



**Our Bachelor's Program
— Art Institute FHNW Academy
of Art and Design**

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OUR BACHELOR'S AT THE ART INSTITUTE

A short introduction. One of the most important elements of our bachelor's program is the environment. We are small in scale, and therefore we can put all our effort into our students, into motivating them and creating the quality of experience in studying art, from access to great workshops to conversations with teachers and guests to the many seminars. Care, nearness, and continuous guidance are keys to our method of introducing you to the world of art.

From the first day on, you are confronted with very important questions. The most important are: How do I become an artist? What is the type of activity it implies? What do I need to learn? What makes my practice different from others? To study art is to learn to be autonomous, to understand that teachers do not give you tasks but encourage you to task yourself. It is also important to be in a group with others who are undergoing a similar process of self-understanding and learning in order to become curious and receptive to how different art is in the mind of every artist.

How do I know what to do? This question can be answered in many ways. It is very important to be free, to be able to follow ideas or intuitions that you are already curious about. But at the same time, you must confront the difficult reality that art is not equal to the fulfillment of one's interests, at least not entirely. Therefore, while you do what you want to do, you will also need to complete a series of concrete tasks. The first is to take a mandatory introductory course on all our workshops. Our campus has a great number of technical facilities, but you are only entitled to use them after engaging in an introduction with the technical teams, who will tell you about the different available artistic media, when and how to properly use the equipment, safety regulations, and how to request extra help or create different opportunities if you do not find what you are looking for. The workshops are very important because they help you not only to use technical training but also to understand the relationship between your hands and your mind. Even if you think you are only interested in one media, it is crucial that you discover all the others. Being an artist is not only about the language you are interested in, but also about knowing how all the different media and artistic languages relate to one another. The Art Institute wants to make you curious about materials, digital possibilities, and how to act on the image and on form with ceramic or wood or metal or paper or glass or paint or performance.

Already beginning the first year we organize mandatory trainings in which you will be able to experiment with the skills and the ideas that you acquire. These different workshops are intended to help you expand your ideas and develop them with others in ways you never thought about before. They are conducted by a team of teachers and technical experts in small groups, and the idea is to motivate you to be curious and pursue exercises and, later, the production of your own work in your studio. Also: all our workshops offer specific training and every one of you must attend. The workshops are open during the week for you to receive personal support in case of difficulties during production or doubts about how to learn

to use a facility. You can also borrow material. Cameras, lights, beamers, and sound and portable broadcast equipment are available upon request.

The Forum – group meetings where questions and works are discussed. One essential part of the bachelor's program is the Forum. Every student will be part of a group called Forum. There are three of them. Each Forum is conducted by three artists/teachers and you will meet every two weeks for two days. These meetings are fundamental to socialize your ideas. You are invited to present your work and, at the same time, to attend the presentation of all the other young artists in your group. But the Forum is also the place where you will be confronted with questions that surpass your own interests: What constitutes contemporary art today? What are the languages and the forms of experimentation that are relevant to an artist community? How does art change through time? Is art equal in all the different social and cultural contexts? How do I learn to study the many different questions that affect a practice from the outside, the politics of a work or an institution? Are men and women artists given the same treatment and possibilities in the art context? How do I learn to find my way, to link the big debates in art and broader questions with my own interest? All these questions, among others, are part of a conversation that is ongoing in the Forum. We expect you to be curious and to use the opportunity accordingly, asking questions, requesting help and guidance from your teachers, and learning where to get hold of art historical material to learn more about it. Another important part of the activity of the group is the different excursions, on which you will familiarize yourself with the context, Basel, and the importance of art and of remaining curious about it. Basel is a very important city for art, especially for contemporary art. The city is small in scale but possesses very important institutions and one of the largest numbers of artist-run spaces in Europe, as well as the most important art fair. For this reason, studying in Basel offers you not only the courses and the great teachers but also an incredibly plural and rich context for you to understand the complexity of the art world today.

Mentoring — the importance of individual discussions to deepen your practice. It is key to be able to move forward with your enquiries and decision-making process, and the conversations you will have with other artists and your mentors will allow you to do this. In addition to the private mentoring with the teachers of the three Forums, you will receive a list of names of other artists who you can work with. Even if familiarity is important to get you through your work, it is also necessary to talk to artists and curators who do not know you. Learning how to present your concerns, ideas, and working methods is fundamental. These conversations are not there to present work, but to establish a productive dialogue and generate input and references that may be relevant to your work.

Introducing multiple ways of making and thinking about art. Another important part of the program consists in seminars. Every Monday a series of lectures organized by the Institute for Aesthetic Practices and Theory takes place on our campus. These lectures are mandatory for the





bachelor's students. You will be able to choose from several subjects, and they will also give you the opportunity to get to know students from the other institutes, as the lectures are open to everyone.

Also: twice a year you will have an intense seminar dedicated to ideas, philosophy, and theory – the “Studienwoche Theorie.” This will allow you to familiarize yourself with the questions that determine the intellectual context to which you relate as an artist. Every year, a similarly intense week is dedicated to an exercise of artistic practice – the “Studienwoche Kunst.” These workshops are normally conducted by guests, and are very experimental, opening up your views on every single media, from writing to painting, from audio to performance. These are crucial seminars: in the case of the theory one, you will be given readers in order to learn about ideas and the ways of thinking that influence artists; in the case of the practice-oriented seminar, you will in turn receive professional views on the current state of the arts.

You will experience that at our Institute we pay close attention to notions such as nature, gender, and race. These concepts are general names for the theoretical environment we are trying to create in order for you to think about how ideas outside the strict field of art production influence art, but also how artists gain a speculative language mostly through their practices.

The program allows you as well to take courses at the University of Basel. Additionally, every Wednesday a series of Art Talks is organized at the Art Institute. We consider it important to hear about and pay attention to how other artists reflect on and share their work and ideas in public.

Another important issue that we will address in the program is the life of an artist as an independent worker. A series of meetings with professionals will discuss life and taxes and health insurance once you leave the school, and how to apply for grants or make budgets. In order for you to get a picture of the different values, languages, and interests within the art market, we organize meetings not only with independent forces in the art world, but also with gallerists and art advisors.

Our Institute is also part of a rich learning and cultural environment. The House of Electronic Arts (HeK) is next door, and its exhibitions and programming are a great extension of many of the questions addressed during our bachelor's program. Other surrounding institutes—including the Institute of Experimental Design and Media Cultures (IXDM), the Hyperwerk (Institute for Postindustrial Design), and the Visual Communication Institute, to name a few—also offer a great variety of lectures and regularly host events that are of great interest to our bachelor's students.

Artistic initiatives and projects — their context and their different natures.

During the three years of the program, there will be plenty of opportunities to develop specific projects. Some of these are initiated by the Art Institute, and include exhibitions and opportunities to work with professionals and artists. But you are also encouraged to organize your own personal or collaborative initiatives, for which you will receive credit. Basel has a very large network of artist-run organizations and a rich artist community. This provides you with a ground to establish links and collaborations beyond the

reach of the Institute. We often organize events with regional partners, and little by little you will learn about art spaces and meet artists who activate a territory around Basel, and in neighboring France and Germany. The condition of inter-territoriality is very important for Basel, and it allows you to experience different artistic contexts.

der TANK — our exhibition space for artistic commissions and students' initiatives. Our exhibition space is an extension of the sculpture workshop. Its nature is one of testing and giving you the opportunity to see how a space different from your studio, or manner of working, can affect the perception, scale, and whole of your production. As the name suggests, it is like a glass cube, fourteen by fourteen by six meters in size. The space has several functions. Two or three times a year, it serves as a presentation space for commissions by artists who are linked to the program and its subject matter. These commissions are important and render the Art Institute as a place where new works are produced and where the process of artists thinking about and making new work is part of the education. To enhance the public sphere, our Institute opens some of our lecture series to the general audience and interested artists. This stresses the reality that art institutes are also spaces where new works are produced all the time, and they state to the public the importance of risk-taking and giving support to ideas and artists who may not yet have a space elsewhere. These exhibitions coexist with solo and group shows produced by students and with an exhibition series with alumni of the Art Institute. If available, students can submit proposals to exhibit in der TANK, an opportunity to formalize a work or a series of works.

Traveling as a learning tool. Traveling is an important part of learning, and the program offers the chance to do so primarily in Europe. We thematize, however cultural difference, geopolitical situations, and how place influences the work of a community in a broader scale. We encourage responsibility when learning about difference, and when we bear towards other communities we explore ways we can contribute to creating alliances and networks that produce solidarity among artist worldwide. Once a year, the different Forums organize a trip collectively with the students in the group, from Athens to Albania, from Portugal to Berlin. The goals, events, and contexts of these trips are decided according to the group. It demands a new knowledge about these places, and an awareness of the fact that what shapes the possibilities for us may be different for others.

In addition to the regular teachers at the Institute, we invite a very large number of guest artists from many different contexts and nationalities. The milieu of the Institute is defined by its friendliness and an open character that should help you get closer to others, and become curious about what they do and their values. We also provide special mentoring for writing if you have an interest in or difficulty with it. Our website and newsletters keep you informed about events, tips, texts to read, exhibitions to see, and the many different opportunities in the field.





BACHELOR OF ARTS IN FINE ARTS — PRACTICAL INFORMATION

STRUCTURE OF THE BACHELOR'S PROGRAM

The bachelor's program at the Art Institute allows you to familiarize yourself with questions related to today's art practice. You are supported in the development of your individual work. Besides the free studio work, the core of the program consists of tutorials, projects, theory, and practical workshops, as well as group discussion and individual mentorship with teachers, technical specialists, and fellow students. You both learn technical skills and develop a knowledge about key aspects of today's artistic creation.

The bachelor's program is six semesters and corresponds to 180 ECTS. It is articulated in four main focuses that correspond to the modules.

MODULE 1: Art and Practice

In this module, you acquire an overview of the technical aspects that correspond to your practice and deepen your knowledge of specific mediums. "Art and Practice" is based on your own initiative, be it in regard to the choice of the medium, the implementation of your technical concerns, as well as to the further development of your technical knowledge and experience in relation to your own work.

MODULE 2: Art and Communication

Considering the importance of discourse properly in the development of artistic processes and of the ability to criticize, this module allows you to train your communication skills for your own practice during regular bilateral mentorship sessions, as well as group discussions with other students and teachers.

MODULE 3: Art and Reflection

In this module, you develop reflexive and theoretical skills in relation to your own practice as well as to general theoretical knowledge. Knowledge in fundamental cultural theory and targeted art theory topics is especially imparted.

MODULE 4: Art and Presentation

This module corresponds to the semester presentations and to all important examinations of the three-year-long program; among others, the Basis Thesis and the Bachelor's Thesis. Besides the display and presentation of your own artistic work, your reflexive and written skills are assessed in the form of a theoretical essay.

OUR TEAM

HEAD OF THE ART INSTITUTE

Prof. Chus Martínez

FORUM TEACHERS

Katrin Freisager, Philipp Gasser, Jan Kiefer, Emil Michael Klein,
Alexandra Navratil, Nadja Solari, Reinhard Storz,
Lena Maria Thüring, Jeronimo Voss, Hannah Weinberger

FURTHER TEACHERS

Stephan Athanas, Christoph Bühler, Tom Fellner, Matthias Frey,
Esther Hunziker, Birgit Kempker, Christian Knörr,
Dr. Roman Kurzmeyer, Prof. Reneé Levi, Mathilde Rosier

GUESTS

Armen Avanesian, Kristina Buch, Hugo Canoilas, Mareike Dittmer,
Knut Eckstein, Paul Feigelfeld, Calla Henkel and Max Pitegoff,
Michael D. Linares, Suhail Malik, Ursula Mayer, Eduardo Navarro,
Paulina Olowaska, Juliane Rebentisch, Kolja Reichert,
Hagar Schmidhalter, Birgit Schneider, Antonia von Schöning,
Anna-Sophie Springer, among others

EXTERNAL MENTORS

Elise Lammer, Basim Magdy, Claudia Müller, Ingo Niermann

ADMINISTRATION, TECHNICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC STAFF

Edith Hänggi (Head of Administration/Coordination)
Patrick Doggweiler, Martina Jung, Cédric Kroos,
Rosanna Monteleone, Beat Reichlin, Marion Ritzmann,
Steven Schoch, Konrad Sigl, Alice Wilke, Simon Würsten

ADMISSION

Applications by candidates with a “Matura” degree or with a degree considered equivalent by the Academy of Art and Design are accepted. In case of a particularly convincing artistic potential, an application “sur dossier” may apply. Detailed conditions: see the website of the FHNW Academy of Art and Design.

In the first round of the admission process, accepted candidates submit a portfolio of their artistic work and a cover letter including your motivation to study art. In the second round, up to forty candidates are invited to an admission interview. In general, twenty-two students are accepted to the bachelor’s program.

— The application deadline is February 15

SUDY COSTS

There is an application fee of CHF 100.-, plus a matriculation fee of CHF 200.- in case of admission.

The semester fee is CHF 700.- for Swiss and EU students and CHF 5000.- for non-EU students.

The fee for the Bachelor-Thesis is CHF 300.-.

Extra costs: for materials, trips, excursions, books, and technique, students should calculate with a budget of approximately CHF 2000.- per semester for the first five semesters and approximately CHF 3500.- for the final semester.

THE CAMPUS OF THE ARTS — FACILITIES

The Art Institute is part of the Campus of the Arts, situated just ten minutes away from Basel's main station. Articulated around its main building, a silvery tower, the campus is a hub for creativity and artistic practices. In addition to the Academy of Art and Design, the campus is also home to the House of Electronic Arts, as well as other institutions and companies active in the areas of art and design.

WORKSHOPS OF THE ART INSTITUTE

Students are provided with a personal studio space that they can freely use and access anytime.

Several workshops with professional support are also at your disposal at the Institute:

ANALOG WORKSHOP

The analog workshop is equipped with tools to work with materials such as wood and metal. Technical advice and support is available.

DIGITAL WORKSHOP

In the digital workshop, students can seek advice and technical support for all digital-related matters and access freely video- and photo-editing stations. In addition to seeking advice, you can also borrow photography, video, and audio devices.

PAINTING WORKSHOP

The painting workshop provides support for technical and material-related questions regarding painting. Additionally, students have the possibility to buy painting material directly at the workshop.

CENTRAL WORKSHOPS OF THE ACADEMY

The Academy of Art and Design also offers a range of modern and fully equipped workshops that students can freely access after an introductory course and where they can seek professional and dedicated guidance.

- Bookbinding and silkscreen workshop
- Metal workshop
- Rapid prototyping workshop (3D printing and scanning, among others)
- Sculpture workshop (ceramics, stone, clay, plaster, resins, synthetic materials)
- Synthetic materials and varnish workshop
- Wood workshop

OTHER FACILITIES ON THE CAMPUS

BROADCAST

Located in the main building, the broadcast facilities are equipped with state-of-the-art lighting, projection, and audio systems for students to produce video and photo series in a professional setting. Twenty post-production stations for professional editing of photo and video as well as a recording studio are also available in the Broadcast. Students can reserve the Broadcast and request specific technical support if needed.

CENTER FOR DIGITAL MATTER

The Center for Digital Matter provides IT support for members of the Academy of Art and Design. The digital Kiosk is a bank with the latest computer programs available for free to the students of the Academy. The Center is also a research lab for innovative technologies in teaching.

FOODCULTURELAB

The FoodCultureLab is a large kitchen space on the campus, accessible to students for food-related projects. It promotes food culture as a core aspect of the daily life on campus. After taking part in an introductory session, students have free access to the facility.

MEDIA LIBRARY

At the top of the tower, the media library offers a vast range of publications and digital resources about art and design as well as a breathtaking panorama of the surroundings of the Campus of the Arts and beyond. Students can find all necessary books, video and audio material, as well as all important contemporary art periodicals to carry out their research.

ROOMS

Rooms are available for the students to book for their own purposes, such as group meetings, performance rehearsals, etc. Additionally, the Academy is equipped with an aula and a cinema.

DER TANK

der TANK is the exhibition space of the Art Institute. It is partially available for students to try out a display for their artworks or to carry out exhibition projects. Two or three times a year, commissioned exhibitions take place with established artists close to the Institute and its teaching program.

ADMINISTRATION

Institut Kunst
HGK FHNW
Ateliergebäude A 1.10
Freilager-Platz 1
4002 Basel

Tram 11, station Freilager
+41 61 228 40 77
info.kunst.hgk@fhnw.ch
institut-kunst.ch

Secretariat opening hours:
Tuesday, 1.30–4 pm
Wednesday, 9 am – 12 noon
Thursday, 9 am – 12 noon



ANALOG WORKSHOP

Atelier building A 1.08
+41 61 228 43 71
patrick.doggweiler@fhnw.ch

The workshop is freely accessible. Technical support on Tuesday and Wednesday by appointment.

DIGITAL WORKSHOP

Atelier building A 1.05
+41 61 228 40 86
iku.digitalwerkstatt.hgk@fhnw.ch

The workshop is freely accessible. Technical support by appointment.

Opening hours loan:

Tuesday, 11 am – 2pm
Wednesday, 11 am – 2pm
Friday, 11 am – 2pm

PAINTING WORKSHOP

Atelier building A 3.01
+41 61 228 40 77
thomas.fellner@fhnw.ch

The workshop is freely accessible. Technical support on Wednesday by appointment.

SCULPTURE WORKSHOP

Pavilion Building C
+41 61 228 43 27
matthias.frey@fhnw.ch

The workshop is freely accessible after a project discussion. Technical support on Tuesday and Wednesday by appointment.

CENTRAL WORKSHOPS OF THE HGK

See fhnw.ch/hgk >
Campus der Künste >
Werkstätten

