of the Course

The course aim to tie critical discourse to the students' artistic processes and the choices artists are confronted with when exhibiting their work publicly. The course is also an introductory moment for 1MA students to meet each other and explore various ways of framing and contextualising their own practice . The course includes a public instance.

The course will cut across different practices and discourses. Participation and the exchange of ideas are essential so it is expected that students follow and participate actively.

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students should be able to

- experiment with different ways of exhibiting or communicating artistic practice, and initiate public presentations
- discuss, share and develop ideas together with other colleagues in the field, including curators and fellow students, and/or institutions
- critically relate to discursive and practical aspects in the development of publicly exhibited/circulated instances

Teaching and Learning Methods

- group discussion sessions
- practical/collaborative instances (amongst students and/or with external institutions)
- lectures / Presentations (by course leader and/or guest)
- sharing/discussing relevant texts
- individual research

Coursework requirements:

- active participation (minimum 80% attendance)

Assessment

The required coursework must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

The student will be assessed by the teacher of the given course.

The assessment will be seen in relation to the course's learning outcomes. The course is graded pass/fail.

2.1.4. Thematic Focus

Tematisk fokus

Brief Outline of the Course

ECTS credits	6
Course code	BK513
Course level	MA
Course delivery	2nd Semester
Prerequisites	Admission to MA programme
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	MA in Fine Art

Brief Description of the Course

The Academy of Fine Art offers a wide range of thematic workshops, seminars and lectures to enable the students to enrich their own practice, gain an understanding of the history and context that shape contemporary art, and engage critically with issues in contemporary art, culture and society.

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students should be able to

- establish methods for reviewing and discussing works of art and artistic approaches within a critical framework
- establish methods for identifying key concepts in cultural practice and theory

Teaching and Learning Methods

The course will to varying degrees relate theory to practice, and topics will often cut across different practices and discourses, including artistic practices, technical specialisations, performance, dance and theatre, social and political issues, cultural theory, philosophy, anthropology, psychoanalysis, architecture, literature and music.

It is also possible to conduct independent research in a student-initiated project that focuses on a specific topic. Excursions are often part of thematic workshops or seminars but can also be incorporated in a student-initiated project.

Participation and the exchange of ideas are essential in workshops, seminars and lectures, so it is expected that students follow and participate actively in the classes they choose. Unless otherwise stated, there is an 80% attendance requirement for all organised teaching at the Academy of Fine Art. Students who cannot attend or who do not show up are expected to inform their teacher in advance and state the reason for their absence.

Coursework requirements:

- active participation in at least two classes (minimum 80% attendance)
- if one of the classes has been replaced by an individual project, the student must receive tutorials from a teacher both before and after the project. The project must be approved by the main advisor and is seen in relation to the course's learning outcomes

Assessment

The required coursework must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

The student will be assessed by the teacher of the given classes. The assessment will be seen in relation to the course's learning outcomes.

The course is graded pass/fail.

2.1.5. Theory for Practice 1

Teori for praksis 1

Brief Outline of the Course

ECTS credits	4
Course code	BK504
Course level	MA
Course delivery	2nd Semester
Prerequisites	Admission to MA programme
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	MA in Fine Art

Brief Description of the Course

Developing ways to describe and present an artistic project is a central part of an artist's practice. By means of theoretical and art-historical approaches, Theory for Practice should encourage the students to develop a language and a mindset that can support reflection on their own and others' artistic practice. Sometimes this work will involve writing practice, but oral conversations may be equally important.

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students should be able to

- recognise several different critical perspectives related to contemporary art
- relate relevant concepts from art history and theory to their own work

Teaching and Learning Methods

The course normally takes place as seminars/lectures where the students read up on assigned material in advance. Students may also be asked to hand in written assignments and/or carry out oral presentations.

These assignments will help prepare the student for the process of writing and presenting a research paper related to their graduation project in the following semester.

Coursework requirements:

- active participation in classes (minimum 80% attendance)
 - submission of written assignments and/or delivery of oral presentations
- In exceptional cases, a student may carry out a self-organised project rather than participate in a class. This must be agreed upon in advance with the student's main advisor as well as the course teacher

Assessment

The required coursework must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

Students will be assessed by the teacher of the given class.

The assessment will be seen in relation to the course's learning outcomes.

The course is graded pass/fail.

2.2 Course Descriptions, 2nd year

2.2.1. Artistic Practice 2

Kunstnerisk praksis 2

Brief Outline of the Course

ECTS credits	40
Course code	BK521
Course level	MA
Course delivery	3 rd and 4 th semester
Prerequisites	Passed the previous course in Artistic practice.
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	MA in Fine Art

Brief Description of the Course

Artistic practice lies at the core of the study programme at the Academy of Fine Art. Students develop and produce their works independently. This may involve technical instruction, artistic production, contemplating the works of other artists, literature reviews, archival research, fieldwork or any other type of activity that is relevant for the student's artistic practice.

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students should be able to

- produce original works for public presentation, communicated in visual, spatial and material ways in order to engage the viewer
- understand and critically reflect on a variety of exhibition formats and contexts
- understand and critically reflect on a variety of mediating formats and other texts
- critically shape, discuss and contextualise their works both as informed by and as part of their independent research
- identify complex artistic questions in dialogue with others, consider different interpretations of their own and others' works, as well as problems and challenges that are relevant for developing their own and others' practice within a critical framework.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The main emphasis will be on students developing and producing their graduation project. Their work, process and methodology will be developed, analysed and assessed during ongoing tutorials by teachers as well as in group critique sessions. Personal tutorials will be provided by academic staff at the Academy of Fine Art as well as by guest teachers.

Each student's work is presented and discussed individually in order to provide feedback and clarify goals and intentions, formulate questions and define areas for further exploration. Students should also develop appropriate research and working methods, analyse processes and finalised works, and develop a critical framework and language in relation to their own practice.

Coursework requirements:

- studio production with a focus on the development of the graduation project
- participation in at least four tutorials with the main advisor as well as four tutorials with other teachers
- participation in group critique sessions throughout the semester, including one discussion where the student formally presents his or her own work or exhibition
- follow-up on feedback from teachers and fellow students
- participation in the mid.term assessments at the end of the third semester

Assessment

The required coursework must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

The final examination in Artistic Practice will take place during the fourth semester as an individual examination of the student's graduation project at a venue of choice.

The student will be assessed by two examiners, of whom at least one is external.

The following will be assessed:

- the student's production as seen in relation to the course's learning outcomes

The course is graded pass/fail.

2.2.2. Theory for Practice 2

Teori for praksis 2

Brief Outline of the Course

ECTS credits	6
Course code	BK524
Course level	MA
Course delivery	3 rd semester
Prerequisites	Admission to MA programme
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	MA in Fine Art

Brief Description of the Course

Developing ways to describe and present an artistic project is a central part of an artist's practice. By means of theoretical and art-historical approaches, the Theory for Practice classes should help students develop a language and a mindset that can support reflection on their own and others' artistic practice. Sometimes this work will involve writing practice, but oral conversations may be equally important. During this semester, students focus on developing their research paper.

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students should be able to

- conduct independent research on topics that are relevant for their artistic work
- articulate clearly questions and ideas that shape their artistic practice, both orally and in writing

Teaching and Learning Methods

Students develop a research paper in dialogue with their teachers, through a combination of seminars and individual tutorials. They should continue to work on their own exploration and on ideas and practices that are relevant for their practice, as well as develop a vocabulary that may be used in their further career as a professional practitioner.

Coursework requirements:

- submission of written assignments and/or delivery of oral presentations
- active participation in preparatory seminars and classes (minimum 80% attendance)
- follow-up on feedback from teachers and fellow students

Assessment

The required coursework must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

The student will be assessed by the teacher of the given class.

The following will be assessed:

- submitted texts and delivered oral presentations, as seen in relation to the course's learning outcomes

The course is graded pass/fail.

2.2.3. Exhibition Practice 2

Utstillingspraksis 2

Brief Outline of the Course

ECTS credits	4
Course code	BK525
Course level	MA
Course delivery	3 rd semester
Prerequisites	Admission to MA programme
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	MA in Fine Art

Brief Description of the Course

Presenting your own work in public is central to all kinds of artistic practice. The 3rd semester is focussed on the development of the students' graduation projects. Through workshops, seminars, master classes, and individual tutorials, the students will acquire tools for how to develop both their individual graduation project as well as the collaborative group show exhibition. The emphasis of the seminars is on different exhibition formats and the discourses that surround them, supporting the students in positioning of their own work in relation to various formats of dissemination.

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students should be able to

- prepare an original body of work for public presentation
- provide a conceptual, aesthetic and critical framework for their work
- gain knowledge about, and critically reflect upon, different exhibition formats, strategies of display and modes of public presentation
- communicate in visual, spatial and material modes in order to engage the viewer, and consider the relationship between visual and written communication in an exhibition situation

Teaching and Learning Methods

- seminars and group discussions sessions
- lectures / presentations and masterclasses (by course leader and/or guest)
- sharing/discussing relevant texts
- individual research
- individual tutorials

Coursework requirements:

- development of the graduation projects
- active participation in exhibition workshops, lectures and seminars (with minimum 80% attendance)
- follow-up of feedback from teachers and fellow students

Assessment

The required coursework must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

The student will be assessed by the teacher of the given course.

The following will be assessed:

- The assessment will be seen in relation to the course's learning outcomes.

The course is graded pass/fail.

2.2.4. Exhibition Practice 3

Utstillingspraksis 3

Brief Outline of the Course

ECTS credits	10
Course code	BK535
Course level	MA
Course delivery	4 th semester
Prerequisites	Passed the previous courses in Exhibition Practice.
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	MA in Fine Art

Brief Description of the Course

Together with a curator, the second-year students will develop and implement a collective public presentation, through which the students will practically explore ways to present and communicate their work to a larger audience. The emphasis of the course is on collaborative processes, experimenting with exhibition formats and spaces, and various ways of producing and encountering a public.

The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students should be able to

- prepare and implement a collective public presentation in collaboration with a curator, fellow students and/or other practitioners
- communicate in visual, spatial and material ways in order to engage the viewer, as well as prepare relevant informational material for public dissemination
- critically reflect on a variety of exhibition formats and contexts, and how these relate to wider societal processes and concerns.

Teaching and Learning Methods

- group discussion sessions
- practical/collaborative instances (amongst students and/or with external institutions)
- lectures, presentations, workshops and seminars (by curator/course leader and/or guests)
- sharing/discussing relevant texts

Coursework requirements:

- develop and produce a group graduation exhibition project with fellow students under curatorial guidance
- active participation in exhibition workshops and seminars (minimum 80% attendance)
- engage with feedback from teachers, fellow students and external professionals

Assessment

The required coursework must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

The student will be assessed by the teacher of the given course.

The following will be assessed:

- the student's preparation for the public presentation of their work, its presentation and communication in a variety of media as seen in relation to the course's learning outcomes

The course is graded pass/fail.