

Transcultural Collaboration

International MA
Semester Program
in the Arts
and Design

2 September
– 13 December

2019

Hong Kong and Zurich



Transcultural Collaboration is a unique international MA semester program in the arts and design, and a cooperation between seven arts universities in Asia and Europe.

30 participants from all arts and design disciplines have the chance to explore Zurich and Hong Kong, collaborating on experiments with open outcomes.

2 September
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On Transcultural Collaboration

Today, artists and designers need a multi-perspective mindset, as well as a genuine commitment and willingness to communicate, exchange, and debate ideas and opinions within a global framework, critically reflecting on manifold interconnected issues and questions. Given the complex and pressing nature of the problems facing all of us, we are convinced that close cooperation is imperative for tackling these issues.

Between Hong Kong, Zurich, and Shanghai

Zurich and Hong Kong are the two main locations of the program. They serve as the matrix and common playground for explorations and experiments. The differences between Hong Kong and Zurich are huge: they provide interesting insights and opportunities for reflection on a variety of topics such as value

systems, politics, traditions and cultural hybridization, or power structures.

Every year, the program offers as well a perspective on a third city. This year, the group will travel to Shanghai for a field trip that includes a public presentation at the Ming Contemporary Art Museum.

On Transculturality

For contemporary artists and designers, a transcultural mindset and attitude is necessary in order to deal with different cultures on many levels. They act as facilitators between different political, social, economic, and cultural contexts. Not only professional expertise is required, but also the ability to understand and negotiate the diversity of global cultures and societies. Artists and designers can take the role of agents who constantly observe, reflect, distinguish, and position themselves in dynamic environments, withstanding frictions, and demanding to make things visible, to mediate, to produce, and to act precisely.

On Collaboration

When making use of different working methods or approaches, one might come up with ideas and conceptions that are beyond regular imagination and capabilities. Collaboration as a principal working method exposes participants to different mindsets, traditions, and aesthetic understandings. Working in cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary teams allows for direct exchange and debate on topics of common interest, while at the same time critically reflecting on each other's perception, values, and way of working. It is a way of expanding the artistic toolkit, helping participants to better understand their own discipline.

On the Program Structure

The programme is divided into three parts: ⁽¹⁾ an eight-week stay in Hong Kong; ⁽²⁾ a two-week field trip and exhibition in Shanghai; ⁽³⁾ a five-week stay in Zurich including a final exhibition and

conference. The core program is dedicated to practice-based collaboration and teamwork between the participants in changing constellations. An annual semester topic and a related lecture series serve to focus debates and provide a framework for practical experimentation. The program is complemented with additional inputs by guests, excursions, and workshops. Participants receive close support from selected faculty from all partner institutions, as well as from independent artists and experts from various art and design disciplines. The semester includes public presentations in Shanghai and Zurich.

SEMESTER DATES

2 September – 13 December 2019

→ 15 weeks

PARTICIPANTS

The program offers places to 30 graduate students from the participating partner institutions from a wide range of arts and design disciplines, including performing arts, music, fine arts, media arts, design, and art education.

Emphasis is placed on a good mixture of disciplines.

ADMISSION CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS

- A genuine interest in and willingness to identify and analyse transcultural questions.
- An ability and interest to work in teams whose members come from different cultural and disciplinary backgrounds.
- A willingness to expose oneself and one's work, to engage in critical reflection, to experiment and take artistic risks, and to participate full-time in the semester program
- Proficient in English.

CREDITS

Students remain enrolled in their home institutions.

STUDENT COSTS

- Accommodation costs in Hong Kong and Shanghai are covered by ZHdK
- Travel Expenses: Flights to Hong Kong and Shanghai (total: 1.200CHF approx.)

TEACHING FACULTY

Lecturers and artists from Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Singapore, and Europe. Faculty come from various arts and design disciplines, and a range of academic backgrounds.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Letter of motivation (1 - 2 pages, in English)
2. CV
3. Interview

APPLICATION

- Submission deadline: 8 April 2019
- Please send your application documents to:

Karin Wegmann

Administrator Transcultural Collaboration:
→ karin.wegmann@zhdk.ch

- Interviews will be conducted in: April 2019
- Final confirmation of participation by: 30 April 2019
- For a personal consultation or should you have any questions, please contact:

Daniel Späti

Head of Transcultural Collaboration
+41 79 432 8103
→ daniel.spaeti@zhdk.ch

PARTNERS

- Academy of Visual Arts Hong Kong Baptist University
→ ava.hkbu.edu.hk
- The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
→ hkapa.edu
- LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore
→ lasalle.edu.sg
- School of Creative Media City University of Hong Kong
→ scm.cityu.edu.hk
- China Academy of Art, Hangzhou
→ eng.caa.edu.cn
- Taipei National University of the Arts
→ tnua.edu.tw
- Zurich University of the Arts
→ zhdk.ch

→ transculturalcollaboration.com



Information Event: short presentation of this years' program, chance to meet former participants and get an impression of their work and experiences.

→ Wednesday, 6 March 2019

12.30–13.30

5.D02 Seminarraum, Toni-Areal

→ Tuesday, 26 March 2019

12.30–13.30

4.T07 Seminarraum, Toni-Areal

www.transculturalcollaboration.com