University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland
Basel Academy of Art and Design

art for democracy



Our Bachelor's Program — Institute Art Gender Nature
Basel Academy of Art and Design FHNW

Our Bachelor's Program
Institute Art Gender Nature,
Basel Academy of Art and Design FHNW

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OUR BACHELOR'S AT
INSTITUTE ART GENDER NATURE HGK BASEL FHNW

Why is this year's motto art for democracy? Because art, even in its most radical political expressions, is the antithesis of violence. Art transforms experiences of violence into forms of expression and understanding that serve collective life rather than destroy it.

Our bachelor's program is also aimed to find your own voice as an artist. To find your own voice and a sense of making while understanding the big questions and the values aimed to care and protect life is central to these three years with us. Learning and collectively sharing what you experience in your work, building a community around you, testing and trying, remaining curious, being open to receive what others do… all these aspects constitute a crucial element of our bachelor's program: the human 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.

The bachelor is a time for awakening, discovering aspects of your practice you were not aware of, trusting languages and formats new to you, sustaining the exchange and conversation with others, defining projects and ideas to develop in the near future, expanding your views on what art can do, understanding the different ways of doing art in the different cultural contexts. The bachelor is an intense time, but also a joyful one.

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 Institute Art Gender Nature 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.

Chus Martínez
Head of the Institute Art Gender Nature

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 three 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 all gender 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.

Workshop photography / multimedia, Alona Hrekova, 2022, photo: Christian Knörr



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.

Tech Club. A place for everyone to learn and experiment with technology. The understanding of technology as a fertile tool for artistic production but also as an alliance for the values we sustain as a society is primordial. We have created a club, an informal situation, to learn existing possibilities; a place to reflect collectively on the skills needed to develop projects. Led by lecturers and artists Esther Hunziker and Mayte Gómez Molina, the club meets once a week. Technology is also part of the curriculum of the Forum where lecturers and artists Onome Ekeh and Mayte Gómez Molina address the different programs, and the other functions technology and the digital world may offer to artists. Becoming aware of the problems and becoming confident with the possibilities of new technological intelligence is important for the future of art and society as a whole.

Introducing multiple ways of making and thinking about art. Another important part of the program consists in seminars. *CoCreate* is the university-wide teaching program encompassing all bachelor's study programs and different subjects. These lectures are mandatory for the bachelor's students.

Also: twice a year you will have an intense seminar called *Workshop on Ideas* dedicated to ideas, philosophy, and theory. 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, *Art As Practice*, is dedicated to an exercise of artistic practice. 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 and gender. 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.

Art Taalkssss with Rada Leu and Filipa Ramos, 2025, photo: Christian Knörr

The program allows you as well to take courses at the University of Basel. Also, on Thursdays during the semester *Art Taaalkssss*, an on-site and online series of public lectures and conversations curated by Filipa Ramos, takes place. 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 in the series of seminars entitled *The Art Systems*, 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 HEK (House of Electronic Arts) and the Kunsthaus Baselland are next door. Their exhibitions and programs are a great extension of many of the questions addressed during our bachelor's program. Other surrounding institutes of the HGK Basel FHNW—Institute Contemporary Design Practices (ICDP), Institute Arts and Design Education (IADE), Institute Experimental Design and Media Cultures (IXDM), and Institute Digital Communication Environments (IDCE)—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 Institute Art Gender Nature, 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. Our collaborations include our annual graduation exhibition hosted by Kunsthaus Baselland, the past series *Friday Beyeler* at the Fondation Beyeler, and collaborative projects with the Museum Tinguely, the Kunstmuseum Basel, the 36th Ljubljana Biennale of Graphic Arts, Basel Social Club, Liste Art Fair Basel, the biennial arts festival Culturescapes, and the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture. In addition, the art space DOCK and the Atelier Mondial annually present an exhibition project including our students, supervised by Filipa Ramos. Each spring we organize ACT Basel as part of the annual ACT Performance Festival, a joint project of the HGK Basel FHNW with the Swiss Art Academies EDHEA Valais, F+F Zurich, HEAD Geneva, HKB Bern, HSLU D&K Lucerne, and ZHdK Zurich. For over 20 years, ACT offers students a platform to realize performances and performative projects with editions in various cities in Switzerland.

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.

Riccy Kuno, *Stray*, 2025, Installation view *Revolt Against the Sun!*, graduation exhibition, Kunsthaus Baselland, 2025, photo: Christian Knörr




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TRANSIT
LAGER

der TANK — our exhibition space for artistic commissions and students' initiatives. Our exhibition space is an extension of the Campus.Workshops. 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. Four times a year, it serves as an exhibition space for commissions by artists who are linked to the program and its subject matter. These commissions are important and render the Institute Art Gender Nature 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 former students and lecturers of the Institute Art Gender Nature. If available, students can submit proposals to exhibit in der TANK, an opportunity to formalize a work or a series of works.

Expending time together and exercising conviviality as a learning tool. Traveling, conviviality and expending time together is an important part of learning, and the program offers the chance to do so primarily in our vicinity. We thematize 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 artists worldwide. Once a year, the different Forums organize a trip collectively with the students in the group. The goals, events, and contexts of these trips are decided according to the group. It demands a new art knowledge about 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.

Campus Dreispitz, Basel Academy of Art and Design FHNW, Basel, photo: Pati Grabowicz

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN FINE ARTS — PRACTICAL INFORMATION

STRUCTURE OF THE BACHELOR'S PROGRAM

The bachelor's program at the Institute Art Gender Nature 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 teaching is in German and English.

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

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 ractice* 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.

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.

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.

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 INSTITUTE ART GENDER NATURE
HEAD OF THE BACHELOR'S PROGRAM
Prof. Dr. Chus Martínez

FORUM TEACHERS
Onome Ekeh, Mayte Gómez Molina, Claudia Müller,
Alexandra Navratil, Filipa Ramos, Nadja Solari,
Lena Maria Thüring, Jeronimo Voss, Hannah Weinberger

FURTHER TEACHERS
Phoenix Atala, Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, Esther Hunziker,
Astrit Ismaili, Christian Knörr, Roman Kurzmeyer, Quinn Latimer,
Ingo Niermann, Mathilde Rosier, Stas Shärifullá, Uriel Orlow,
Yvonne Volkart

GUESTS
Ali Hussein Al-Adawy, Matthew Barney, Sabian Baumann,
Noa and Lara Castro Lema, Colin Courtney-Mustaphi,
Maurin Dietrich, Sonia Fernández Pan, Elisa Giardina Papa,
Etrit Hasler, Alice Hertzog, Golnaz Hosseini, Julie Jebeile, Linn,
Helen Macdonald, Yarema Malashchuk and Roman Khimei,
Julie Marmet, Doreen Mende, Elke aus dem Moore, Richard Neyroud,
Michele Occelli, Amol K Patil, Andrea Queralt, Aicha Revellat,
James Richards, Lorena Solís Bravo, Ana Teixeira Pinto,
Lucille Uhlrich, Latefa Wiersch, Angharad Williams, Mira M. Yang,
Tirdad Zolghadr, among others

ADMINISTRATION, TECHNICAL,
AND SCIENTIFIC STAFF
Albertine Kopp (Head of Production and Continuing Education)
Colin Barth, Denise Bertschi, Francesca Brusa, Maëlle Cornut,
Laurence Favre, Anna Francke, Emily Harries, Martina Jung,
Cornelia Kern, Tobias Koch, Daniel Kurth, Rosanna Monteleone,
Noemi Pfister, Marion Ritzmann, Kathrin Siegrist,
Konrad Sigl, Joséphine Strebel, Mariana Tilly


JUBILÄUMSAUSSTELLUNG
EXPOSITION ANNIVERSAIRE
ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION
SPECIAL GUEST DUANE HANSON

ADMISSION

Applications by candidates with a "Matura" degree or with a degree considered equivalent by the Basel Academy of Art and Design FHWN are accepted. In case of a particularly convincing artistic potential, an application admission on the basis of exceptional talent may apply. Detailed conditions: see the website of the Basel Academy of Art and Design FHNW.

Aptitude assessment: In the first round 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 40 candidates are invited to an admission interview. In general, 20 students are accepted to the bachelor's program. The teaching is in German and English.

— The application deadline is 15 February 2027.

STUDY COSTS

To submit the application, a registration and immatriculation fee of CHF 200.– is due.

The semester fee of CHF 750.– applies to students who have residence in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein under scholarship law. Students with residence under civil law in the EU/EFTA pay CHF 1000.–. All other students (non-EU/EFTA) pay CHF 1250.–.

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 2750.– per semester for the first five semesters and approximately CHF 4250.– for the final semester.

Friday Beyeler. I Hear a New World – 14 Miaows of the Future, Stas Shärifullá Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel, 2022, photo: Christian Knörr

THE CAMPUS DREISPITZ – FACILITIES

The Institute Art Gender Nature is part of the Campus Dreispitz, situated just ten minutes away from Basel's main station. Articulated around its main building, a silvery tower, the Dreispitz Basel is a hub for creativity and artistic practices. In addition to the HGK Basel FHNW, it is also home to the HEK (House of Electronic Arts), the Kunsthaus Baselland, the Atelier Mondial, as well as other institutions and companies active in the areas of art and design.

WORKSHOPS OF THE INSTITUTE ART GENDER NATURE

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

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

ANALOG STUDIO

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

DIGITAL STUDIO

In the digital studio, 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 STUDIO

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

CAMPUS.WORKSHOPS OF THE HGK BASEL FHNW

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

— Metal workshop
— Wood workshop
— Plastics workshop
— Sculptor's studio (ceramics, wood and stone carving, clay, plaster, resins, plastics…)
— Digital Fabrication Lab (including 3D VR modelling, 3D scans)
— Media.Workshops
— Paint shop
— Bookbinding and Screen printing

OTHER FACILITIES ON THE CAMPUS

DER TANK

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

MEDIA.WORKSHOPS

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

CAMPUS IT

The Campus IT provides IT support for members of the HGK Basel FHNW. The digital Kiosk is a bank with the latest computer programs available for free to the students of the Academy. The Campus IT is also a research lab for innovative technologies in teaching.

FOODCULTURELAB

The FoodCultureLab is a kitchen and a collaborative lab for food practices. It welcomes a manifold of formats and iterations that explore food as a medium, as material, and as an interconnected living system.

MEDIA LIBRARY

At the top of the Tower Building, 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 Dreispitz 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 auditorium and a studio cinema.

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fhnw.ch/hgk/iagn

fhnw.ch/hgk/campus-workshops

— More information about
our bachelor's program
and the application process.

— Apply now.

ANALOG STUDIO
Atelier building A 1.08

DIGITAL STUDIO
Atelier building A 1.05

PAINTING STUDIO
Atelier building A 3.01

All workshops are freely
accessible. Technical support
by appointment.

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