

# Syllabus

for

**Curating Art. International Master's Programme in  
Curating Art, including Management and Law**

**120 Higher Education Credits**

**Curatorprogrammet. Internationellt masterprogram  
med inriktning mot konst, management och juridik**

**120 ECTS credits**

|                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Programme code:</b>         | HCURO                        |
| <b>Valid from:</b>             | Autumn 2009                  |
| <b>Date of approval:</b>       | 2008-09-16                   |
| <b>Responsible department:</b> | Department of History of Art |

## Decision

This syllabus has been approved by the faculty board of humanities 2008-09-16.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Prerequisites and other conditions for admission to the programme

University education on a basic level of at least 180 higher education credits, corresponding to the equivalent of a Bachelor's degree, or relevant work experience, as well as skills in English documented by an international proficiency test, advanced level (TOEFL, IELTS or Cambridge First Certificate) unless English is native language. Applications should be sent directly to the department. See our web site for directions.

## Programme structure

The program constitutes of 8 program specific courses of 7,5 ECTS credits, 1 program specific course module of 15 ECTS credits (half time), 1 internship term of 15 ECTS credits (half time and parallel to the other course module on half time), 1 degree project consisting of an exhibition and a master thesis (30 ECTS credits). Preparatory work on the exhibition and master thesis (7,5 ECTS credits) are taken in a separate course module in the first year and the remaining 22,5 ECTS credits are taken the second year of the education.

In addition to the courses the student will participate in 8 seminars per year, relating to the interpretation of images and exhibitions. The student will furthermore arrange and take part in 8 seminars per year that focus on issues with relevance to the program.

The program is a collaboration between the Department of Art History, the School of Business, the Department of Law at Stockholm University and external art institutions.

## Objectives

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master (Two Years) students must

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in their main field of study, including both broad knowledge in the field and substantially deeper knowledge of certain parts of the field, together with deeper insight into current research and development work; and
- demonstrate deeper methodological knowledge in their main field of study.

### Skills and abilities

For a Degree of Master (Two Years) students must

- demonstrate an ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations, even when limited information is available;
  - demonstrate an ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate issues and to plan and, using appropriate methods, carry out advanced tasks within specified time limits, so as to contribute to the development of knowledge and to evaluate this work;
  - demonstrate an ability to clearly present and discuss their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments behind them, in dialogue with different groups, orally and in writing, in national and international contexts; and
- demonstrate the skill required to participate in research and development work or to work independently in other advanced contexts.

### Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master (Two Years) students must

- demonstrate an ability to make assessments in their main field of study, taking into account relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects, and demonstrate an awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work;
- demonstrate insight into the potential and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used; and
- demonstrate an ability to identify their need of further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing their knowledge.

### Independent project (degree project)

For a Degree of Master (Two Years) students must have completed an independent project (degree project) worth at least 30 higher education credits in their main field of study, within the framework of the course requirements. The independent project may comprise less than 30 higher education credits, but not less than 15 higher education credits, if the student has already completed an independent project at the second level worth at least 15 higher education credits in their main field of study, or an equivalent project in a foreign educational programme.

### Other

For a Degree of Master (Two Years) with a certain area of specialisation more precise requirements are also to apply, as determined by each higher education institution itself within the framework of the requirements in this qualification description.

Having completed course module 1 the student has demonstrated an ability to

- plan an exhibition project
- present the project visually and orally
- reflect on different curatorial practices

Having completed course module 2 the student has demonstrated an ability to

- reflect on the ways in which art is determined by and reacts on its historical situation; its historicity
- identify some of the points relating to the contemporary idea of "the new" or "the creation of the new," as raised by artists, artworks, curators and audience
- orient him-/herself in central theories on the concept avant-garde

Having completed course module 3 the student has demonstrated an ability to

- account for, compare, and evaluate central management, marketing, and budgeting and funding concepts in research literature and their relevance for work in a visual arts and exhibitions context
- account for, compare, and evaluate central concepts relating to certain areas of law that have bearing on the visual arts and exhibition production contexts and their relevance for work in this field

Having completed course module 4 the student has demonstrated an ability to

- prepare a pedagogical project from a given exhibition
- suggest different ways of communicating and mediating an exhibition, with reference to the literature and education of the course module
- make independent reflections on pedagogical work, both in an exhibition context and in a wider social perspective
- reflect on the form and function of art criticism in relation to exhibitions

Having completed course module 5 the student has demonstrated an ability to

- in an analyzing and reasonable way describe the essential features in some of the central ideas and theories discussed in the course module
- argue in favour of (or against) the reasonableness of these theories
- critically evaluate the accuracy of these theories

Having completed course module 6 the student has demonstrated an ability to

- relate the parameters chosen for the course module to the concepts space and spatiality
- identify the use of different materials in art and exhibitions, and reflect on their physical and phenomenological characteristics
- distinguish how the use of specific parameters in an exhibition have communicative effects on the exhibited objects

Having completed course module 7 the student has demonstrated an ability to

- account for, compare, and evaluate central management, marketing, and budgeting and funding concepts in literature and their relevance in visual arts and exhibitions context
- describe, compare and analyse management, marketing, and funding strategies in the visual arts field in case studies or examples
- account for, compare and evaluate legal issues, mainly copyright and other intellectual property rights, (legal) management of rights, negotiating and writing contracts, the role and use of standard contracts and collecting societies

Having completed course module 8 the student has demonstrated an ability to

- identify and formulate questions at issue that constitute the foundation for a qualified examination project
- narrate (orally and in writing) ideas that link the master thesis to the exhibition project
- report on the preparatory work for the forthcoming exhibition project, including reflections on issues relating to art management and law

Having completed course module 9 the student has demonstrated an ability to

- develop visual and spatial designs that relate to systems of thought
- understand the connections between theoretical perspectives and visual executions
- understand how problems and issues related to art are interpreted in different traditions within the field of cultural theory

Having completed course module 10 the student has demonstrated an ability to

- participate in the practical work of an art institution

Having completed course module 11 the student has demonstrated an ability to

- produce a realistic and complete budget and economic plan for a planned exhibition project
- produce a report of how legal issues in a planned exhibition project have been or are dealt with from the organiser's side, and regulated in relation to various stakeholders

Having completed course module 12 the student has demonstrated an ability to

- plan, organize and present an exhibition project
- critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations within the major field of study, and to show substantially deeper knowledge of certain parts of that field
- on the basis of a deepened methodological awareness and a deeper insight into current research and development work, critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate issues and to plan and, using appropriate methods, carry out an advanced task within specified time limits,
- clearly present and discuss the conclusions and the knowledge and arguments behind them, orally and in writing, in national and international contexts;
- observe prevailing principles of research ethics

In addition to the above:

- connect the theoretical issues of the master thesis to the theme of the final exhibition

## **Courses**

First year:

### 1. Curatorship

The course module provides insights in contemporary curatorial practices, e.g. through talks with leading curators involved in the program. Practical and theoretical features in curating are dealt with in a practice based exercise, in which the students present a proposition for an exhibition, including reflections on all aspects of curating, such as artistic, logistic, economic, and legal issues. 7,5 ECTS credits

## 2. Historicity: art and negativity

The course module focus on how different currents in art are made manifest through the negation of their predecessors. Avant-gardes are made distinct by being connected to contemporaneity and future, but are then replaced with new paradigms. As consequence, the movements within the changes of art unite history with the contemporary. By focusing on avant-garde as phenomenon and concept, the course module aims at studying how the idea of an avant-garde continues to be relevant in contemporary art and theory. 7,5 ECTS credits

## 3. Art management and law I: organizations, economy and law

The course module introduces the student to notions central to the field of art management, i.e. management in the field of visual arts and exhibitions, and to relevant legal notions and norms. Issues relating both to freelancing curators as well as institutionally affiliated curators and producers are discussed. Questions relating to management, marketing, budgeting funding, organisation, insurance, contract law and intellectual property are recurring to the teaching and learning activities of the module. Research in the field is also central for the understanding, discussion, and evaluation of central concepts and strategies. 7,5 ECTS credits

## 4. Audience and audiences

The course module provides insights in methods and techniques relating to work with public issues and pedagogical tools in an exhibition context. Aspects such as pedagogy, mediation, communication and criticism are discussed. The course module aims to illustrate different traditions within art pedagogy and mediation, in a national and international perspective. 7,5 ECTS credits

## 5. Theorizing art I: some fundamental issues

The course module adopts a philosophical perspective on art as concept and phenomenon. Fundamental issues in the theory and philosophy of art are discussed, such as: What is art? and What is an art work? A number of central theoretical and philosophical texts are used as points of departure in the discussions. 7,5 ECTS credits

## 6. Curatorial tools and parameters

The course module provides a deepening of knowledge in a number of tools frequently reappearing in the creative work of the curator, such as sound, light and movement. Specific parameters are discussed in relation to the material qualities of different arts of (art)objects, as well as from a phenomenological perspective (i.e. related to the physical and experiential understanding of these objects). The parameters are furthermore related to the aspects space and spatiality. The overall aim is to highlight how the curator's use of different central parameters initiate possible transformation within the (art)objects exposed in an exhibition, and to understand the spatial consequences of those choices. 7,5 ECTS credits

## 7. Art management and law II: specializations

The course module will help contextualise the theoretical knowledge acquired in Art management & law I, through the analysis and comparison of cases. The understanding of central concepts, practices and strategies relating to law and management in the field of curating are deepened through critical analysis and comparison of examples and cases. The lectures in law are more focused on copyright law and the contracting and management of rights. During the lectures and seminars we discuss e.g. what is an "original" artistic work, who is the protected author or rightowner, what uses are covered by the exclusive right and what are the exceptions allowing use without license. Can the curator also be an author? What are related rights? 7,5 ECTS credits

## 8. Thesis work and sketch or model for an exhibition

The course module consists of preliminary research combined with basic analyses for the Master thesis and exhibition, both of which will be finalised in the fourth term of the program. The thematic links between thesis and exhibition will be highlighted in the course module. Furthermore, the students work actively with legal and art management issues, with specific relevance to the individual exhibitions projects. 7,5 ECTS credits

Second year:

## 9. Theorizing art II: art philosophy, interpretations and applications

The course module presents and analyses six philosophical themes: the sublime, gender, political and economical issues, unstable meaning and variability, critical theory, and East Asian concepts as frames for the

understanding of art. The themes are studied parallel to the internship period. The students put together an exhibition proposal based on thoughts relevant to one or two of the presented themes. The chosen theoretical perspectives will constitute the creative principles for the design of the proposed exhibition. 15 ECTS credits

#### 10. Internship

The course module consists of an internship at a Swedish or international institution. The internship period means that the student partakes in the production of an exhibition at an optional place for internship. 15 ECTS credits

#### 11. Art management and law III: implementation

The course module departs from the students' exhibition projects, and contextualise, discuss and develop knowledge and skills from the areas of law and art management so as to benefit the work with and design of the projects. The course module is examined through economic and law related reports and accounts of the individual projects developed. 7,5 ECTS credits

#### 12. Master thesis and exhibition

The course module is divided into two parts: a) the realization of an exhibition and b) the completion of a master thesis. Both exhibition and master thesis have been formulated in an earlier course module. The master thesis is connected to the theme of the exhibition. 22,5 ECTS credits