



# MFA admission guidelines

Autumn 2019

NTNU Kunstakademiet | Trondheim / Academy of Fine Art

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## MFA admission guideline (autumn 2019)

### Application deadline for the international Master of Fine Art (autumn 2019).

Applicants for the International Master in Fine Art are selected on the base of their artistic practice. It is therefore required to apply with documentation demonstrating artistic qualification. This document will focus on describing the requirements for this additional material. If you have questions regarding submission of additional materials or study program related questions please check: <http://kit.ntnu.no/en> or write to our study program coordinator: [diana.lindbjerg@ntnu.no](mailto:diana.lindbjerg@ntnu.no)

**March 1, 2019** however Scandinavian students can apply until April 15th 2019. But we encourage you to submit before March 1, 2019.

After the admission deadlines we will begin a selection process and call eligible applicants for skype interviews which will take place in week 11 (11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> March) and week 17 (23<sup>rd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> April)

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – Deadline for submission (international applicants)

11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March – Interviews – round 1

15<sup>th</sup> April – Deadline for submission (Scandinavian applicants)

23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> April – Interviews – round 2

Due to the two deadlines there can be delays in response to your application and interview but we aim to finalize the process mid may.

### Søknadsweb

All submission and upload of additional material is done through Søknadsweb. Follow the guidelines and submission requirements on søknadsweb, these are current for all university programs in Norway and you will be asked to provide general information and documentation about your self including passport and proof of financing. If you have general questions about education in Norway for example: living costs, housing, visa application these should be directed to: **Office of international relations:** <https://www.ntnu.edu/international>

### Submissions checklist:

- CV (max. 3 pages, PDF)
- Transcripts of previous education (PDF)
- Proposal for a research project (max. two pages, PDF)
- Portfolio - documentation of up to 10 works (max. 20 pages, PDF)

### CV

Your CV should include information about former education, exhibitions and work experience. (limit up to three A4 pages. PDF)

### Transcripts

You should provide documentation of previous education, include English translation if needed. Contact details of the accrediting institution should be clear in the documents or added. Scan of documents are fine. Collect all transcripts in one document. (PDF)

### Proposal

Students on a master level are expected to have already acquired a sense for their preferred working method and are interested in creating connections between different fields of research. We want your proposal to reflect on where you are in your process and where you want to go. We expect to get a sense of who you are and what your artistic practice consist of so we can figure out if Trondheim Academy of Fine Art is the right place for you.

### Suggestion for questions to begin with:

- Describe the project proposal that you would bring to the academy and develop here?
- What do you expect from a Master in Fine art in relation to your project proposal?
- How do you understand the potential for artistic research in relation to your own production?
- How do you think Trondheim Academy of Fine Art, NTNU and Trondheim can contribute your artistic development?

## Portfolio

Your portfolio should consist of visual documentation of up to 10 artworks made within the past five years. Keep each work on maximum of two pages each. (include relevant information for images like: name of artist, collaborators, year, medium, size, exhibition venue)

### **Audio visual work:**

If you have audio visual work we suggest that you make a screenshot or short text description on a page in the portfolio and add link to the file. (If you have questions regarding a specific work that you find difficult to submit please contact our study program coordinator for guidance. [diana.lindbjerg@ntnu.no](mailto:diana.lindbjerg@ntnu.no))

[www.kit.ntnu.no](http://www.kit.ntnu.no)

We would like to invite you to familiarize yourself with Trondheim Academy of Fine Arts own website and make a registration, the registration is not mandatory but the information is basic information that we would need in order to make a student profile for you if you are accepted into the course. KiT web is part of our identity as an Art Academy and is an addition to our presence via the NTNU pages.

<https://www.kit.ntnu.no/en/content/registration-form>

## About the program

The International MFA program allows artists to spend two years of intense investigation developing a project and an artistic portfolio in a pre-professional environment. The program is not craft-oriented, but focuses on processual and discursive aspects of the arts. All art-making activities are considered serious intellectual endeavours. Students in the program concentrate on developing practical skills alongside developing their intellectual and critical abilities in working out their artistic positions.

The foreground of teaching focuses on artistic, practice-led research and a cross disciplinary approach, where critical reflection and debate are considered complementary to self-directed artistic research and practice. Individual mentoring lies at the core of art education, and is considered a backbone of the program. Students carry out research independently and work on projects under close guidance of supervisors. Projects evolve through stages of conceptual and material development towards formal and informal presentation and critical, constructive debate.

The program encourages graduate students to explore critical and innovative practices in both individual creative work and group projects. The curriculum is structured to expose students to diverse viewpoints and an array of professional practices that reflect contemporary issues, and is in dialogue with a global community of artists and thinkers. It offers students a wide range of educational modules including studio visits, tutorials, group critiques, workshops, courses in theory and practice, guest lectures, study trips, exhibitions, as well as student-led initiatives and projects.

KiT offers each MFA student a studio space and access to collaborative workspaces and workshops for wood, metal, plaster, printmaking, photo, video, sound and computer-based work. There are workspaces available for short-term project work that require larger spatial requirements.

The program culminates in a thesis project presented in a group exhibition, which is carried out in close collaboration with Trondheim Kunstmuseum, one of the major art institutions in Trondheim. The MFA thesis exhibition, a collectively produced show, must be displayed in a professional manner with a unified theme/concept. The student is required to submit a thesis paper, a written critical reflection that provides knowledge and insight to the artwork. Both final artistic project and written reflection must be successfully defended during an oral examination.

Successful completion of the exhibited project and passing the final exam are the requirements needed to earn an MFA degree.

## What do we expect from students within the International MFA program?

Students on a master level are expected to have already acquired a sense for their preferred working method and are interested in creating connections between different fields of research. We assume that you take your work seriously, are self-driven and ambitious in your progress, and show a willingness to take the initiative. We want you to be inquisitive, curious, experimental – to know what your limits are, then be willing to take risks to move beyond them.

You should be open and ready to develop the capacity for critical thinking, to position and reposition your artistic practice within current debates, discourses, and the continuously changing field of art. We expect you to be generous with your knowledge and be willing to engage in dialogues and debates with both faculty and peers. Students will participate in three progress reviews during Spring semester of the first year and Fall/Winter semester of the first and second years of the International MFA program. In the last semester, each student will make a public presentation of their final thesis work. Students are required to submit some form of written work that accompanies the thesis work. An oral examination administered to each student covers the final thesis work (both the written part and public presentation of work), and its relationship to the field of contemporary art. What should the students expect from the International MFA program?

The program offers a broad range of pedagogical formats including group critiques, thematic seminars and workshops, student-led projects, courses in theory and practice, guest lectures, study trips, and exhibitions. Projects evolve through stages of conceptual and material development towards formal and informal presentation and critical, constructive debate. Students within the International MFA program have a studio space and access to collaborative workspaces and workshops for wood, metal, plaster, printmaking, photo, video, sound and computer-based work. Even if facilities at KiT allow for possibilities to produce art works in most common and – even a few nowadays – rare techniques, the program is not craft-oriented, but rather focuses on processual and discursive aspects of the arts. All art-making activities are considered serious intellectual endeavors. Students in the program will concentrate on developing practical skills alongside developing their intellectual and critical abilities in working out their artistic positions. The curriculum is therefore structured to expose students to diverse viewpoints and an array of professional practices that reflect contemporary issues and is in dialogue with a global

community of artists and thinkers. Both core faculty and guest teachers are internationally active artists or lecturers, which keeps the school connected to current forms of art, and allows students to get an insight into relevant international discourses. Mandatory courses (Advanced Artistic Work 1-4) comprise the central part of the International MFA program, combined with an offer of elective courses. Students within the MFA program must also take Experts in Teamwork (EiT) during the Spring semester of their first year. The course is compulsory for all students in master's programs and programs of professional study at NTNU. Elective courses currently offer a focus on the notions of public space and place with artistic, architectural and other creative practices, global approaches to aesthetics, theory, and criticism in the context of contemporary art, the relation of visual culture to technology and current tendencies of digital culture and art practice. Four terms are the usual time spent earning an MFA degree. The program will require a minimum of 120 credits, including a 7.5 study credit from Experts in Teamwork (EiT). The required course load is 30 study points each academic semester

Per regulations, students cannot enroll in more than 15 credits of graduate level courses combined with 15 points for advanced artistic work per semester.

Elective courses provide 7.5 study credit points each.

## Course Elements

Throughout the academic year the individual projects are combined with one main master course and elective courses, which are practice or theory based. Within the main course the program offers a broad range of pedagogical formats including group critiques, workshops, student-led seminars and projects, writing seminars, guest lectures, study trips, and visits to exhibitions.

Elective courses currently offered focus on the notions of public space and place with artistic, architectural and other creative practices, global approaches to aesthetics, theory, and criticism in the context of contemporary art, the relation of visual culture to technology and current tendencies of digital culture and art practice.

- Group Critique
- Individual Tutorials
- Open Academy
- Introduction Week
- Thematic seminars and workshops
- Thesis and Creative writing
- Artistic Research
- Exhibition and Curatorial Strategies
- Artistic Entrepreneurship
- Publishing as an Artistic Practice

## Mandatory Courses:

### *Advanced Artistic Work 1-4*

The course concentrates on the development of individual artistic practice and the contextualisation of the studio work. It covers the initial phases research and concept development of an MFA artistic research project. The course focuses on questions of artistic research and what constitutes practice-led research in contemporary art. This course prepares MFA candidates for practice-based research in contemporary art. It aims to help MFA candidates to steep themselves in the theory of their own research area, and to develop relevant methods and techniques of inquiry in contemporary art, in which they will apply to their projects.

The main outcome of the course is a MFA thesis project resulting from studio practice and individual research, under guidance of a main and a second supervising tutor. The student's artistic practice is supported by a final thesis text as a reflective supplement to the work. In the final semester graduating students are expected to collaborate on a collective framework to present their thesis projects. This can be in the form of an exhibition or other engagement with an audience in public events. Seminars and lectures in the final semester are intended to increase students' knowledge and competencies in the field of exhibiting and presentation of artistic work.

To obtain a Master degree the student must have completed an independent thesis project along with thesis text and actively participated in seminars and courses within the framework of the course requirements, accounting for 120 study credits.

### *Thematic Group Project*

This course combines artistic practice and critical discourse through collective dissemination projects which relate to one or more key areas from the MFA course portfolio. Dissemination, in this sense, relates to formats of publishing and exhibiting as forms of learning. The course will provide insight into the relationship between

practices in fine arts and their thematic integration and dissemination in various contexts and frameworks found within and outside the academy environment. The course introduces students to the social, cultural, political and/or environmental context that affect both the development of an artistic position and its public reception. The student's own artistic practice and possible collaboration with peers will be an integral part of working with and reflecting upon the artist's various roles and tasks in the community in general. The learning objective focuses on work on a group project. Students working around a common theme collectively develop research methods, artistic formats and techniques of documentation. This course is only offered in the Spring term of the 1st year of studies.

### *Experts in Teams*

For all Masters students at NTNU it is also mandatory to participate in the inter-disciplinary course Experts in Team/(EiT) - a collaboration with other fields of study at NTNU. Students are advised to take this course in the 1st year of MFA studies.

For January 2019 will host the course North by North East: A free Passage from Norway to China. Read more about the course and Experts in teams here. <https://www.ntnu.no/eit/aar4918>

### *Group Critiques*

A group critique can be one of the best tools an artist can have to help build a conceptually solid practice. Critiques can help an artist better understand how his or her work is communicating to a larger audience. Regular discussions with peers about your work contributes to developing critical thinking and public speaking skills. As part of the studies, students within the International MFA program will have their work critiqued in a group format once during each semester. Group critiques take place on Monday afternoons. Each student within the MFA program has one group critique per term. Each group critique session will consist of four students – two in their first year, and two in their second year. Each student will have 45 minutes for presentation, feedback, and discussion. Each session will have a moderator whose role is of the timekeeper and to make sure that each person within the critique group has an opportunity of contributing to the discussions. The discussions should be focussed and offer constructive, informed, critical feedback on the work. Students are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in all group critiques, besides their own.

### *Individual Tutorials*

A tutorial is a useful resource for getting feedback, and to help develop a work/research plan for individual projects. Each student at KiT will be assigned a main supervisor and a second supervisor. Students meet four times with the main supervisor and twice with the second supervisor, during each semester. Each supervisor will set up a timetable for meetings and inform the students for whom they are responsible for the dates and times for meetings. Aside from the formal arrangement with main and second supervisors, students may at any time contact other professors and teachers to request individual tutorials. Please take the time to prepare for the tutorial adequately. If possible, send in advance what you are planning to present or some particular areas (or difficulties) in the work you would like to discuss. The more prepared you are for the tutorial, the more constructive feedback you will receive.

### *Introduction Week*

As an introduction to the social and learning environment of the academy, all students and faculty at Trondheim Academy of Fine Art (KiT) are each asked to make a short presentation—lasting 6 mins and 40 seconds—of themselves and their work. Students are encouraged to be creative in their presentations. They can give a short talk about their work, show some slides, read poetry, do a short performance, sing a song, initiate a group action, show an excerpt from a film, present a painting, or make a quick drawing, etc.

### *Open Academy*

Students of the Trondheim Academy of Fine Art at NTNU open their studios to the public to showcase their practice. It includes entrance to private studios, tours of the facilities and artwork, and can also include artist talks, temporal projects, performances, and an exhibition program at Galleri KiT. Open Academy aims at creating connections with departments of NTNU, strengthening the bonds between cultural institutions and key players, and reinforcing the relationship between the Academy and the greater context of Trondheim.

### *Thematic Seminars and Workshops*

Thematic seminars and workshops offered throughout the two years of study at KiT aim to introduce, discuss, and build up different competencies which are considered intrinsic to artistic practice. Thematic seminars and workshops include: Thesis and Creative writing, Artistic Research, Exhibition and Curatorial Strategies, Publishing as an Artistic Practice, and Artistic Entrepreneurship. Student-led Projects Often there will be student-led projects which are unanticipated but the result of situations and opportunities that might arise throughout the two years of the study program. Please take every opportunity that you see might help in developing your ability

to work in a professional environment, alone and with others. When needed, the MFA course leader will make every attempt to encourage and facilitate these student-led initiatives.

There are also many external projects taking place in Trondheim. Students are invited to participate in activities happening outside of the academy. They can, for example, join the board at Gallery KiT and

Elective courses:

#### *Art and Common Space*

The course takes as its starting point the necessity to re-imagine public space/place in relation to artistic, architectural and other creative practices. The course is partly theory-based, always mindful of practical situations and real-life scenarios, as well as creative possibilities for changing society, be it urban or closer to `nature`. It will cover historical theories of public space that have had particular relevance for art and architecture, but also current and innovative theoretical practices that have arisen out of the specific economic and environmental conditions that challenge us today. At the core of the practice-based work with art and public space will be a continual redefining, and intervention, in the concept and material reality of 'common space. The term 'common' refers to the variety of spatial situations where people are meeting and communicating.

#### *Art, Technology, Culture*

This course provides a reading of discourses, artistic and non-artistic practices that looks at technology as culture and the impact of technology in society. This course focuses on aesthetics that are widely described by the term "post-digital." The term implies that the digital revolution has become a rather trivial matter of fact and the digital has turned into the main condition of everyday life. The course turns to artistic and cultural practices as critical tools for analyzing current technological developments and their influence on art, society and politics. It considers the role of artists as critical thinkers, designers and makers. It may involve the role of networks and collective practices, live and mediated encounters, digital disobedience, smart citizens, prosthetic devices, human/machine interfaces, feminist and queer science fiction, affective networks, online persona, self tracking and quantification, vision machines, writing machines, artificial intelligence, surveillance, robotics, big data and digital archives, virtual sexuality and porn.

#### *Art and Ocean*

This course investigates the role of art and the work of artists when it comes to addressing global challenges regarding the future of the oceans. Uncertainty, complexity, and fluidity within ocean research are challenging the borders of conventional forms of knowledge production. It opens up opportunities for interventions carried out within new alliances of agencies and collaborations. The production of knowledge across different fields of artistic practices and scientific research creates new understandings of the world we live in.

#### *Global Aesthetics*

The course reflects on global approaches to aesthetics that have been developed in dialog with, in confrontation to or independently from the hegemony of Western philosophical traditions. It investigates historical and contemporary artistic practices based on cross-cultural exchange and new notions of modernity in the light of global transformations. There is a special focus on gaining insight of the direct or indirect impact of colonialism and the post-colonial condition, of global economies and transnational migration.

#### *Key Concepts of Art Theory*

The course concentrates on the role of theory and criticism in the context of contemporary art. It provides an introduction to art theory and experiments and plays with a variety of different notions of theoretical praxis. In principle, art theory is understood as "the art of seeing art". Rather than with an identifiable body of knowledge, the course operates as an open and flexible collaborative learning environment. It introduces and critically examines key concepts of contemporary art theory and explores their impact on the major movements in visual art from the early 20th century to the present day.

#### *Exhibiting and curating*

This course corresponds with the practical development of exhibitions, and introduces a research-informed, experimental approach to the analysis and making of contemporary exhibitions as a distinctive form of cultural production. It invites students from a wide range of creative disciplines with interest in practice-based work and regards exhibitions as a process of co-creation, shaping as well as showcasing research-led and practice-based art for public interest. Limited course capacity. Students apply to the course and should express their interest in being part of the gallery board.

#### Study environment

The Trondheim Academy of Fine Art (KiT) is a flexible and experimental educational and research institution and well known as the first art academy in the Nordic countries to offer education in media art. KiT is currently part of The Faculty of Architecture and Design at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). As

Norway's single largest university, NTNU has 14 faculties and 70 departments, with more than 100 laboratories. This unique environment encourages the MFA students to explore the potential for new practices across different disciplines and technologies.

The Academy of Fine Art is situated outside of the NTNU campus in a former factory building. It is well connected to a small but vibrant local art scene with artist-run galleries, exhibition halls and museums. KiT employs ten professors, five members of technical staff and three members of administrative staff.

The academic staff at KiT and the visiting artists come from diverse backgrounds. By bringing together different expertise resulting from practical experiences and distinguished artistic careers, the educational setting is designed to prompt students to challenge themselves and to push the boundaries of their artistic work and research.

<http://www.kit.ntnu.no/en/teachers>

Many of the MFA students at KiT come with undergraduate degrees from diverse fields, work experience, or even careers as independent artists. Students across both the BFA and MFA programs self-organize activities and projects, many taking place at Gallery KiT, and throughout Trondheim. Past and present activities include: an art fair, a book fair, a film screening programme, poetry slam and performance events. Students have also been involved in collaborations and exchanges between students of the Music & Technology and Dance departments.

The International MFA program is developed and carried out in an expanding network of partner institutions across Europe and beyond – with the goal of exploring a multiplicity of notions of contemporary art and in particular: how art inhabits concepts of the contemporary that operate in a “globalized” world.

### *Gallery Blunk.*

Visits to Exhibitions and other Activities Outside of the Classroom All exhibitions and programming within the many cultural institutions and spaces around Trondheim (TKM, Kunsthall Trondheim, TSSK, Levart, Babel, Svartlamon, Rake, TKF, etc.) should be considered part of the art education at Trondheim Academy of Fine Art. Every attempt is made to synchronize programming with the many cultural events happening around the city, including making visits to exhibitions, conferences, and seminars. However even if it is not possible to program these events during scheduled course times, students are highly encouraged to attend as many of these spaces and events as possible. Criteria for Pass or Fail Criteria for a pass or fail is based on attendance and participation in thematic workshops and seminars connected to Advanced Artistic Work 1-4, participation in a group critique and successful progress review.

## Practical information

### *Housing*

If you are an international student looking for housing in Trondheim, the NTNU can help. Please see the NTNU's website "Living in Trondheim" for information about housing, cost of living, student organizations etc.

<http://www.ntnu.edu/livingintrh>

### *Grants and Stipends*

At the moment the Trondheim Academy of Fine Art is not offering grants or stipends for international students.

There is a list of the main funding alternatives available to international students here:

<http://www.ntnu.edu/studies/financing-and-scholarships>

International students who are not eligible for a fellowship or scholarship program are welcome at NTNU, provided they have proof of sufficient funding to pay their living expenses. There is no tuition fee.

### *Job Prospects*

There are no precise professional analogies inherent in the course of studies, since a career as an independent artist is inherently unconventional. Nevertheless the MFA degree opens a wide range of higher-level positions within institutions of the art world. It is essential for pursuing a career in academia or teaching at university level.

A MFA degree makes its recipient eligible for post-graduate or PHD programs; and it is certainly helpful when applying to residency programs for artists or for internships at art institutions.

### Links

- **NTNU:** <https://www.ntnu.no/>
- **Trondheim Academy of Fine Art:** <http://kit.ntnu.no/en>
- **Office of International relations:** <https://www.ntnu.edu/international>
- **SiT (student services, apply for housing):** <https://www.sit.no/en>
- **Study in Norway:** <https://www.studyinnorway.no/>

## Contact Address

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