

# Master of Visual Arts

## Elective courses

### 2026-2027



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### Concept and purpose

To deepen your theoretical knowledge, you can choose from a range of elective courses within the Master's program. These courses allow you to refine or broaden your individual curriculum. The theory courses are intended to enrich your artistic practice and help you develop your ability to reflect critically.

Some courses are organized as intensive courses, while others are spread over one semester. In the [ECTS course descriptions](#), you can find more information about the content and teaching methods of each elective course.

### Practical information

- You take 2 elective courses during the Master's program (for students following an individual study program, this number may differ).
- All elective courses take place during the first semester.
- Two elective courses are organized as an intensive week.
- For one elective course, you attend classes at the University of Antwerp campus, together with students from the Master's program in Film Studies and Visual Culture.
- Almost all elective courses are scheduled at different times. There is one exception:

Classes and the assessment for the UA elective course [The Documentary Image](#) continue during all intensive weeks. You are responsible for informing your lecturer yourself.

- Attendance is compulsory for most elective courses. Please check the ECTS course descriptions carefully.
- Each elective course is worth 6 ECTS credits, i.e. 168 hours of study time: 24 hours of contact time + 144 hours of independent study.
- Independent study is intensive for all elective courses. You are expected to study a reader containing academic articles thoroughly and reflect on them critically. Each lecturer will guide you through this reading process in a different way.

### What should you consider when making your choice?

- Analyze the information on the following pages.
- Read the course descriptions carefully: which subjects appeal to you?
- Make sure your program is well balanced.
- Consider whether the assessment format suits you.
- Think about whether the teaching method suits you: group work or individual work.
- Keep in mind that if you choose a UA elective course, you will also need to register separately through the University of Antwerp. This is free of charge.

### Submitting your choices

- From 8 September onwards, you can submit your choices via this [LINK](#).
- Rank the available elective courses according to your preference, with 1 as your first choice and 4 as the course you would least prefer to take.
- The deadline for submitting your preferences is **Thursday 24 September before 12 noon**. After that, we will close the form and start assigning the elective courses. Your personal timetable will be updated with your assigned electives by Sunday at 12 noon at the latest.
- Classes start on Monday 28 September 2026.

### Important!

- Contact [stip.sla@kdg.be](mailto:stip.sla@kdg.be) if you experience any problems or have questions about making your choice.
- Are you a PDT student and did you already pass 1 elective course last academic year? This academic year, you must submit your choice again for the elective course you still wish to take.

# Master of Visual Arts

## Elective courses 2026-2027

### Elective course organized for 8 weeks

#### Aesthetic praxis

Joachim Ben Yakoub

English

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|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Subject matter    | The main aim of the class is to develop your own understanding of aesthetic praxis. We underline the importance of theory & practice as two inseparable categories. We question if the division between aesthetic and politics is relevant while understanding artistic practices. We challenge our assumptions and beliefs about aesthetics within various histories and geographies. We find ways to understand aesthetics in our own way and develop insights into how art and design practices relate to different contexts in different ways and learn to understand aesthetics in a reflective and original way.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Teaching methods: | Group discussions and preparation in mini-groups                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Classes           | Monday 13h30 from 28th of September, 12 <sup>th</sup> of October, 26 <sup>th</sup> of October, 9 <sup>th</sup> of November, 30 <sup>th</sup> of November and the whole day with guest lecturers on 14 <sup>th</sup> of December 2026 9h – 18h<br><br>This is the same course as “Esthetische Praxis” but the teaching language and evaluation language is English.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Assessment:       | <p><b>Podcast/soundscape</b> (8 out of 20): In 20-minute original edit, you share the insights you made during the class conversation, the guestlectures and your study of the texts.</p> <p><b>Conversation series</b> (8 out of 20): Together with your group you are well prepared, by reading the assigned articles, to participate - during every class - in the groupdiscussions, in the role of presenter (for one text) or discussant (for the other texts).</p> <p><b>Self-assessment</b> (4 out of 20): You write 1 page reflecting on your own learning process, proposing a score out of 20 and arguing why you think you deserve this score regarding the objectives of this course. Think about your presence in class, the conversation series and the podcast you made.</p> |

### Elective course organized for 12 weeks at the campus of the University of Antwerp

#### UA - The documentary image

David Dhert, Bo Alfaro Decreton

English

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|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Subject matter   | The course addresses documentary images in a passage from historically situated practices to contemporary, experimental, and interactive forms. Starting with a brief reflection on the meaning of documentation in the context of both still and moving images, the course unfolds then mainly in the terrain of documentary film. It addresses both established as well as emerging practices (hence also the world of interactivity, virtual reality, etc.) hence offering the students insights into leading debates in the world of documentary film, as well as into tools for making important distinctions between genres and ‘modes’, and between the use of documentary as evidence, as art, as advocacy, as information and as entertainment. |
| Teaching methods | lectures, film viewing, and group discussions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Classes          | From 30th September every Wednesday 13h30-16h30, also during the autumn holiday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Assessment       | Assignments, participation during classes, processevaluation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

# Master of Visual Arts

## Elective courses 2026-2027

### Elective courses organized during an intensive week

#### Digital cultures

Freya van den Boom

English

- Subject matter: Digital Cultures focuses on the role of art and design within our present digital age and its effects upon society. We will explore the broadest definitions of new media and digital technologies, and what it can mean within art and design practices. During this intensive week we will think, read, present and discuss together with artists, researchers and each other to explore the philosophical and political controversies surrounding this concept, as well as its implications for art, design and identities.
- This intensive seminar involves engaging with course material relevant to digital cultures and particularly the repercussions of digital or computational and techno-scientific processes/practices on the human and non-human conditions. Where relevant art/design practices that engage with these issues will be brought into perspective.
- Teaching methods: group presentations, group discussions and discussions with guestlectures
- Lessons: **Introduction session:** 30<sup>th</sup> October 10h-13h
- Intensive week:** 3 days from 10h until 17h: **18th until 20th of November 2026**, 1 morning from 10h-13h **23th November**
- Assessment: **Reading report** (6 out of 20): From the introduction session until the intensive week, you read the articles provided in the canvas course. The reading report is due before the intensive week.
- Presentation** (14 out of 20): in a small group. The preparation of the presentation is also due before the intensive week.

#### Art & design in the anthropocene

Saskia Van der Gucht & Irma Földényi

English

- Subject matter: Art & design in the anthropocene focuses on the role of art and design within our present geological epoch, in which the earth's ecosystems and biodiversity are being disrupted by human intervention. We will explore a broad definition of 'ecology' and what it can mean within art and design practices. During this theory week we will think, read, present and discuss together with artists, researchers and each other to explore the scientific, philosophical and political controversies surrounding this concept, as well as its implications for art, design and identities.
- Teaching methods: lectures, group discussions, exhibition visit
- Classes: **Introduction sessions:** 16<sup>th</sup> of October 10:00 – 12:00 (on campus) and 13<sup>th</sup> of November from 14:00 – 16:00 (online)
- Intensive week:** 4 days from 10:00 until 17:00: **4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2027**
- Assessment: **Reading and writing assignment (60 %)** independent work during first semester
- Group presentation (40%)** at the end of the intensive week



**A**void the folds, since they don't hold the soul. The power of words can be both meaningful and meaningless. Don't trap the ordinary life as they hold greater and cognitive stimuli. Life than you think. Influence on daily process of this work. Throughout the my artistic work, I entrusted myself to As I carried on mental subconsciously. being socially on facing the mystery of ing a visual language unnoticed, I was cultivating a visual language defined by its own enigmatic nature.