



**KUVATAIDEAKATEMIA**  
BILDKONSTAKADEMIN  
FINNISH ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

# Finnish Academy of Fine Arts Application Guide 2010



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### **When to apply**

1. Regular admission – Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts (210 + 120 credits, 3.5 + 2 years)  
Application through the national application service; application period from 1 March to 16 April 2010. Fill out the form at [www.yliopistohaku.fi/](http://www.yliopistohaku.fi/). Artworks are to be delivered directly to the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, where they are received from 21 April to 23 April 2010. The artworks must reach the Academy no later than Friday 23 April at 4.15 pm. ATT! Check the delivery address and the time at [www.kuva.fi](http://www.kuva.fi).
2. Master of Fine Arts (120 credits, 2 years)  
Application through the national application service; application period from 15 February to 30 March 2010. Fill out the form at [www.yliopistohaku.fi/](http://www.yliopistohaku.fi/)



## Dear Applicant,

The Finnish Academy of Fine Arts is the smallest university in Finland, and the only university that trains freelance artists.

Our tuition aims at supplying our students with extensive practical and theoretical knowledge about the field of art; knowledge that enables them to develop into visual artists. The aim of the education is thus to promote understanding of the qualifications artistic activity requires.

Our school has the three-tier degree system of modern universities. This puts the education provided by the Academy on par with other international art academies and universities.

Our teaching is based on the tradition of fine art academies, whose roots run to 15th century Europe. This means that a comprehensive idea of today's globality as well as the history of our imagery and a profound awareness of its cultural significance nourish the conceptions of art and being an artist conveyed at the Academy.

Studying at the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts means having the courage to take on the unknown with open arms and without any certainty of self-evident results. Good self-knowledge, bravery and commitment combined with artistic talent are a good starting point for the studies. In addition to them, you need the will to interact with the world through art and to be prepared to find out that this relationship may evolve into a demanding and lifelong one.

Rector

## Finnish Academy of Fine Arts

The Finnish Academy of Fine Arts has provided the highest education in fine arts in Finland for over 160 years. The Finnish Academy of Fine Arts today is a university focusing on contemporary art education and offering the degrees of Bachelor, Master and Doctor of Fine Arts.

Studies leading to the Bachelor's and Master's degrees are provided by the sculpture, painting, printmaking and time and space arts (moving image, photography and site specific arts) degree programmes. Together the Academy's curriculum, which emphasises individuality, and its small number of students (ca 300) offer the students a unique opportunity to get long-span personal study guidance and a chance for independent work during their studies. The teachers of the Academy are active artists, who carry out their artistic work alongside their teaching and thus maintain a living contact with the field of fine arts.

The studies leading to the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (lower degree) aim to provide the student with the artistic, cognitive and theoretical basic abilities and skills required from a visual artist. After completing their degree, the students have the resources they need to work as visual artists and to carry on to the studies leading to a Master's degree and lifelong learning.

The Master of Fine Arts degree (higher degree) aims to offer the students the resources to function as an independent and analytical artist in society and the world. Masters of Fine Arts have a thorough command of the instruments of fine arts and an understanding of the current significance and history of those instruments. They are qualified to act as experts and developers of fine arts and are ready to continue to post-graduate education in art.

The objective of the Doctor of Fine Arts degree (postgraduate degree) is that the students have a profound understanding of their own field of interest and achieve the qualifications needed to create high-level, artistically mature work and that

they are able to carry out independent, innovative research in their own field.

There are three different application procedures available to those who wish to study at the Academy. The regular admission is for students who apply for the Bachelor's and Master's degree studies, which take 5,5 years in total. Applicants who have an eligible Bachelor's degree or equivalent can apply for the two-year training leading to a Master's degree in the Master of Fine Arts admission. Those who have an eligible Master's degree or equivalent can apply for postgraduate studies in the four-year doctoral programme.

The Academy has no special international application procedure. Foreign students participate in the normal application procedures. The Academy is an international university. Some 20% of the students are international, both degree or exchange students. Students who wish to study in European, Nordic or Russian art universities can apply for a place in an exchange programme through ERASMUS, NORDPLUS or FIRST. The Academy also has bilateral agreements with many foreign art universities e.g. in the US. The Academy also carries out active co-operation with other institutions within the field of art e.g. in organising exhibitions. Dozens of foreign guest lecturers, teachers and exhibitions visit the Academy annually. The students can also apply for the Academy's studios in Berlin and New York.

## Basic degrees

The basic degrees taken in the Academy of Fine Arts are the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) and the Master of Fine Arts (MFA). The scope of the studies is measured in credits. One credit (cr) equates the workload of approximately 27 hours. The fulltime studies of one academic year correspond to in average 60 credits. The scope of the BFA degree is 3.5 years of fulltime studying. The MFA degree can be finished in two years.

### **BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS (BFA), 210 CREDITS, 3.5 YEARS**

This degree aims to provide the student with such cognitive and artistic basic skills that endow the student with an insight into the field of fine arts and a command of the media of painting, sculpture, print-making and time and space arts, as well as a basic knowledge of the theory, history and philosophy of art. In addition, the student will also specialise in one of the fields of fine arts mentioned above. These qualifications will enable the student to keep abreast of the development of fine arts as well as apply the knowledge and skills they have gathered to their work. The BFA degree also offers the students suitable qualifications for the studies leading to a Master's degree and for lifelong learning. It also provides them with good communication and language skills.

#### **DEGREE STRUCTURE:**

**Basic Studies 40 cr**

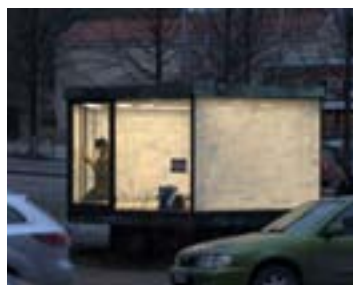
**Language Studies 8 cr**

**Subject Studies 162 cr**

- Major Subject Compulsory Studies 45 cr
- Independent Studio Work 30 cr
- Theoretical Studies: Art in Contemporary Society I 17 cr
- Drawing and Perception 10 cr
- Elective Studies 50 cr
- Bachelor's Thesis 10 cr



Arvid Hedin  
Kahrlenberg



Joseph James maala Lasiboksissa

### **MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA), 120 CREDITS, 2 YEARS**

The MFA degree aims to offer the student resources for acting as independent and analytical artist in society and the world. The Masters of Fine Arts have profound command of the artistic media and understand their contemporary significance as well as their history. They can set goals and objectives for themselves and are qualified to act as experts and developers of fine arts. In addition, they have the necessary qualifications for postgraduate studies in fine arts as well as good communication and language skills. In order to finish the degree, the students must pass the studies included in the degree programme and demonstrate that they have achieved the objectives set for the degree, studies and thesis as well as acquired the language skills defined in the degree requirements.

#### **ADVANCED STUDIES 120 CR**

- Artistic Studies: Critical Studies and Practice 50 - 60 cr
- Theoretical Studies: Art in Contemporary Society II 20 - 30 cr
- Master's Thesis 40 cr

## Degree programmes

The studies leading to the Bachelor's and Master's degrees are organised in degree programmes. The programmes focus on specific disciplines of fine arts requiring artistic talent and expertise and seek to develop these further. The Academy offers degree programmes in sculpture, painting, printmaking and time and space arts.

### PAINTING

A central objective of the instruction in the painting study programme is to explore the significance of painting in our time as a part of the discourses of contemporary practices and theories. Additional objectives include the examination of developments taking place in painting in relation to its traditions, to other forms of visual culture and to the different forms of expressions and media in contemporary art. The programme will provide the student with the abilities to analyse the different forms of visual presentations, related contents of meaning and frameworks, with the aim of the student benefiting from them in the construction of his/her own ideas and artistic work. Support is given to the student so he/she can find his/her own expressive painting language, manage the tools and understand the connections of his/her own expressive language with the contexts of contemporary painting and the traditions of visual arts.

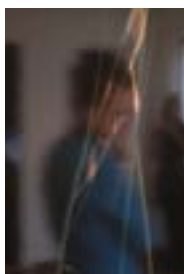
In the programme, the command of technical basic skills is integrated with conceptual and art theoretical thought processes in ways that focus on the students' own artistic work and strengthen the source of their expression. The studies demand independent and persistent work.

### PRINTMAKING

The objective of the printmaking study programme is to provide students with comprehensive knowledge and skills for managing the different segments of printmaking. The study programme takes place through workshop tuition. This offers students the opportunity to acquire the skills needed in the production of art on paper, from the manufacturing of paper to the use of digital four-colour prints. Prints made on different surfaces, such as glass, metal, wood and other material experiments constitute a part of the curriculum.



Pipsu Isola



Erno Enkenberg

The studies examine basic techniques in metal graphics and lithography. In addition, the instruction includes courses and workshops on special techniques, including wood engraving, serigraphy, Image-On, polymer gravures, etc. Instruction is organised through workshops, presentations and lectures by visiting Finnish and international artists.

The study modules include study trips to museums and galleries and visits to art graphic print shops and artists' studios.

The most significant part of the studies is the student's own artistic work: learning by trial, error and success. The interaction between the student and the teacher constitutes a crucial role in this process. The interaction consists of discussions and seminars, during which teachers and students can analyse the student's works together and examine the relations between form and contents.

The objective is for the student to acquire a comprehensive understanding of all the possibilities and qualifications that allow the student to express his/herself and to have his/her artistic voice be heard in the world.

## SCULPTURE

Three-dimensional thinking and exploring its possibilities are features characteristic of sculpture. The sculpture study programme aims at offering as extensive training as possible in contemporary sculpture and the history of the art form, without leaving by the wayside old techniques and traditional materials. The teaching of contemporary sculpture comprises – in addition to installation art and works of art in galleries and museums – the exploration of processes specific to time, space or a situation. In addition, the programme emphasises attaining an understanding of works placed in public spaces from a multisectoral perspective.

The focus of the studies in sculpture lies on three main concepts: the examination of form, space and materials. These factors are, however, closely interdependent and it is not the objective of the programme to separate them. Each student is allowed to place an emphasis on the different concepts included in the studies based on his/her own preferences. The only common and compulsory courses and guidelines are those pertaining to the techniques of using the equipment and materials as well the safety of working methods.

The main emphasis of the instruction lies in individual tutoring. Different kinds of seminars are organised for students during each term. At the seminars, students also receive feedback and tutoring on the works that are still in process. During each term, one or more common review sessions are organised to which visiting artists and other professional artists are invited.

### TIME AND SPACE ARTS

The objective of the time and space arts study programme is to provide students with the abilities to manage – in terms of knowledge and skills – the areas of fine arts that are connected to time and space. The programme strives to provide an extensive, personal understanding of these subjects as well as an understanding of how the fields are connected to each other and to the conventions of art history. The different forms of contemporary art are given particular attention, as are the forces behind them and their theory.

Outwards orientation is strongly characteristic of the time and space arts. Perceptive activities are strongly inherent in these art forms: How do messages work and in which ways they are received? Continuous exploration and experimentation is a fundamental part of the process. The openness of form is another typical factor and, at the same time, the time and space arts are very international art forms.

Extensive independent work and experience gathered in the process are traditionally emphasised in the study of fine arts. In the time and space arts study programme, significant focus is placed on discussions addressing the relation between the form and content of the work of art and the social meanings it has as a whole. Independent work and related assessments still remain an integral part of the studies. The purpose of the discussions is to broaden the understanding of the connections between the arts, their traditions and history and the interconnections.

The studies in time and space arts have been divided into three possible areas of specialisation: moving image, site and situation specific arts and photography. The basics of AV narration establish the grounds for studies in the time and space arts and this is a joint study module to all Bachelor students in the time and space arts study programme.

## General Studies and Joint Studies

The objective of **general studies** is to provide the students with the conceptual tools of understanding the different elements of contemporary art and the different working methods as well as the factors entailed in working as an artist in our culture. A command of the history and theory of contemporary art is a prerequisite for being able to evaluate current art trends and the contemporary world in a broad, independent and critical fashion. The theoretical instruction emphasises, in particular, the dialogue between the theory of contemporary art and different artistic practices. The objective of the instruction is for students to have sufficient intellectual information so that they possess a command of the field of international art theory and its different perspectives.

The teachers of general studies include both artists and theorists and, in addition to the appointed teaching staff, there are a number of lecturers. The objective of the large amount of instruction organised in the form of lessons is – in addition to guaranteeing expertise in different fields – to ensure that the needs of the students regarding the examination of questions in the theory, philosophy and arts are met in a comprehensive manner. Furthermore, writing instruction, the command of the artist's statement and essay genres and the understanding of the operational technicalities of the art world have a significant role in the studies.

**Joint studies** covers the curriculum of the first academic year and tuition in drawing and perception, common for all students, as well as courses in information and communication technology and language education. At the beginning of the autumn term, new first-year students begin an intensive study module (called 'Mylly', i.e. 'Mill') which lasts until the end of the autumn term. The study module, organised in a single group for all first-year students, consists of instruction in the basics of artistic work. The instruction includes basic studies in each student's major subject (sculpture, painting, printmaking, time and space arts) and instruction in drawing and perception. The instruction is mainly organised in periods, two to three weeks in length, led by different teachers and lecturers.

## Regular admission 2010 – Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts

Application periods are standardised as Finnish universities have joined a national application service as regards their regular admissions. Majority of the university programmes have joined the national application service.

Admitted students are accepted for studies leading to the Master of Fine Arts degrees (5.5 years). The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (3.5 years) is a part of the master degree. The degree programme is chosen after being admitted to the Academy, during the first year of studies.

The regular admission procedure has two stages. Submitted portfolios are assessed and a number of applicants are invited to the admission course. The final selection of new students is made after the admission course.

### **ADMISSION CRITERIA**

An applicant who demonstrates talent in fine arts and has an eligible educational background can be accepted to the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts to pursue the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and carry on to the Master of Fine Arts degree.

The following degrees make an applicant eligible to apply to the Academy: matriculation examination, a polytechnic Bachelor's degree, a higher vocational qualification, a vocational upper secondary qualification, a vocational qualification awarded on the completion of education of at least three years in duration or a foreign education entitling the applicant to apply for equivalent university studies. The Academy can also decide to accept an applicant without a degree if the Academy deems the applicant to possess suitable cognitive and practical skills for the studies.

An applicant may be admitted to study for a degree at the Academy, if she/he demonstrates talent in fine arts in addition to having an eligible background education. The applicant's talent is assessed by her/his artworks and the work during the admission course.

There is a committee, appointed separately every year, which conducts the student admissions. It is composed of professors, appointed teaching staff and student members of the

Academy, but external members may also be invited to participate in the activities of the committee.

### APPLICATION AND ARTWORKS

The Finnish Academy of Fine Arts' regular admission (BA + MFA) is arranged through the national application service.

You have to fill out and send an application form at [www.yliopistohaku.fi](http://www.yliopistohaku.fi). The application period starts on 1 March and closes on 16 April 2010 at 4.15pm. If you cannot apply online, you can order a paper application form during the application period from the National Board of Education's National applicant's service by telephone on weekdays from 9 am to 3 pm, tel. +358 20 690 696 (price of the call is the international call charge from your country). Please give information on all educations you want to apply to (university and name of the education) and your postal address. You cannot order a paper application form by e-mail.

The original artworks and a printed copy of the electronic application form must be delivered directly to the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts. Enclose also the special form for presenting your artworks which you can print here. Artworks are received from 21 April to 23 April. The artworks must reach the Academy no later than Friday 23 April at 4.15pm. **ATT! Check the delivering address and the time at [www.kuva.fi](http://www.kuva.fi).** NB! If your deliver your artworks by mail, they must reach the Academy on Friday 23 April at 4.15pm at the latest – a postmark dated 23 April does not suffice!

You do not need to send your school diplomas with your works. Degree and other diplomas will be requested only in case you are accepted on the admission course.

If the artworks are delivered by airmail or a transport company, you must make sure that the works are delivered directly to the address given (home delivery). Deliveries whose home delivery is not paid for will not be claimed by the Academy.

### ARTWORKS

The works must express the applicant's aspirations in fine arts. You must include **original works** to allow the admission jury to get the best possible feeling of and insight into the works. You can submit up to five (5) works. The works can be drawings, paintings, sculptures, prints, and works of video, conceptual

or media art. Do not send images of your works, send the original works.

**Mark your name on every work!**

#### **VIDEOS**

All videos must bear the following information:

- name of author (Note! the cassette/disc must also be marked!)
- address
- date of completion
- participants and other relevant information
- duration: the video must be edited so that the **total** duration of **all** submitted videos **does not exceed 10 minutes**.

#### **THE FOLLOWING FORMATS ARE ACCEPTED:**

##### 1. Mini DV

This format gives the best quality and is recommended. Make sure that the cassette is recorded using PAL (the European video standard) and that it has **NOT** been recorded at half speed. In other words, a normal Mini DV that can be screened using a standard digital video camera. Wind the take to where you want the screening to begin. The tape may contain only work intended for the application procedure.

The Mini DV may not be in the following formats: NTSC (the American video standard), HDV OR DV-CAM OR DVCPRO.

##### 2. DVD

Make sure that your DVD can be played on any standard dvd player.

If you present your work on VDC, SVCD, XVCD OR some other format, make sure that the work can be screened on a standard DVD player. Otherwise the work will not be screened.

Do not send video files on a CD-ROM or data DVD. They will not be accepted. The soundtrack of the DVD will be presented in stereo format (2 channels).

##### 3. VHS cassette

Make sure that the work is **NOT** recorded in half speed and that it is **NOT** in NTSC, Super VHS, (S-VHS) or some other format that cannot be played on a standard PAL VHS player. The soundtrack may be hi-fi or regular.

If you work in sound, deliver the sound on a regular CD audio disk and make sure that it can be played back on a standard CD player. Do not submit sounds as sound files on a data CD-ROM (such as mp3, etc.). They will not be listened to.

#### **OTHER CD-ROM WORKS THAN VIDEOS**

The works will be screened on a PC using a Windows XP operating system. The works must be saved in a format which allows them to be screened using Internet Explorer 8 with Macromedia Shockwave and Flash plug-ins. If the work cannot be accessed with the above-mentioned programme, it may not be evaluated.

#### **TRANSPARENCIES AND LASER PRINTOUTS**

The works must be **original artworks**. If you decide to present transparencies of large-scale installations or other three-dimensional work, the maximum number of transparencies is 10 (this does not affect the upper limit of not more than 5 works). Make sure you note the number of works and the number of transparencies on the form for the artworks.

Each transparency must indicate the following information:

- name of author
- title of work
- the viewing direction clearly marked with an arrow

**Attachments sent by e-mail cannot be processed; large attachments may crash the system.** NOTE! If your work involves some special technical features that must be taken into account in its presentation (such as turn the light on, push the button and listen, etc.) these must be clearly indicated.

#### **HOMEPAGES**

The Admissions Jury will **not** have the opportunity to look at the applicants' homepages.

#### **INSURING THE ARTWORKS**

The Academy is not responsible for the works and will not insure them. The Academy is not liable for any possible damage to the works. If you want to insure your work, you must do it at your own expense.

### RETURNING THE WORKS

If you are not invited for the admission course, you must collect the works at the Academy as soon as the names of the invitees are published. If you wish the Academy to mail the works back to you, you must state so in your form for the artworks. You are responsible for the postage (include a sufficient number of stamps in the original delivery). If the works are delivered by airmail to the Academy, you must be packed so that the original package can be reused for mailing the works back. Otherwise the Academy will charge you with the packaging costs.

**The Academy cannot store the works. Any uncollected works or works without sufficient reply postage will be destroyed.**

### ADMISSION COURSE

The admission course 2010 begins on Monday 17 May and ends on Sunday 23 May. It is an all-day course with working hours from 9am to 5pm daily. The attendants must bring the equipment they need (drawing and painting equipment at the minimum). There may be a small fee for the course organisation and additional materials. The attendants are given assignments, whose nature and content change yearly.

### ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS

The results of the admission procedure and the names of the students admitted to the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts are announced on the official notice board of the Academy (Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, Kaikukatu 4, 00530 Helsinki) and on the Academy's website at [www.kuva.fi](http://www.kuva.fi) on Friday 4 June 2010.

### APPEALS

In case an applicant is not satisfied with the results of the student selection, she/he may appeal in writing to the Academy within 14 days of the announcing of the results of the admission procedure.

### INFORMATION

More information on the student admissions and education at the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts:

FINNISH ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

Kaikukatu 4

00530 Helsinki

tel. +358 9 680 33 20,

from abroad +35896803320 (switchboard)

[www.kuva.fi](http://www.kuva.fi)

e-mail: [hakijapalvelut@kuva.fi](mailto:hakijapalvelut@kuva.fi)



Arvid Hedin  
Tall Mänty



Hanne Maren Meldahl  
*Pray for us Sinners, Now  
and at the Hour of our  
Death*

## Admission course program – assignments:

### 2005

Advance assignments:

- 1) The same question is posed to all applicants accepted for the course: why do you want to study at the Academy? Write at least one A4 (max. 2) giving your reasons for applying to the Academy and your main goals as an artist.
- 2) You are requested to make a new work of art! Make a work which you wish to discuss in the interview. The choice of medium is free: painting, sculpture, installation, performance, photography, etc. The only allowed audiovisual formats are VHS and Mini DV (max. duration 2 min.).

Admission Course programme:

Thursday 9 June starting at 9 am. We start by screening a French documentary *Animal Blood*, whereafter applicants are requested to write a comment on the film. The afternoon programme consists of the process of life study in charcoal. Two life models will attend. Friday: the topic is conceptual art. Saturday and Sunday: The theme is Linnanmäki, an amusement park in Helsinki. Choice of medium is free, everyone will be provided with a disposable camera. Monday: 1) A physical detail from the environment, or 2) a spatial assignment (a park or a house). Tuesday: The assignment is free, applicants can work on the earlier assignments. Tuesday and Wednesday are reserved for interviews.

### 2006

Admission course assignments (no advance assignments):

#### 1. SENSE NOTES

The senses / sensuous perception as a starting-point or content for an art piece /art pieces. Pursue the sensuous perception to its extreme by means of visual arts in (at least) one piece of art.

Potential considerations:

- physical sense perception
- sense memory
- sense perception which evokes the desire on making art
- mental image

## 2. SELF-PORTRAIT

Explore the theme of self-portrait by using two mediums.

The piece can consist either of two different parts or it can be one piece done with two different mediums.

## 3. THE EDGE

### 2007

The written assignment "What I Saw" is compulsory and carried out on Tuesday. Choose two or three other assignments and carry them out during the admission course. You can make one or more works on each assignment you choose.

#### 1. WHAT I SAW

Two short films are screened a couple of times on Tuesday.

Write a commentary on what you saw. The assignment is compulsory.

#### 2. SOMETHING FAMILIAR, SOMETHING STRANGE

Begin the assignment by visiting the nearby cemetery and beach. Treat your experience with the title in mind. The technique and material are free.

#### 3. YESTERDAY-NOW-TOMORROW

Carry out the theme in two works that interpret the title in different ways. Both works can consist of one or more parts.

#### 4. COLOUR

Make a work that analyses colour. Use a disposable camera and integrate one or more photographs into the work.

#### 5. FROM MATERIAL TO IMAGE

Interpret sensation freely with the materials and technique of your choice.

### 2008

1) Man and space

2) Hernesaari

3) Dialogue

4) Nature Morte

The participants are asked to complete works about the themes below. The amount and the medium are free. However, there must be one work, where you have used painting or drawing

medium, one work done by using photo or video and one three-dimensional work (sculpture/installation/performance).

Advance assignment: Why do I want to become artist? Max one A4 sheet.

## 2009

No advance assignments

Admission Course programme:

1. Approaching painting. Consider the essence of painting.
2. Create / mark / point out a space or react to a space. You are free to explain your solution. If the space is physical, it must be situated in the Kaikukatu 4 facilities. Present the documentation if the space is somewhere else.
3. Use the text enclosed as starting point for an art piece/art pieces.

The participants are required to carry out at least one work for each assignment. You can also choose to make several works for an assignment.

The technique and the medium are free.

## MFA Admission 2010

In the special MFA admission you apply for studies leading to a Master of Fine Arts degree (120 cr). The studies are organised in the following degree programmes: painting, sculpture, printmaking and time and space arts. In time and space arts, you can specialise either in moving image, site and situation specific arts, or photography.

### GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

The following degrees make an applicant eligible to apply for studies leading only to the Master of Fine Arts degree: an eligible Bachelor's degree, an eligible polytechnic Bachelor's degree or an eligible foreign education entitling the applicant to apply for equivalent university studies. The academy can also decide to accept applicants without a degree if they deem the applicant to possess suitable cognitive and practical skills for the studies. The Academy can require a person accepted as a student to augment their qualifications to acquire the skills necessary for the MFA studies.

### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND ELIGIBLE FOR THE FINNISH ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

- Bachelor of Fine Arts degree awarded from a Finnish or foreign university
- Polytechnic Bachelor's degree in arts  
The Academy assesses the adequateness of other cognitive and practical skills individually.

### ADMISSION CRITERIA

The MFA students are chosen based on the artistic talent demonstrated by the applicants and their eligibility for the studies leading to the Master's degree in the Academy. The evaluation is based on an application, appendices and portfolio in the first stage and an interview and possible additional demonstration in the second stage.

### ADMISSION PROCEDURE

In the MFA admission procedure, the applicant applies to a particular degree programme. The applicants need to state whether their first choice is painting, printmaking, sculp-

ture or time and space arts. They may also state their second choice.

The admission procedure has two stages.

In the first stage, the admission jury evaluates applications and portfolios, and selects the applicants to be invited to an interview. The admission jury can also admit an applicant without interviewing them. The board may also offer the applicant a place on a degree programme other than the one stated in the application. More on the timetable of the interviews and results under ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS

The MFA admission jury consists of professors of the degree programmes, members of the teaching staff and, when necessary, MFA supervisors from the degree programmes.

#### APPLICATION AND APPENDICES

The Finnish Academy of Fine Arts MFA admission is arranged through the national application service. Please follow the following steps:

- Fill out the application form at [www.yliopistohaku.fi/](http://www.yliopistohaku.fi/) The application period runs from 15 February to 30 March 2010.
- Print out a copy of your application and send it to the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts with the appendices (portfolio, copies of diplomas, CV).
- Read and follow carefully the instructions on appendices (below).
- All of the above should reach the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, Kaikukatu 4, 00530 Helsinki, by 30 March 2010 at 4.15pm. If you mail your application, please make sure your delivery is postmarked on 20 March 2010 at the latest. Late applications and appendices will not be processed. The Finnish Academy of Fine Arts will not cover inadequate postage.

If you do not have access to the Internet, you may order a paper copy of the application form from the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, tel. 09 680 33 20 (intl. +358 9 680 3320) and fax 09 680 3320 (intl. +358 9 680 3320). Address: Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, Kaikukatu 4, 00530 Helsinki (please mark your envelope with "Application form order", email hakijapalvelut@kuva.fi (subject field: "Application form order"). When ordering a form, please give your name, full postal address and telephone number. The application form should be sent, with appendices, to the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts (latest date of postmark is 30 March 2010). Application forms from the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts will be sent to the applicants starting 15 February 2010.

### **YOUR APPLICATION MUST CONTAIN**

An application form filled out electronically at [www.yliopistohaku.fi/](http://www.yliopistohaku.fi/).

#### **APPENDICES TO BE SENT TO THE FINNISH ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS:**

1. **A paper copy** of the electronic application.
2. **An informal application**, where you describe your artistic work and explain why you want to pursue a Master's degree in the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts. You should also mention which areas of the studies you find important. The maximum length of the application is 4 pages (A4, spacing 1.5).
3. **Portfolio**, maximum size A3 (detailed instructions below)
4. **CV** (including personal information, education, work experience, exhibitions, publications, awards, grants and study trips)
5. **Copies of certificates of completed art studies** and any other certificates to which you wish to refer. Also an account of the structure and content of the BFA/ polytechnic Bachelor's degree studies from the institute awarding the degree if the information is not set out on the certificate.

#### **PORTFOLIO INSTRUCTIONS**

Mark your name clearly on all works in the portfolio. **NOTE!** If you deliver your works in digital form please include prints of your works in your application.

## VIDEO

Mark all videos clearly with:

- name of author
- date of completion
- participants, duration and other relevant information
- duration: the video must be edited so that the total duration of all submitted videos is no more than 10 minutes.

The tape must be in VHS or S-VHS (PAL) or mini DV format. DVD will also be accepted (DVD -R and +R). The required sound format is audio CD. Mark the soundtrack stereo/mono. Wind the tape to the place where you want the screening to begin. The tape may contain only work intended for the admission procedure.

## SLIDES AND LASER PRINTS

Mark slides/prints with:

- name of author
- title of work
- an arrow clearly indicating viewing side and picture up position.

## WORKS ON CD-ROM

The works will be screened on a PC using a Windows XP operating system. The works must be saved in a format which allows them to be screened using Internet Explorer 6 with Macromedia Shockwave and Flash support. If the work cannot be screened using this equipment, it may not be evaluated.

If you have material on the **Internet**, state the exact address of the homepage. **Attachments sent by e-mail will not be considered.**

**NOTE!** If your works contain some special technical feature that must be taken into account in its presentation, this must also be clearly indicated.

## INSURING THE WORKS IN THE PORTFOLIO

The Academy is not responsible for the works and will not insure them. If you want to insure your works, you must do so at your own expense.

### RETURNING THE PORTFOLIO

- You must **collect** your portfolio at the info desk of the Academy on **4 June at the earliest** and on **30 June 2010 at the latest** (at Kaikukatu 4, 00530 HELSINKI).
- If you want your portfolio returned **by airmail**, you must **include a reply-paid envelope** in your application. Then the portfolio will be returned after the application procedure. Other application documents will not be returned.
- **Any uncollected portfolios or portfolios without sufficient reply postage will be destroyed** after 30 June 2009. The Academy is not liable for any possible damage to the works.

### ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS

The names of the applicants selected for an interview will be posted on the official notice board and website of the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts ([www.kuva.fi](http://www.kuva.fi)) on 26 April 2010 at 4pm at the latest. The applicants will also be invited to the interviews by email or by phone after 26 April 2010. The interviews will be conducted in the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts facilities dur-

### APPLICANTS AND STUDENTS ACCEPTED IN THE FINNISH ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS 2005 - 2009

	Regular admission		Special MFA admission	
	Applicants	Admitted	Applicants	Admitted
2005	520	25 (4,8 %)	110	17
2006	473	25 (5,2 %)	137	20
2007	485	17 (4 %)	165	28
2008	441	24 (5,5%)	186	21
2009	1007	25 (2,4%)	231	20

### STUDENTS 2004-2008

	Degree students	Postgraduate students	Other	Total
2005	219	15	15	249
2006	222	20	14	256
2007	249	23	43	315
2008	228	25	26	254
2009	235	29	13	277

ing week 18. The exact time of the interview will be announced in the invitation.

The names of the accepted students are posted on the official notice board and the website of the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts ([www.kuva.fi](http://www.kuva.fi)) on Friday 4 June 2010 at noon at the latest. Thereafter you can also inquire about the results by phone +358 9 680 33 20 (switchboard).

### APPEALS

In case an applicant is not satisfied with the results of the student selection, they may appeal in writing to the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts within 14 days of the announcing of the results of the admission procedure.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MFA ADMISSION

**I will get my BFA degree in early summer. Can I still participate in the special MFA admission of the same spring?**

Yes, you can. If you are admitted to the MFA studies, all you have to do is deliver a copy of your BFA certificate to the Academy at the latest when you return your written affirmation that you agree to receive placement at the Academy.

**If I am admitted to the painting degree programme, for example, can I also study courses in other degree programmes?**

In principle, yes. The students of the Academy can usually choose courses and workshops in different degree programmes without limitations, if the courses aren't full. However, generally students can sign up for the courses of their own degree programme before others. There are some courses that you can't take. For example, the course on the basics of audiovisual narration is open only to the students of Time and Space Arts, as are many courses directed at first year students. Some courses require certain skills (e.g. a command of some instrument). The extensive syllabus of General Studies is open for all students of the Academy.

**Do I have to state which courses I intend to take in my informal application?**

You aren't meant to write a list of courses, and it would be impossible to name them because you get the syllabus only at the beginning of the term. Your application should state the things you feel are important and interest you in your studies, as well as the things you want to concentrate on and examine more closely. For example, do you want to continue in the direction you have chosen or conquer new areas?

**Is there a minimum or maximum number of works that can be included in the portfolio?**

Officially, no. However, you should bear in mind that we receive many applications and going through the portfolios takes time. Consider how you can use your works to give the best idea of yourself and the aims you set out in your informal application. It is also a question of you deciding what is central in your work and how you show it. We are also interested to see where you are as an artist now and how you intend to continue, and how the works in your portfolio back up these issues.

**I have a university degree and I have taken many art courses and been actively making art for a long time. Can I participate in the MFA admission of the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts?**

The specific educational criterion is a BFA degree or a polytechnic degree with a major in arts or an equivalent foreign degree. Various art courses or even other educational institutes do not usually give sufficient cognitive and practical skills for studies leading to a Master's degree. The best option for you is to apply for a study place in the regular admission, and if you are admitted to the Academy, have some of your previous studies accepted as a part of your BFA.

# Postgraduate Student Admissions 2010

(APPLICATION PERIOD 12 DECEMBER 2009–1 MARCH 2010)

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

Applications for the postgraduate studies are considered through an open process. The Finnish Academy of Fine Arts admits 2-3 new students to the doctoral programme for studies starting in autumn 2010. The applications must be submitted to the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts no later than Monday 1 March 2010 at 17:00 local time. Address the application as follows:

### APPLICATION

Department of Postgraduate Studies  
Finnish Academy of Fine Arts  
Kaikukatu 4  
00530 Helsinki  
Finland

No applications or parts of applications accepted via e-mail, or through the internet.

The admission process is completed during May 2010 and the student admission results will be announced on Tuesday, 1 June 2010.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- **application form** (download from: [www.kuva.fi](http://www.kuva.fi) → In English → Applying → Doctoral Studies, or pick up from the Academy's porter at Kaikukatu 4)
- **draft of your research plan**  
Max. 3000 words. Should include a thorough description of the creative production parts (exhibition, publication, event, or other artistic work) and theoretical parts the applicant intends to include in the degree, as well as an explanation of how these parts relate to each other
- **summary of the research plan** (max. 400 words)
- **resumé**  
Applicant's artistic activities and education (Curriculum Vitae), as well as information on other activities that he/she considers useful as a background for the degree (e.g.

bibliography, experience as a curator, other than artistic education)

- **portfolio** of essential work samples (catalogues, videos, slides or other documentation)

NB! Work samples are not returned to the applicants, but they may be claimed from Kaikukatu 4 until 1 September 2010.

The application must be written in Finnish, Swedish or English.

### THREE-STAGE APPLICATION PROCEDURE

On the basis of the applications, work samples and research plans, the Admissions Board, appointed by the Rector, first selects the applicants who are admitted to the second admission stage.

The applicants who have been admitted to the second stage are invited to an interview where they present in more detail their creative work and their planned artistic research.

The applicants admitted to the third admission stage are asked to make a more specified research plan in which the nature of the creative production parts and theoretical parts included in the degree as well as their artistic objectives are defined more closely.

The Admissions Board presents to the Rector a proposal for student admission by the end of May 2010. The student admission results will be announced on Tuesday, 1 June 2010.

### ADMISSION CRITERIA

The admission criteria are, in addition to the degree qualifications mentioned by the Finnish University Law (645/1997, 18a§: a suitable master's degree, corresponding foreign education, or corresponding knowledge and skills determined by the university) sufficient artistic talent and the capability to engage in artistic research producing new knowledge.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Head of Department, Professor Jan Kaila  
tel. +358 9 680 33 219  
Amanuensis Henri Wegelius  
tel. +358 9 680 33 234/ +358 45 657 8656

[www.kuva.fi/attachments/the\\_artists\\_knowledge\\_2.pdf](http://www.kuva.fi/attachments/the_artists_knowledge_2.pdf)

Finnish Academy of Fine Arts  
Department of Postgraduate Studies  
Kaikukatu 4  
00530 Helsinki, Finland

E-mail addresses: [firstname.lastname@kuva.fi](mailto:firstname.lastname@kuva.fi)  
Fax +358 9 680 33 260



Jaakko Karhunen  
*Fantasy Realised*

## Frequently asked questions about studying in Finland

### **Can I study in English?**

The Finnish Academy of Fine Arts provides several courses taught in English. Also some of our seminars and lecture series are taught in English on a regular basis. Even when teaching in English is not available, it is often possible to complete courses through independent study. You can write your essays and exams in English.

Finnish language courses are highly recommended for foreign degree students who wish to acquaint themselves with the Finnish language, culture and the country.

### **How much do studies cost?**

There are no tuition fees for regular degree students in universities in Finland – education is subsidised by the State through the Ministry of Education. This applies also to the international degree students. The student unions in universities, however, charge a compulsory annual membership fee. At the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, the fee is approx. 75 € per academic semester. Student health services are included in this fee.

All students have to pay for their accommodation and living expenses. The average monthly living expenses of a single student vary from 600 to 900 €. The rents in student dormitories and residence halls vary from 280 to 500 € per month.

### **Is there any scholarship programme for international applicants?**

The Finnish Academy of Fine Arts does not offer scholarships for international applicants. It is highly recommended that you arrange adequate funding for your entire study period before leaving your home country.

### **Cimo scholarships**

Finnish Centre for International Mobility (CIMO) offers scholarships mostly for postgraduate study and research, for visitors to Finland from abroad and CIMO Fellowships. Further information on CIMO's web site at <http://finland.cimo.fi/scholarships.html>.

## One-place-per-student provision

One-place-per-student provision (Act 558/2009) concerns only joint applications to universities and polytechnics. Separate admissions to higher education institutions are not included in this provision. The academic term (from 1 August to 31 December or 1 January to 31 July) is the set framework for implementation. The provision does not prevent acceptance of a place in another degree programme during another academic term.

## Barrier free higher education

The National Board of Education has published a guidebook called Barrier Free Higher Education with information on study opportunities in the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts for disabled students.

The guidebook is aimed at disabled applicants planning studies in a polytechnic or university. It contains information about practical matters on studying, student counselling, accessibility of institutes of higher education and library services (see [www.oph.fi](http://www.oph.fi) – the guidebook is available only in Finnish and Swedish).

Please contact the information desk of the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts (+358 9 680 33 20) in advance if you require special arrangements in the application stage.

## Further Information

on student admission and studies can be obtained from

Finnish Academy of Fine Arts  
Kaikukatu 4  
00530 Helsinki  
tel. +358 9 680 33 20 (switchboard)

email: [hakijapalvelut@kuva.fi](mailto:hakijapalvelut@kuva.fi)  
[www.kuva.fi](http://www.kuva.fi)



Aamu Tikkanen and Sara Pathirane  
Kaiku-galleria

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