



## FACULTY OF FINE, APPLIED AND PERFORMING ARTS

### **Master of Fine Arts programme in Fine Arts, 120 credits**

Konstnärligt masterprogram i fri konst, 120 högskolepoäng

Programme code: K2FRI

*Second cycle / Avancerad nivå*

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#### **1. Confirmation**

This programme syllabus was confirmed by the Dean of the Faculty on 30-11-2017 (G 2017/676) to be valid from 03-09-2018, Autumn semester 2018.

*Responsible Department/Equivalent:* HDK-Valand - Academy of Art and Design

#### **2. Purpose**

This programme aims to deepen students' artistic knowledge in fine art and develop skills in which their artworks, and their roles as artists, contribute to and critique the contemporary world. The programme places emphasis on students' ability to account for the decisions they make in their art-making processes, finished artworks and the contexts in which they position their practices. Students are expected to question existing modes of practice, as well as to develop their understanding of the viability and sustainability of different types of practice. The programme aims to strengthen their theoretical understanding and ability to critically reason through written and spoken means.

A key focus of the education is supporting students to expand their knowledge of different forms and concepts of exhibitions, alongside individual and collaborative forms of practice. Addressing questions of access, audiences and publics is fundamental to the teaching and learning goals.

The teaching and learning presents students with opportunities and career choices that can develop from the completion of an MFA. They are well-prepared to self-organise; to work professionally as artists and in related roles in the arts and cultural sector; to form new alliances with other sectors. The programme is also preparatory for third-cycle education.

#### **3. Entry requirements**

Bachelor's degree in fine arts of at least 180 credits or equivalent. Knowledge of English equivalent to English B / English 6.

## 4. Higher education qualification and main field of study

This programme leads to a Degree of Master of Fine Arts (120 credits) in Fine Art (Konstnärlig masterexamen i fri konst).

## 5. Outcomes

Second-cycle study programmes shall involve the acquisition of specialist knowledge, competence and skills in relation to first-cycle courses and study programmes, and in addition to the requirements for first-cycle courses and study programmes shall:

- further develop the ability of students to integrate and make autonomous use of their knowledge,
- develop the students' ability to deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations, and
- develop the students' potential for professional activities that demand considerable autonomy, or for research and development work.

### General outcomes for Degree of Master in Fine Arts (120 credits)

According to Higher Education Ordinance (see SFS 1993:100, System of Qualifications, Annex 2):

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

For a Degree of Master in Fine Arts (120 hec) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in areas of the field as well as specialised insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate familiarity with methods and processes for dealing with complex phenomena, issues and situations in the field.

#### *Competence and skills*

For a Degree of Master in Fine Arts (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to formulate new issues autonomously and creatively and contribute to the formation of knowledge, solve more advanced problems, develop new forms of personal expression as well as to reflect critically on his or her artistic approach and that of others in the main field of study
- demonstrate the ability to create and execute his or her own ideas with his or her own personal expression, to identify, formulate and solve artistic and creative problems autonomously and also to plan and undertake advanced artistic tasks using appropriate methods within predetermined time frames
- demonstrate the ability both nationally and internationally to clearly present and discuss his or her works and artistic issues in speech, writing or in other ways and in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the competence and knowledge required to work autonomously in a

professional capacity.

### ***Judgement and approach***

For a Degree in Master of Fine Arts (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant artistic, social and ethical issues
- demonstrate insight into the role of art in society, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

## **6. Content and structure**

The MFA in Fine Art Programme is structured via theory and practical work to support students' abilities to establish, describe and critically reflect on complex relations between artistic practices and society. It is designed as a series of educational steps to support students in producing, analysing, critiquing, and contextualising their artistic work at an advanced level. As they progress students formulate and demonstrate knowledge of ethics, aesthetics and research practices. At the final point of examination students should be able to describe an advanced understanding of the different fields of fine art, situate the context for their own artistic practice and discuss the possibilities for its future.

**The first term** aims to develop students' abilities by introducing them to inquiry-based approaches in artistic practice and production. Students begin to learn how to identify a subject for artistic inquiry and develop specific methods to apply to support their research via key texts and case studies. The teaching focuses on practice-oriented inquiry and group discussions of the artist's roles in society and different contexts for artistic production. Teaching and learning occurs via seminars, lecture forums, workshops, practical and written assignments.

**During the second term** students further develop their skills in artistic inquiry by identifying and analysing exhibition concepts and contexts in the public sphere. They further develop their skills in artistic production, collaborative processes and responsibility for their decisions. Via group lectures, seminars, workshops and practical and written tasks students begin to actively locate their work in a context of artistic research and practice-oriented knowledge. During the first academic year, the institution offers a number of elective courses in various fields. In these courses students meet and work alongside other students from the institution's programmes.

**The third term** aims at further developing the students' artistic practices and their capacity to identify and apply their own contextual, ethical and aesthetic choices. The teaching focuses on methods of artistic production, project organisation, exhibition contexts, concepts, and planning. Students gain further skills in clarifying and presenting the theoretical basis for their practice through a substantial written text. This written text is a component of the final degree exam project.

**The fourth and final term** aims to consolidate students' abilities to manage and disseminate their own artistic work conceptually, practically and professionally. Students produce a substantial artistic project in the public sphere. This artistic project is a component of the final degree exam project.

**Year 1 - term 1**

Artistic Practices I, 15 hp

Contextualisation I, 7,5 hp

Elective course, 7,5 hp

**Year 1 - term 2**

Artistic Practices II, 15 hp

Contextualisation II, 7,5 hp

Elective course, 7,5 hp

**Year 2 - term 3**

Artistic Practices III, 15 hp

Contextualisation III (Contains the degree project), 15 hp

**Year 2 - term 4**

Master's Thesis in Fine Art (Contains the degree project), 30 hp

## 7. Guaranteed admission

There are two types of guarantee: general and restricted. Students who undertake their study at a normal rate of progression are guaranteed a general place in the programme's core courses. However, for an elective course, students have restricted guarantee. This gives the student a seat in an elective course, but it may not necessarily be the student's first priority.

## 8. Other information

Courses are evaluated in the context of each course. The study programme will be followed up and evaluated in accordance with the applicable *Policy för kvalitetssäkring och kvalitetsutveckling av utbildning vid Göteborgs universitet* (Policy for the Quality assurance and Quality Development of Education at the University of Gothenburg).