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The knowledge, skills and experiences that students gained in this course will equip them for the development of individual Honours Project in the final stage of study in the programme.

VART 4025 Research and Practice in Craft and Design (6,6,0) (E)

Pre-requisite: Completion of minimum one BA-cluster from CD concentration or VAS concentration

This is one of two independent study courses for Year 4 students of the BA (Hons) in Visual Arts programme to choose. Like its equivalent it has a focus on interdisciplinary research in the visual arts, which is integrated with a self-generated practical creative team project based on the course's discipline framework for Craft and Design. While there are no principal formal restrictions to the creative project – it may be of any medium or approach – students have to initiate, develop and execute the practical project collaboratively, and need to commit to substantial research work as part of their outcome.

To provide the students with access to the thematic context of the course a sequence of lectures, case studies, tutorials and other relevant teaching and learning activities relating to research and practice in Craft and Design will be offered. These activities also establish a time and workload structure to give guidance to the students, and provide opportunity for feedback and criticism.

In addition to the specified discipline framework both independent study-courses share a series of workshops that aim at consolidating, combining and extending the wide range of cross-disciplined research methods, cross-media creative approaches as well as work documentation and presentation skills that students of the programme have acquired in their previous studies so far. Participation in these workshops will help the students to independently pursue their investigations and experimentations within their personal projects in this course.

The knowledge, skills and experiences that students gained in this course will equip them for the development of individual Honours Project in the final stage of study in the programme.

VART 4055 Honours Project (3,*,*)

Prerequisite: Year III standing

The Honours Project provides a keystone experience for the student in his final year in the BA (Hons) in Visual Arts-programme. It gives the student an opportunity to prove his capability of solving independently and self-reliantly a self-generated assignment in the work-field of the Visual Arts. He will apply the concepts and skills gained on the programme to the investigation. In successfully doing so the student will meet academic and creative standards that allow the Academy to confer the BA (Hons) in Visual Arts degree on him.

The Honours Project has to be completed by all students during their final term of study in the BA (Hons) Visual Arts-programme. To increase students' performance during the development of their Honours Project, and as preparation for their careers after graduation the Honours Project includes a series of required workshops.

VASC 7010 Intensive Workshop I (0,0,3)

VASC 7020 Intensive Workshop II (0,0,3)

VASC 7030 Intensive Workshop III (0,0,3)

VASC 7040 Intensive Workshop IV (0,0,3)

VASC 7050 Intensive Workshop V (0,0,3)

Course names/mediums would be announced to students in the Master of Visual Arts programme at the beginning of the trimester.

VASC 7100 Research Practice for the Visual Arts (3,3,0)

Twenty-first century witnesses visual arts practitioners merging cultural concerns, research, and process of making into creative output that highlights the complexities of life experiences; and explores new territories. In equipping students' artistic inquiry, this course introduces various research methods that are common in art and design-practice, such as content analysis, cultural probe, user survey, interview, and ethnographic studies. Also, it helps students to develop their own research project by examining different research paradigms, and interpretive approaches including hermeneutics, phenomenology, discourse analysis, feminism and action research. Bringing methodology into professional practice, students will go through the process of research—defining research focus, designing appropriate methods, collecting data, documentation, interpreting findings, presenting—through textual and/or audio/visual means.

VASC 7200 Professional Practice for the Visual Arts (3,3,0)

A graduate in any area of the visual arts entering the professional arena today cannot expect to be looking forward to a streamlined career. Instead his/her career will be a patchwork of activities crossing all boundaries from art-making to applied design commissions, occasional administrative jobs to part-time teaching and back. They will work in a variety of contexts from self-employed freelancing to private agencies, corporate structures and the public sector. This course aims at equipping students with basic knowledge and skills in a variety of professional fields that will help students to jumpstart their professional practice in the visual arts.

The course is made up by a sequence of workshops delivered by professional specialists and visual arts practitioners. Each workshop includes lectures, seminar-style talks as well as small practical assignments, which allow participants to get some initial hands-on experience within the respective area. The intention of the course however is not to educate specialists, it rather aims to make aspiring professionals of the field aware of these matters, sketch the situation and indicate comprehensive ways of approaching problems arising.

VASC 7300 Interdisciplinary Practice for the Visual Arts (3,4,0)

“Creativity isn't the monopoly of artists.” This remarkable claim made by Joseph Beuys back in 1979 denotes not only the liberation but also the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary art. Over the past decades, all sorts of collaborations among different artistic disciplines, areas of knowledge and various stakeholders in the society have opened up the diversity and openness of creative practice.

By introducing the background and current trends of interdisciplinary practice in connection to visual arts, this course provides students with new insights to rethink about the roles, responsibilities and capabilities of visual artists in our time. As a shared course being offered to all students from various MVA programmes, it will utilize this particular setup to also address common areas of socio-cultural concerns, strategies and skills for team work as well as the management of creative process for practitioners from different visual arts fields.

VASE 7100 Contemporary Art Issues (6,8,0)

No one seems to agree on any precise definition of the term “Contemporary Art”. Various stakeholders in the field such as art historians, critics, curators, artists and audiences might interpret it in distinct ways from very diverse perspectives. Nevertheless, it is quite agreeable that the development of contemporary art has been connecting to and influencing by complex socio-cultural factors internationally since mid-20th century. To identify and to construct critical discourse on relevant socio-cultural issues is probably the most comprehensive way to conceive the development of art and culture in our contemporary era.

Through its combination of theoretical investigation and supervised studio practice, students are able to examine the nature