

## TEXTILE AND SURFACE DESIGN

Prof. Zane Berzina  
Prof. Christiane Sauer  
Prof. Tristan Pranyko  
and additional contract teachers  
as well as artistic assistants

The course Textile and Surface Design is divided into a four-year Bachelor course and a one-year Masters. The Bachelor course begins with a one-year interdisciplinary arts foundation course completed together with students from other courses.

The following three years focus on the design of surfaces in a wide range of contexts. These include three-dimensional bodies, interior and exterior spaces and product surfaces. In addition to working with traditional and new techniques and technologies for designing textile and non-textile two-dimensional surfaces, students also focus on their subject's interplay with related disciplines – architecture, fashion, industrial design, media, visual art, etc. Social issues are also examined; whose everyday life should be taken as a reference point? How do colours and fabrics correlate to various attitudes to life and different lifestyles? How do trends work? What is the role of economic and global issues in a textile designer's work? Surfaces form a link to many different fields of application, and can be the basis for developing new design opportunities and skills. This course fosters a design approach that combines pragmatic professionalism, critical thinking, trans-disciplinary exchange and aesthetic autonomy.

The course deals with the design of surfaces of all kinds. These include bodies, interior and exterior spaces and surfaces in the context of other fields of work connected to production. Focus is placed on a research approach based on materials and creativity which communicates sensuality and innovation and which considers a visionary spirit of the times.

Textile and non-textile materials are investigated for the opportunities they provide for two-dimensional design. The study of material, form

and function deals with the development and extension of possible applications. Emphasis is placed on theoretical considerations which go beyond the external form and intervene in the structure.

### Student advisory service

Susan Lipp  
general course guidance

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open hours: tuesday 11-13, thursday 14-17  
telephone advisory service: +49 30 47705 342  
tuesday 14-16, wednesday 10-12

### 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](http://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 Aweißensee 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 Academy. 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 May of the same year, the applicants receive a written admission award and the registration forms.

### **Registration/fees**

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

### **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 (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 it 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).

### **Commencement of study**

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

### **Duration of study**

The regular duration of study is of 8 semesters, 240 ECTS-credits (Bachelor of Arts) and 2 semesters, 60 ECTS-credits (Master of Arts).

### **Syllabus**

The study comprises the design of surfaces on corpora and in rooms. Correlation with production and market, proximity to sciences and investigation and the rapid development of these areas result in an open-minded and very versatile image of this design specialism. Textile and surface design are defined as part of an all-embracing design concept for human living space. The first two semesters are dedicated to fundamental artistic and scientific studies. Teaching in the shape of exercises, seminars and lectures is largely done in common courses for all specialisms.

### **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 placements available within the SOKRATES/ERASMUS Programme or other possibilities for a stay abroad, and hand in their corresponding applications.

## Conclusion of study

The study is concluded with a Bachelor examination. Admission to the bachelor thesis procedure is only for students who have completed at least two semesters of main study at the weißensee academy of art berlin and have concluded this study successfully. After having passed the bachelor examination, the graduate will receive the academic degree of „Bachelor of Arts in Textile and Surface Design“.

## Master Program

The Masters builds on the Bachelors course and emphasises „Material & Style“. This includes focussing on a considered use of materials which is both aesthetically and technologically up to date, combined with an integration into the design process of accurate perceptions of contemporary cultural movements and a view of this work as part of the interaction between personal identity and social change. The course aims to guide students as they further develop their own identity as designers in a systematic way, in part by working on a socially relevant, forward-looking 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.

## 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 interview. Acceptance and acknowledgement of accomplished studies are assessed and approved by the examination and admission committees. The form covering an application for change of college can be obtained from the Referat für Studienangelegenheiten.

## Financial assistance

Basing on the Federal Law for Educational Advancement (BaföG), Students may apply for a financial assistance with the Student Welfare Organisation (studierendenWERK BERLIN).

studierendenWERK BERLIN,  
Amt für Ausbildungsförderung  
Behrenstrasse 40/41, 10117 Berlin  
Phone:+49 (0)30-93939 - 70  
www.stw.berlin  
www.bildungskredit.de

## Accommodation

The weißensee academy of art berlin does not have any student hostels or flats. The studierendenWERK BERLIN, however, disposes of a great number of rooms in Berlin at a cost of between EURO 250,00 and 450,00. International Students as well as handicapped or chronically ill students enjoy a preferential attendance in this respect. The address of the central accommodation agency is

studierendenWERK BERLIN,  
Abteilung Wohnen InfoPoint  
Hardenbergstr. 34  
10623 Berlin  
Phone:+49 (0)30-93939 - 70  
www.stw.berlin

Moreover there exists in Berlin an ample offer of private flat-sharing and subtenancy opportunities which can be found in newspaper ads, on notice boards, by personal contacts or in internet, for example: wg-gesucht.de, easywg.de, wg-welt.de

## Information material

Further information about the weißensee academy of art berlin can be found in the Internet ([www.kh-berlin.de](http://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.

# See

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