

# BA/ TEXTILE AND SURFACE DESIGN

weißensee

kunsthochschule berlin



## Study Program Textile and Surface Design

Prof. Zane Berzina  
Prof. Christiane Sauer  
Prof. Tristan Pranyko  
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.

### THE STUDY

#### Start of studies

Admission for first-year students only in the winter semester, with the start of beginning in October. For transfer students (from the 3rd semester onwards) are admitted for the admission is possible for the summer and winter semester.

#### Course structure

The entire program is modular in structure. modules and their contents are described in the Module Handbook (at [www.kh-berlin.de](http://www.kh-berlin.de) under >Study >Study Organization >Study Regulations.

The course is divided into a four-year Bachelor course and a two-year Masters. The bachelor's program starts with an 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.

### Foundation Course (first year of studies)

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.

### Study abroad

The weißensee kunsthochschule berlin has an intensive student exchange program with more than 120 partner universities, academies and colleges in Europe, Asia, USA and Canada. At the International Office of the weißensee kunsthochschule berlin, students in the second stage of their studies can obtain information about exchange places in the ERASMUS program or other opportunities for a stay abroad and submit their applications.

### Studio Workshops

The instructional program of weißensee academy of art berlin is outstanding supported by its studios workshops.

The 19 superbly equipped workshops and studios provide practical, technical training in printing, casting, weaving and knitting skills as well as in solid digital technologies. 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/Dyeing/ Knitting rooms, Photography- and a Computer Studio, an Interactive Technology Lab and more. The research laboratories at the school focus on experimental research and networks for sustainable design strategies as well as media and information technologies.

### 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 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 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 experimental 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.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### Application Periods

#### 1. Step: Online Registration

The artistic aptitude is determined in an artistic examination procedure. Registration for the aptitude test done exclusively online via our application application portal Campuscore. The link to the Campuscore portal can be found on our on our website: [www.kh-berlin.de](http://www.kh-berlin.de) under >studies >application for studies >bachelor-design-and-fine-art

The application period for undergraduate programs is always from 01 November to 10 December, all undergraduate study programs commence winter semester only, start in October.

The application periods for University Transfer (from the 3rd semester). Admission are from 01 Dec to 02 Jan 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](http://www.kh-berlin.de) >Study >Study Application

#### Place / date of the admission test

You will receive the organizational instructions for portfolio submission, place and date of the examination at the beginning of January at the latest. The admission test always takes place at the end of the winter semester, in early or mid-February of the year.

Digital admission tests are offered if travel is impracticable or if unforeseen limitations due to the health pandemic make it impossible to take the test on on site is impossible.

#### 2. Step: Artistic admission test / portfolio submission

Depending on the pandemic situation, we will adjust the format of the aptitude test as well as the portfolio submission.

The artistic talent will be ascertained by a test procedure in the middle of February. Beginning of January applicants will receive an invitation and practical hints for the aptitude test and the portfolio submission.

This admission test or exam will consist of:

- The test starts with the submission of your portfolio (digital or analog) and if required your special homework: about 20 personally produced artistic works. 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 and an interview concerning, as a rule, the evaluation of the artistic achievements shown as well as the technical skills and motivation of the participants.

Applicants with physical or psychological disabilities or chronic illness can apply for disadvantage for special compensation prior to the examination.

The proof of artistic aptitude acquired through the examination of artistic aptitude remains valid for 3 years.

#### Portfolio

Depending on the pandemic situation, the format of the admission test as well as the portfolio will be adapted. Whether the portfolio must be submitted digitally or will be decided at the beginning of the application phase.

The admission test usually begins with the submission of the portfolio with approx. 20 own creative works, which enable the individual artistic expression of the applicants to be assessed. 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.

Drawings are desired, paintings, photos, collages, sketchbooks, sketches and samples of work (if possible originals, three-dimensional works and Canvases should be photographed. All media are allowed, digital works should be submitted on a flash drive. The analogue portfolio should be easy to handle not larger than DIN A0. The current guidelines for the analog and digital portfolio can be found on our website.

### Admission requirements

If you pass the admission test successfully you are allowed/invited to apply for admission, if you comply with all formalities:

1. artistic talent/ability (exam in weisensee)
2. qualification for entrance to German University that means a Higher Secondary (School) certificate or alternatively special artistic aptitude, applicants without Abitur can also be admitted to study if they prove a special artistic aptitude in the admission test. The secondary school certificate is sufficient for the Fine Arts Programs!
3. Proof of the pre-study internship in the study-relevant area (6-8 weeks), only for the design study programs, at the latest at the beginning of the study.
4. Proof of sufficient German language skills for international applicants

All applicants regardless the nationality are equate with in the application process, provided international applicants can submit a proof of German language proficiency with

the online application in December: minimum of the qualification level A2 all programs. Please upload the recent proof you have. The language of instruction is German in all our courses. Please note: The relevant language certificate must be submitted before your studies begin. If you think you can't prove the required certificate, you may apply for delay.

For the design courses for example Testdaf 4, DSH 2, telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule, DSD II, the C1 examination certificate of the Goethe-Institut in the design study courses, stage and costume design;

For the fine arts of painting and sculpture for example telc B2, Testdaf 3, DSH 1, the B2 examination certificate of the Goethe-Institut. At the latest at the beginning of your studies, in October.

### 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. 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.

### Recognition of certificates

First if applicants pass the exam successfully, they have to apply for admission with the necessary certificates and documents. International certificates are to be submitted in German or English and as officially certified copies. The university entrance qualification as well as international certificates must be recognized in Germany. The examination can be viewed at [www.anabin.de](http://www.anabin.de).

For Chinese and Vietnamese applicants, we also require proof of APS. Under certain circumstances, applicants who are unable to provide proof of the university entrance qualification they acquired in their home country due to their flight may be granted an exemption from the requirement to provide proof. The examination is carried out by the Department of Student Affairs.

### University Transfer

Transfer 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. Please see information for online application on: [www.kh-berlin.de](http://www.kh-berlin.de) under >Studies >Applying For Studies >Transfer Students

### Applying/studying with a disability or chronic illness

Applicants and students with disabilities or chronic illnesses who are unable to complete the application process, examinations or courses in the planned form due to their illness/disability can request individual compensation for disadvantages compensation in consultation with the department concerned. Information is offered by the general student advisory service.

### Preliminary practical training

A preliminary practical training is considered as basic requirement for matriculation. The preliminary training is necessary for acquiring knowledge and experience concerning basic working techniques, materials and working processes. Especially suitable to this effect are metal working and processing factories or other technically oriented industries. Duration should be 6 to 8 weeks.

### Enrollment/Fees

For the enrollment the proofs of the health insurance and the payment of the semester fee of about 320€ are necessary (registration or administration fee, social contribution AStA and semester ticket).

### Info and Open Days/ Portfolio Consultations

A wonderful opportunity to inform yourself about studying at weißensee and to get an ideal insight into studies is offered by the annual RUNDGANG/ open days in July as well as the public final and annual exhibition of the finearts programs. For the start of the application process in November we offer a digital information evening. Teachers as well as students will give short presentations on the bachelor's degree programs as well as on the study programs of fine arts. Afterwards, there will be the opportunity to talk to students and professors from the departments. In addition, digital as well as analog portfolio consultations will be offered during the application period. Registration is required.

Current events and dates for portfolio consultations can be found on our website at: [www.kh-berlin.de](http://www.kh-berlin.de) >Study >Application for studies >Study guidance / Specialist Advice

### Student advisory service

Susan Lipp  
General Student Advisory Service  
weißensee academy of art berlin  
Bühningstr. 20 - 13086 Berlin, Room A1.03  
e-mail: [studienberatung@kh-berlin.de](mailto:studienberatung@kh-berlin.de)

### office hours by phone:

Tel 030-477 05 342

Tue - Wed 10 -15 h + Thu 10 -17 h

### personal office hours in room A 1.03:

Tue 14-17 + Thu 10-12 h + by appointment

### video consultation

every Thursday from 12-13 h:

<https://jitsi.kh-berlin.de/studienberatung>

**see**

weißensee kunsthochschule berlin

Allgemeine Studienberatung  
Bühningstr. 20 - 13086 Berlin  
Raum A1.03  
Tel (030) 4 77 05 - 342  
Mail [studienberatung@kh-berlin.de](mailto:studienberatung@kh-berlin.de)