

BA/ TEXTILE AND SURFACE DESIGN

weißensee

kunsthochschule berlin

Study Program Textile and Surface Design

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and additional contract teachers
as well as artistic assistants

The object of the study program is the design of surfaces in all their manifold manifestations. Textile and Surface Design has always been concerned both with the constructive and technical side of materials as well as with their aesthetic, sensual qualities. The expanding spectrum of new materials and their potential for innovative applications is increasingly influencing this field of study.

Through the incorporation of current technological, cultural and socio-economic issues, a broad field of references is established, which transcends the classic notion of textile design. Instead it combines the traditional competencies of the subject with other disciplines to tackle contemporary issues and create innovative design solutions. Thus, taking into account latest developments, textile is considered one of the key technologies of the future. The design of surfaces and the integration of specific functions into textiles has taken on great importance through new technologies, and will broaden the future of this professional field significantly. Within this context, the social perspective, questions of style and trends, aspects of sustainability, economics, and aesthetic play a central role, being addressed throughout the course of the studies.

The focus of the course is on textile and surface design in all its different contexts, including the body, interior and exterior space, as well as design of product surfaces or interfaces. In parallel to the development of conceptual design thinking skills, students engage with both traditional and innovative technical possibilities in the design of textile and non-textile materials, surfaces and membrane structures. An examination of related disciplines, such as fashion, product design, architecture, media, and the visual arts also plays a major role on

the course. Social factors are likewise taken into consideration: within what context the creative work is being produced; how do color, materials and fabrics relate to contemporary lifestyles and trends; and how must economic, ecological, technological and global viewpoints be taken into consideration in the work of design. The surface opens connections to many different fields of application, out of which new competencies and spheres of creative action can develop. Conception and design are central components of the course. In addition, comprehensive scientific and creative methods and skills are conveyed. An approach to design that combines pragmatic professionalism, critical thinking, trans-disciplinary exchange and aesthetic autonomy is encouraged.

Foundation Course (Art & Design)

Students in all departments take the foundation courses in the foundation of art and design. General aesthetic, visual and practical foundational knowledge and practice are thought, including foundations in the fields of digital media and anatomy/morphology. Students are introduced to sensual-direct as well as analytical-systematic ways of working. The broad curriculum enables them to discover, develop, and deepen their individual abilities and talents. Teaching takes place in interdisciplinary small working groups. Interdisciplinary interactions, teamwork, and communicative activity going beyond the limits of one's own discipline and genre. With the special structure and its range of what is on offer, the foundational program is a specialty of Weißensee Academy of Art. The program emphasizes in particular the following: teaching the foundation art and design, expanding individual creative abilities, open up new work modes, acquisition of expertise and skills in various crafts and more.

Commencement of study

Admission of beginners is for the winter semester only, i. e. from October of the current year.

Syllabus

The course is divided into a four-year Bachelor course and a one-year Masters. The bachelor's program starts with a one-year interdisciplinary foundation course, attended by students across all departments. After the foundation year the Bachelors course aim to produce competent and independent designer personalities. Teaching in the shape of exercises, seminars and lectures is largely done in common courses for all specialisms.

Studio Workshops

The instructional program of weißensee academy of art berlin is outstanding supported by its studios workshops. The artisans convey skills and basic knowledge about the most disparate materials. All students can use the workshops, whatever course they are enrolled. Besides acquiring traditional manual skills, they can learn the newest computer-aided techniques. For example weißensee has a Ceramic- and Model Making Workshop, also a Wood-, Welding- and Bookbinding Workshop, a Printing Studio, a Silkscreen- and Gravure Workshop, Weaving/ Dying/ Knitting rooms, Photography- and a Computer Studio, an Interactive Technology Lab and more.

Stay abroad

The weißensee academy of art berlin cultivates direct contacts with a great number of colleges in other countries and promotes student exchange. Interested students in the main course may contact the international office of weißensee for information about exchange emplacements available within the SOKRATES/ ERASMUS Programme or other possibilities for a stay abroad, and hand in their corresponding applications.

Master Program

The master's program "Material" or „Style“, which builds on the bachelor's program, offers students the opportunity to choose between two focal areas: „Material“ offering experimen-

tal or applied material research in the field of surface and textile design or „Style“ dealing with central stylistic aspects of design.

The master's program with a focus on „Material“ explores and challenges materials-based creative design practices from contemporary technological, cultural and aesthetic perspectives. On the other hand the master study course with a focus on „Style“ integrates a precise awareness of contemporary cultural trends into the design process and situates the work itself within the stimulating domain of personal identity and social processes.

Throughout the master program the student continues to systematically develop his / her own identity as a designer – both conceptually and practically – and implements that identity in a socially relevant, future-oriented practice-based master project.

There is only one admission term (winter) that means next application is valid for winter term, start in October. The applications are open from March, 01 and close on April, 30. Please use exclusively the online application platform, the link can be found on our website.

Admission prerequisites

- A special artistic talent is required
- Minimum age 18 years
- General matriculation standard / general certificate of secondary education
- Preliminary practical or vocational training

Artistic admission test / aptitude test

The artistic talent will be ascertained by a test procedure in the middle of February. **The application period for all undergraduate courses of study is from 1 November to 10 December of each year. The Registration is made through the website: www.kh-berlin.de.** For summer term a registration is not possible. In January applicants will receive an invitation and practical hints for the aptitude test.

This admission test or exam will consist of:

- The test starts with the submission of your

portfolio and if required your special homework. Minimum of 15 to maximally 20 personally produced artistic works (mainly drawings and other specimens). Admission to the test will be decided upon after examination of these works (preselection).

- A 2 to 3-day exam for proving the required aptitude.
- An interview concerning, as a rule, the evaluation of the artistic achievements shown as well as the technical skills and motivation of the participants.

Handicapped or chronically ill applicants may apply for compensation of their drawback in the test. The test participants will be informed in writing about the results. A successfully passed test is valid for two years.

Portfolio

An admission to the aptitude test will be decided after the review of the portfolio. All applicants will be invited and required to submit the portfolio personally. The content of the portfolio naturally varies depending on the desired department, but here are some general tips.

There are not too many specifications from the faculties regarding the portfolio, other than the fact that it should include ca. 15 to 20 preferably original works (drawings, paintings, photographs, collages, videos, three-dimensional works or works on canvas must be documented as photographs). All media are permitted. The portfolio should be easy to manage and not exceed DIN A0.

The concept of the portfolio is entirely up to the applicant and should demonstrate not only basic artistic skills and creativity but also works that are relevant to the desired program. It should be very selective about the works. As the portfolio is the first part of the entrance exam, applicants should think carefully about their artistic identity, talents, and goals. They try to avoid works that appear as if they were instructed to create it – it is very important that the creative, artistic personality can be seen

in the portfolio. It is also important that the portfolio illustrates that applicants have continuously and intensively worked on their creative development. The professors place great value on high quality drawings. For inspiration, applicants can view a range of different student projects on the website or alternatively visit the open days in July.

Preliminary practical training

A preliminary practical training is considered as basic requirement for matriculation. The weißensee academy of art berlin is not in a position to mediate training placements. The preliminary training is necessary for acquiring knowledge and experience concerning basic working techniques, materials and working processes. Especially suitable to this effect are the textile industry, factories of wall paper and other coverings, as well as design offices (minimum duration – 6-8 weeks).

Application/admission

An application can be filed only after having passed the artistic admission test, whereupon the suitable applicants will receive the corresponding application form from the weißensee academy of art berlin. This form has to be sent within the established period, together with the appertaining documents, to the matriculation office of the weißensee academy of art berlin. The application deadline is preclusive. Allotment of the study places by central assignment (ZVS), numerus clausus, waiting semesters or drawing of lots is not done. After conclusion of the admission procedure in Mai of the same year, the applicants receive a written admission award and the registration forms.

Information on admission and matriculation for international applicants

In application proceedings, there are no differences between Germans, EU-Citizens or other international applicants, provided international applicants can submit a proof of German

language proficiency with the application form: minimum of the qualification B1/B2 for Design departments. The language of instruction is German in all our courses. As the aptitude test will be also carried out in German it is absolutely necessary to be provided with a sufficient knowledge of German language. Needless to say that most professors speak English very well, so in case of need, applicants may be able to explain the ideas, aims and motivation also in English. After a positive decision, it must be presented a language certificate for the admission: for example TestDaF 4, telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule, DSH 2 or the language proof of the UDK or Goethe Institution (qualification level C1) for all Design departments. In exceptional cases, a proof of the exam registration or a certificate of the C1 - course is also sufficient for the time being. The relevant language certificate must be submitted before the studies begin.

Recognition of certificates

First if applicants pass the aptitude test successfully, they have to apply for admission with the necessary certificates and documents, and these must be submitted in form of an officially authenticated translation in German or English. Foreign higher education entrance qualifications (allgemeine Hochschulreife) must be recognised as equivalent to the German general or subject-specific higher education entrance qualification. An exemption from this is possible if you have a „special artistic aptitude“ and its is declared in the notification for the result of the aptitude test. Applicants from the People’s Republic of China, Vietnam and Mongolia must include the original certificate confirming that the papers have been pre-checked by the Academic Evaluation Centre (APS).

Change of college

Changing to the weißensee academy of art berlin is possible only after completion of the fundamental study or of the 2nd semester in the same course of study. It is recommendable first to get into touch with the professors of the desired specialism and to arrange a personal in-

terview. Acceptance and acknowledgement of accomplished studies are assessed and approved by the examination and admission committees. The application periods for College Transfer Admission are from 01 December to 02 January 02 for the summer term and May 01–31 for winter term. Please see information and guidelines for online application on the website: www.kh-berlin.de under >Studies>Applying For Studies>Transfer Students

Registration/fees

For registration it is necessary to present the health insurance vouchers and to pay the contributions of approx. 300 € (registration fee, social contribution, Students’ Association (ASTA) and ticket for local transport). Tuition fees are not charged.

Information material

Further information about the weißensee academy of art berlin can be found in the Internet (www.kh-berlin.de).

Information days

Once a year – in July – the weißensee academy of art berlin hosts its traditional „RUNDGANG-Open Days“ providing prospective students and applicants best opportunities for information and offer you an ideal introduction to this school. And all interested people are also invited to an informative event in November, here will take place a presentation of all departments.

Student advisory service

Susan Lipp
general course guidance
Student Service, room A 1.09

mail: studienberatung@kh-berlin.de
open hours: tuesday 11-13, thursday 14-17
telephone advisory service: +49 30 47705 342
tuesday 14-16, wednesday 10-12

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