

## VISUAL ARTS AND CURATORIAL STUDIES

### Introduction

The place of art in a society that is in transformation, as today, is defined according to a series of dynamic parameters through which it negotiates its status and operational conditions. The research that marks the role of the artist can be seen as a continuous production of space and time—that of the exhibition, of representation, of direct activities here and now—among all the possible social, individual, economic and political spaces and times. So it is possible to talk about plurality of areas and operational processes that must be conquered, imagined, or revealed when they are disguised in everyday and social life. As a consequence, there is a close relationship or even an overlapping between artistic and curatorial research: not only for a change in their respective roles, but for the continuous redefining of artistic space that sees both as active subjects of study.

### Educational philosophy

The two-year MA program in Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies is the only program in Italy and Europe with the objective of uniting a solid education in the field of visual arts production with a highly specialised curatorial program. The Two-year MA course highlights the skills of artists and curators from constructing exhibition space, which is unique and shared, in which roles and attitudes of both are seen as open areas that need to be continually redefined. Through a wide spectrum of knowledge and strategies, of new technologies and languages, the program offers a series of theoretical lessons and laboratories, which will be conducted through the two-year program with different European artistic institutions.

A series of interdisciplinary activities are developed through lectures, workshops, seminars and exhibitions aimed at producing new operative and educational models in the field of contemporary

art. Different schemes for producing of work—from construction of an imaginary individual to social activity—will be experimented and compared and to various exhibition models: the “mostra archipelago” (according to Glissant's definition), a growing display, a nomadic exhibition up until it finds a place in a book, the city or forum. Particular attention will be dedicated to the transformation of the public and to the training new figures in the art system.

### Professional profiles

Artistic practice is realised in a field of relations with artistic protagonists, collectors, galleries, public institutions and critics. One of the objectives of the program is to provide the students with contacts that allow them to efficiently promote their artistic work. The program partners act at different levels, participate in a scientific committee and are active in the realisation of the projects. They offer occasions for internship or individual exhibition projects for artistic practice. Besides the specific partners for the program (ICA of London and Portikus of Frankfurt, Open Care of Milan) there are also a number of institutional partners that collaborate with NABA on a permanent basis in research and cultural promotion. Particular attention is focused on creating the artistic portfolio of the student, either by training in the best presentation and graphic representation tools or through individual consulting activity. A permanently active exhibition space on the NABA campus constitutes another important lever for promotion of the students' work.

### Program

The duration of the program is two years and divided into four terms; it foresees attendance of a

minimum of 16 courses, passing exams, and developing a final thesis: Upon completion of the MA student will receive 120 educational credits, as foreseen by the Italian Ministry of Education for this area. The strong experimental and research imprint of the two-year program is articulated through the integration of single courses for research and experimentation and surmounting the edges of disciplines.

The two-year program expands upon a wide range of practices that investigate artistic content, topics and models of production, exhibition and communication with an interdisciplinary approach. It alternates laboratory activities directly with artists and professionals of international significance, with series of theoretical and practical classes. The Visual Arts and Curatorial studies project laboratories constitute the basis of the entire educational project. Inside these laboratories some projects are carried out under the supervision of a team consisting of two artists and two curators. These projects follow the students and will differ as a result of collaborations with a network of foreign partners. The students will be involved in at least four projects. The first one foresees the curatorship and realisation of a traveling exhibition thanks to collaboration with the project partners. The second implies the realisation of a printed or multimedia catalogue to support the exhibition. The third project consists of the design and realisation of a performance in a public place. The fourth includes designing a format for an exhibition space at NABA, aiming at the evaluation of emerging artists and at creating a connection with the urban context. Other than these laboratories the students attend design courses focusing on exhibition and display developments, computer graphics, photography and artistic anatomy. A series of theoretical lessons are designed for the analysis of critical and methodological issues. A series of meetings and conferences of interdisciplinary nature that are organised in collaboration with other active post-graduate courses in NABA

will allow the student to make comparisons with a wide spectrum of artists and professionals operating in the field of visual arts.

#### Basic project laboratories \*

4 courses for a total of 40 CFA

VISUAL ARTS I  
VISUAL ARTS II  
CURATORSHIP I  
CURATORSHIP II

400 hours (200 annually)

#### Specialist courses

4 courses for the total of 24 CFA

EXHIBITION (design)  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
COMPUTER GRAPHICS  
ARTISTIC ANATOMY

480 hours (240 annually)

#### Theoretical -scientific courses

4 courses for the total of 24 CFA

HISTORY OF ART  
CONTEMPORARY ART  
THEORY AND METHOD OF MASS MEDIA  
ANTHROPOLOGY

160 hours (80 annually)

#### Related courses

2 courses for the total of 8 CFA

MUSEOLOGY  
ECONOMY OF ART

80 hours (40 annually)

#### Seminars

Total number of hours\*

80 hours (40 annually)  
1200 hours (600 annually)

\* The name of the courses and the name of the Degrees can undergo variations due to the current ministerial re-organization of didactics ([www.miur.it](http://www.miur.it)).

#### Internship

The two-year MA program implies taking an Internship at foundations, cultural associations, museums, galleries, magazines and publishing houses in the sector. Alternatively, the student can participate in an artistic project in Italy or abroad, authorised by the education director. Such a project would imply an intensive schedule and a product aimed to enrich the student's artistic and professional portfolio.

#### International relations

The two-year MA program places importance on the international dimension of the educational offer that is provided by the program, this is the fruit of an analysis of the most innovative offers at a European level and thanks to the continual debates arising from conferences that the Academy has organised in recent years. The Utopian Display, which has included the participation of curators of the most important international exhibitions. Being international is a guarantee of the scientific committee of the project

and of realisation of an exhibition that will be transported to different European countries and which gives students the possibility to acquire direct experience working internationally. The students can otherwise have a period of Erasmus in one of the academies or universities which partner with NABA in the Socrates-Erasmus program.

### Visiting professors

NABA organizza regolarmente incontri con artisti e curatori tra i più interessanti sulla scena artistica internazionale. Tra gli ospiti di NABA figurano: Marina Abramovic, Maja Bajevic, Carlos Basualdo, Marc Bijl, Roger M. Buergel, Stefano Boeri, Catherine David, Jose Davila, Etcetera, Charles Esche, Luca Frei, Park Fiction, Adelina Von Furstenberg, Flying City, Meschac Gaba, Regina José Galindo, Hou Hanru, Durrija Kazi, Jannis Kounellis, Maria Lind, Peter Lewis, Florian Matzner, Raimundas Malasauskas, Viktor Misiano, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Marjetica Potrc, Stalker, Radek Community, Pier Luigi Tazzi, Anton Vidokle.

### Thesis ed final exam

The course implies preparing an individual thesis that can be an artistic or curatorial project and which will be discussed before a commission. To be admitted to the exam the student must have acquired the necessary credits. The exam consists of a presentation of the portfolio, demonstrating all projects by the student and a discussion of the individual thesis.

### Director

**Marco Scotini.** Marco Scotini is a art critic and independent curator. He collaborates with Flash Art, Artelier,Work, Art in progress, Espacio, Moscow Art Magazine, Millepiani. From 1996 to 2003 he took part on the scientific committee of the Foundation Ragghianti di Lucca. He is one of the founders of Isola Art Center in Milan for which he has curated exhibitions "Art-chitecture of change" (2005), "Who uses the space" (2005), "The People's Choice" (2006). Among recent exhibitions curated by Marco are: "NetworkingCity", Florence 2003; "Going Public. Subjects, politics and places", Modena 2003; "Empowerment. Cantiere Italia", Genova 2004; "Producendo Realidad", Lucca 2004; "Revolutions Reloaded. Laboratory Romania", Milan-Berlin 2004; "Disobedience. An ongoing video library", Berlino-Praga-Mexico D.F. 2005. He also curated important personalities at public institutions and private galleries of Meschac Gaba (2002-05), Gianni Motti (2003), Anibal Lopez (2003-04), Vedovamazzei (2002-03), Marc Bijl (2003), Frederic Moser&Philippe Schwinger (2004), Radek Community (2005- 2006), Michel Verjux (2005), Regina Jose Galindo (2005), Oliver Ressler (2005). He is the curator of the Gianni Colombo Archive in Milan. In 2006 he curated the exhibition "Gianni Colombo. Il dispositivo dello spazio" produced by Palazzo Reale for the Rotonda in via Besana in Milan.

## Teaching staff and Scientific Committee

### Scientific Committee

Daniel Birnbaum, curator  
Alessandro Guerriero, artist designer  
Jens Hoffman, artist and curator  
Viktor Misiano, curator  
Marjetica Potrc, artist  
Marco Scotini, curator  
Maurizio Bortolotti, curator

### Teaching staff

Group A12, architects  
Maurizio Bortolotti, art critic  
Luca Cerizza, curator  
Jens Hoffmann, curator  
Francesco Jodice, artist  
Francesco Monico, mediologist and Director M-Node  
Viktor Misiano, curator  
Cloe Piccoli, art critic and curator  
Gabi Scardi, art critic and curator  
Marco Scotini, curator  
Yorgos Tzirtzilakis, art critic and curator  
Bert Theis, artist  
**involvement of artists:**  
Michelangelo Pistoletto  
Tobias Rehberger  
Tino Segal  
Santiago Sierra  
Patrick Tuttofuoco\*

\* For the complete list of lecturers and subjects please see the website [www.master-naba.com](http://www.master-naba.com).

## Admission

All the post-graduate educational paths have restricted entry. Maximum number of enrolled students: 25.

### Admission Requirements

The candidate needs to have an academic diploma or a first level degree in an artistic or humanities subject. Admission of students with a different degree or diploma can be taken for consideration if motivated by an artistic or curatorial direction connected to the topics of the two-year MA course. A commission will evaluate whether the degree corresponds to requirements and will identify possible credits through the application and interview with the candidate.

### How to apply

The application form can be downloaded from the web site [www.master-naba.com](http://www.master-naba.com) or requested via e-mail at [master@naba.it](mailto:master@naba.it) (Italian students) or [int.info@naba.it](mailto:int.info@naba.it) (international students). The following documents have to be submitted together with the application form: letter of motivation (max. 1 typed page); documents regarding the previous studies and career; detailed study program of the BA curriculum; resume (max. 2 typed pages); artistic and professional portfolio; certificates attesting the applicant's knowledge of the English language; any letter/form to apply for a scholarship. The same documents required for admission will be considered valid for those wishing to take part in the selection procedure for the awarding of scholarships.

### Selection Procedure

Once the application papers have been submitted, NABA will examine them, contact the applicants to define the date and place for an interview and provide them with any further explanations they might need. Before starting with the interview, applicants will have to submit a copy of a valid identification document. Any educational credits or debits will be notified to applicants together with the results of the selection procedure.

For international students: the interview will take place in an alternative way—defined for every single case—if a student cannot reach NABA.

### Deadlines

Applications will be evaluated until all the available places have been assigned. Students interested in applying for a NABA scholarship or any other kind of grants can visit the website [www.master-naba.com](http://www.master-naba.com) for all the information regarding deadlines and application procedures to obtain a scholarship.

### Fees, grants and scholarships

The yearly attendance fee can vary from 4,860.00 to 9,000.00 euro—as a consequence of the assignment of scholarships or other kinds of grants. Scholarships and grants will be awarded according to different deadlines throughout the year. For any information please visit [www.master-naba.com](http://www.master-naba.com) or contact us at [master@naba.it](mailto:master@naba.it) (Italian students) or [int.info@naba.it](mailto:int.info@naba.it) (international students). The awarding of scholarships and grants is in any case subject to the evaluation of the applicant's profile.

## Summary

**Title:** two-year Master of Arts.

**Duration:** two years. From January 2007 to December 2008

**Annual schedule:** 600 hours and 800 including individual studies, group studies and Internship.

**Credits:** 120 CFA.

**Professional profile:** artist, curator, editor of journals in the sector, publicist, exhibition designer.

**Fields of specialisation:** visual culture, visual arts and performance, curatorial studies, exhibition design.

**Internship and Erasmus:** the Internship can be taken at an external institution or by participating in an artistic or curatorial project. It is possible to take a studying period abroad on the Erasmus program.

**Evaluation:** there is a final thesis and development of an artistic and professional portfolio.

**Director:** Marco Scotini.

## I year calendar

jan	feb	mar	apr	may	jun	jul	aug	sep	oct	nov	dec
Seminars									Second	year	
Curatorship I Visual Arts I							Exams -Internship		see above		
Exhibition Photography											
Technical courses Computer graphics I											
History of Art, Museology, Anthropology, Theory and Method of Mass Media											
Conferences											
Personal training									Personal training		

## II year calendar

oct	nov	dec	jan	feb	mar	apr	may	jun	jul	aug	set	oct	nov	dec
Seminars								Exams	Erasmus	Erasmus	Esami	Erasmus	Erasmus	Erasmus
Curatorship II Visual Arts II								Thesis	Internship	Internship	Thesis	Internship	Internship	Internship
Exhibition; Photography; Artistic Anatomy														
Technical courses Computer graphic II														
Theoretical courses Contemporary Art, Economy of Art														
Conferences														
Personal training														

## NABA

NABA is a non-state institution belonging to the Higher Artistic and Musical Education (A.F.A.M.) system, a section of the Italian University system ruled by the Italian Ministry for University and Research (MUR). The AFAM system is currently being reformed through the law 508 which is leading to the reorganisation into a series of different qualification levels of the single four-year educational cycle, as it already happened with the University system. The reform does not only mean to ratify the equivalence between academic diplomas and university degrees, but it also gives to educational programs an autonomy which was previously granted only to approved experimentation courses. NABA was the first academy in Italy to activate courses in Graphic Design and Advertising Communication in 1984, courses in Fashion Design and Textile Design in 1989 and in Product Design in 1997, yet such experimental courses joined the more "conventional" courses such as Painting, Theatre Design and Sculpture. Now, thanks to its pioneering role in terms of research and experimentation, NABA can start the reform process with an already acquired heritage and experience which are unique among all Italian academies. NABA's educational offer is structured in three major training areas: Visual Arts, Communication and Design. These areas comprise six NABA Schools: Visual Arts, Design, Fashion and Textile Design, Graphic Design and Art Direction, Media Design, Theatre Design. The courses are divided into undergraduate and postgraduate courses. The undergraduate courses have a duration of three years and are activated by the single Schools, while the postgraduate depend on the reference training areas they belong to. All qualifications granted by NABA are internationally recognised: the undergraduate three-year courses are equivalent to the BA (Bachelor of Arts) programs and the postgraduate two-year courses to the MA (Master of Arts) programs, while the Master courses with a duration of one year, correspond to a first level Italian university master.

In collaboration with other institutions, NABA promotes also a Master Program in Landscape Design (Politecnico di Milano) and a Master Program in Photography and Visual Design (Forma-Centro Internazionale di Fotografia di Milano).

Next to these academic courses, NABA offers free courses, summer courses, one-year and one-semester courses in collaboration with Central Saint Martins College, Domus Academy, Philadelphia University and San Francisco State University.

Since 2005 the Accademy has also been part of the Ph.D program in Arts and Technologies developed by the Planetary Collegium.

## NABA Programs

Undergraduate Programs	Two-year Master of Arts Programs (MA)	Master Programs
Visual Arts	Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies	Landscape Design*
Graphic Design and Art Direction Media Design	Communication Design	Photography and Visual Design** Action Marketing and Visual Communication Digital Environment Design Sound Design and Drama
Design Fashion and Textile Design Theatre Design	Textile and New Materials Design	Interior Design Fashion Sportswear Design

\* In cooperation with Politecnico di Milano, Accademia di Santa Giulia di Brescia.

\*\* In cooperation with FORMA, Centro Internazionale di Fotografia di Milano.

**NABA**  
postgraduate studies



NABA is an Arts and Design Academy founded in 1980 and legally recognised by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR). It awards academic diplomas equivalent to undergraduate and postgraduate university degrees.

Info and deadlines: [www.master-naba.com](http://www.master-naba.com)  
International students: [int.info@naba.it](mailto:int.info@naba.it)

**NUOVA ACCADEMIA DI BELLE ARTI MILANO**

Via Darwin, 20 20143 Milano Italia tel. +39 02.97372.1 fax +39 02.97372.280 [www.naba.it](http://www.naba.it)