



GENERAL INFORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL MASTER OF FINE ART PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

The IMFA program at China Academy of Art has been developed in response to the rapidly increasing globalization of the art world. In the past two decades, the world has seen the rapid expansion of art and ideas beyond the old boundaries of Europe and America. Today, artists from throughout the world – particularly China – are emerging as the seminal artists of their times. Throughout the 20th Century the world's most famous and most highly valued artists have been almost exclusively from Europe and America. In the past 15 years, the East Asian gallery and museum world has exploded with numerous new major museums of both traditional and contemporary art being built throughout China. Commercial galleries and alternative arts spaces have also arisen throughout the world and are radically altering the world's perceptions of art and meaning in contemporary society. The advent of digital venues for the dissemination and discussion of new art has also contributed to the elimination of the nexus between art and nationality. The ascendancy of non-European art and artists has profoundly altered the ways in which young and emerging artists must be educated. The mission of IMFA program at China Academy of Art (CAA) is to introduce the world's most promising young artists to a new world of contemporary art – an art world in which the creative and expressive practices of Europe and Asia join together to create art that is as vital and innovative as the contemporary world itself. Faculty and students from Asia, Europe, the Mid-East, Africa, Oceania and the Americas provide a new vision to join in this bold new program.

The curriculum will explore the newly emerging paradigms of relationality, multiculturalism, social practice and extended media that have defined the world's most exciting contemporary art for the past quarter of a century. It will also consider the traditional creative practices of Europe and America – specifically in studio art, public art, contemporary art theory, art and science, art and market – in relation to the art practices of East Asia. In addition, students will explore the full range of new ideas in science, technology and design. Traditional and contemporary ideas about aesthetic philosophy, cultural perspective and social relevance will be at the heart of the IMFA curriculum. The students who enter the International IMFA program will be pioneers in re-shaping the ways in which art and artists serve the rapidly emerging new global culture.

The core of our new approach to graduate-level arts education will exist primarily in the relationship between the students and faculty – the community who comprise the IMFA program. Deep interpersonal relationships will form a nucleus for robust experimentation and exploration of important new ideas. From that core experience, new ideas about culture and meaning will fuel the creative furnace that forges radical new concepts and extensions of ancient traditions into present-day artistic innovations. Training in Chinese language will not only extend IMFA students' familiarity with new

cultural ideas, but will also enable fist-hand dialogue with an International array of artists as well as CAA faculty and staff.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The IMFA program is predicated on the idea that art in the 21st century must fully explore the emerging realities of a newly emerging international culture. This means that the exploration of technology, ethnic and national identity, ideology and political history are all recognized as essential aspects of contemporary art. The exploration of new issues in science, economics, mass communication and psycho-social interaction, is imperative for artists in the emerging world culture. The IMFA offers a new approach to art and education by inviting students to fully explore the nature of expression that is truly international – cross-cultural and transnational. Students are selected for the IMFA based on their ability to contribute to the leading edge of international artistic practice and their ability to help shape a new era of art that is no longer limited to the values or beliefs of a single culture, but is free to create a new world of ideas Images and activities. Emphasis on new ideas in art – relationality, identity, and the nature of human interaction are explored in an environment that fully embraces a great variety of artistic and personal ideologies. By bringing together innovators and transformative thinkers from many perspectives and disciplines – art, design, science, technology, philosophy, and social theory - we create a crucible for new ideas, new methodologies and new ways of transforming world culture.

CURRICULUM

International MA is a studio art program focusing on contemporary art. The students work independently in specially assigned individual or group studios. They enroll for Individual Tutorial with distinguished working artists from around the world, both regular CAA faculty and a distinguished group of International Advisory Faculty who serve each year as visiting artists for limited periods of time at the Hangzhou Campus. Students meet individually with their tutors at regular intervals to examine their own artwork in close detail from both a technical and philosophical perspective. These tutorials form the core of the IMFA experience and allow each student to develop their own unique artwork with the guidance and support of a variety of faculty from their area of artistic interest. International visiting artists ensure that students have ready access to the international art scene.

Artworks created by students are also discussed and strengthened through periodic IMFA Critique Seminars required each semester. These seminars explore the technical, aesthetic and conceptual issues of each student and provide a community of fellow artists who are both supportive and challenging. Each Seminar is led by a faculty member who encourages an interdisciplinary approach to artistic dialogue and criticism. Seminar leaders make special effort to encourage individual perspectives of students and utilize diverse technical and cultural perspectives in discussing artwork. Students are encouraged and supported through the critique process to push the limits of their skills and concepts. Group critiques offer students a diverse and provocative community through which their ideas and Images can be fully examined and discussed from a variety of cultural perspectives.

Individual Tutorials and Group Critique Seminars are further enhanced through a variety of uniquely designed IMFA courses in Free Art Electives. These courses ranging from one week 'intensives' to full semester classes allow students to explore conceptual historical and philosophical issues in contemporary art as well as their connection to the practical issues of fabricating objects and spaces which become relevant to contemporary world culture. Resident and Visiting faculty in a broad range of subject areas are available to enhance the academic concepts that form a framework for the creation of relevant and provocative artwork in the contemporary international art world. These special courses may be team-taught by faculty from different academic backgrounds to address some of the unique issues facing contemporary artists in the world art scene. Free Art Elective courses will generally be taught in English or in Chinese with English translators. Free Art topics may include a variety of appropriate subjects such as Contemporary International Literature, Art Criticism and Philosophy, etc. Art History courses may examine special topics of interest such as Cross-Cultural Perspectives, Contemporary Chinese Art, Identity Art and Social Transformation, Political Activism in Contemporary art or Sacred Traditions in Art. Free Art courses will take advantage of local resources such as exhibitions, historical site visits, Museum and Gallery tours or other activities connected to the contemporary art worlds in and around Hangzhou. These courses will also provide exposure to new topics and artistic genres such as technology, social practice and relational art. Free Art courses often involve assigned reading and writing projects in addition to participation in class lectures and discussions and studio art projects.

Further enhancement of the IMFA curriculum will take the form of mandatory Chinese Language courses that meet at least three days each week. Written and spoken Chinese will be taught in an interactive environment which will enable students to interact with local people as well as to broaden their access to sources of Chinese academic material and contemporary arts criticism. By the completion of the three-year MFA degree, students are expected to be at least semi-fluent Mandarin speakers, capable of reading basic source texts in the original Chinese.

ADVISORY TEAM OF INTERNATIONAL GUEST PROFESSORS

David Frazer, Professor, Chair of Painting Department, Rhode Island School of Design

Ken Horri, Professor, Dean of Foundation, Rhode Island School of Design

Kuiyi Shen, Ph.D, Professor of Art History, University of California, San Diego

Jeremy Morgan, Professor, San Francisco Art Institute

Michael Grady, Professor, Art Department, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina

Ming Ren, Visiting Professor, Special Assistant to the President, San Francisco Art Institute

Arnold Cheng, Vice President and Director of Chinese Paintings at Sotheby's

Hansong Zhang, Ph.D. Vice President of Engineering, Wearality Corporation

Grant Field, Professor, University of California, San Diego

Terry Cruz, Professor, University of California, San Diego