



The 12 themes of the four-year training

1. Poetry of Colour - Human Form - 4 Elements
2. Birth of Colour - Human Space - Tier Klang
3. Gesture of Colour - Nature of the Invisible - Plants
4. Mineral World - Grundfarben - Mensch und Kosmos

Further information, fees and course inscription:

Visual Art School Basel

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Beppe Assenza (1905-1985) and his method

As a young man, Beppe Assenza was a successful Sicilian portrait painter. During the second World War, he was looking for new forms of painting and became acquainted with the expressionist movement. Inspired by the work of Rudolf Steiner on the nature of colour, the exploration of colours became a central theme in his painting. He came to Basel, Switzerland, and founded the Assenza painting school in Dornach, in 1968.

Assenza's sketchbooks are an important part of his work. They contain his methodical research of colours as well as a large number of painting and composition exercises. Further, he researched the individual quality of the colours, the various levels of their formal potential, through to their gestural and linear forms of expression.

Mission Statement

The school structure should help bring together various aspects of the artistic path: individual **experimentation, research and exercising**, implementation and development of artistic processes in the student's own **projects, history of art** in theory and practice, an anthroposophical view of the **human being**, **Goethe's and Steiner's** Theory of Colour; the artistic research of Beppe **Assenza**, perception of the **demands of our times** and dynamic **group work**.

The Visual Art School Basel (VASB)

Free-lance artists Charles Blockey and Fredy Buchwalder founded the art school in September 2011.

Having previously taught at the Assenza painting school, both artists are now the main teachers at the VASB.

Guest lecturers complement the school's program with specialised subjects such as biology, geometry, geology, the study of colours, music, video, photography, sculpture and performance.

Our art school is situated in the large, renovated rooms of the Walzwerk factory in Münchenstein, 5 km from Basel city centre. Known as one of the world's art capitals and situated close to the Goetheanum in Dornach, Basel is an exciting place to study.

Part-time studies

Weekend Workshops

Professionals and working people can follow the four year program by taking part in 10 weekend workshops and a summer workshop each year. These courses form the foundation of the part-time study program, and can lead to a diploma with the completion of an individual project after four years.

Guest students may take part in single weekend courses or follow a thematic unit. (if space is available)

YEAR'S THEME:

Art - the cutting edge

Gesture of Colour

23 / 24 / 25 Sep 2022
21 / 22 / 23 Oct
11 / 12 / 13 Nov
09 / 10 / 11 Dec

Nature of the Invisible

20 / 21 / 22 Jan 2023
10 / 11 / 12 Feb
24 / 25 / 26 Mar

Plants

28 / 29 / 30 Apr 2023
12 / 13 / 14 May
16 / 17 / 18 June

Summer workshop

21st - 26th August 2023

Weekend plan

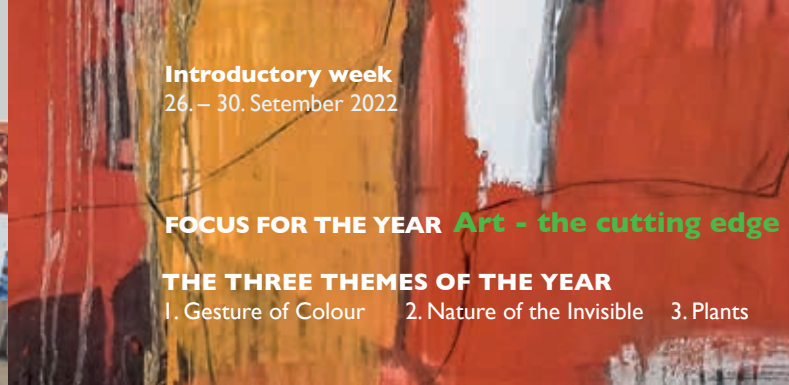
Friday 18.00 - 21.00
Saturday 9.00 - 12.00
 14.00 - 17.00
Sunday 9.00 - 12.00



VISUAL ART SCHOOL BASEL

www.visualartschool.ch

2022/2023
Program of the Visual Art School Basel
Full-time and part-time studies



Introductory week
26. – 30. September 2022

FOCUS FOR THE YEAR Art - the cutting edge

THE THREE THEMES OF THE YEAR

1. Gesture of Colour 2. Nature of the Invisible 3. Plants

FULL-TIME STUDIES

The full-time program with diploma is 4 years. In the course of one year three themes are focussed. During 3 Input weeks, students and teachers intensively explore the trimester theme. Subsequently students develop their own projects with the help of a mentor and tutorials during the project weeks. Projects are presented each term. Each year there is a new theme (Focus for the Year) connecting all three terms.

The aim is for the students to discover and formulate their own questions. The artist himself engages in a process of self-transformation. He trains his own sensory perceptions, develops his creative abilities, and learns to create something new from the deep connection with himself and the world surrounding him.

The craft of painting and drawing constitutes the foundation of the study program at the Visual Art School Basel (VASB). Individual experimentation and exploration as well as exercises inspired by the Assenza Method (see reverse) help the students become aware of process and enable them to shape their individual artistic capacities.

Minor subjects

In addition to the main subjects of painting and drawing, the study program also includes the following minors: art history, aesthetics, anthroposophy, graphics and printing, performance, sculpture, installation, photography and video. VASB is equipped with a printing studio and photo lab.

Material

Students are encouraged to experiment and work with a wide variety of materials and techniques on different grounds. Materials include acrylics, pigments, mineral pigments, oil, watercolours, ink, and plant colours on grounds including paper, canvas, wood, synthetic and mineral.

A one-year study program is possible

Visiting students can attend the input weeks (if place is available)

Part-time study program (see reverse for program)

Evening and summer courses (visit www.visualartschool.ch)

1. Gesture of Colour

17th October – 16th December 2022

Input Weeks 17th October – 4th November 2022

Project Work 7th November – 16th December 2022

The gesture of colour focuses on the dynamic power of colour. These forces can be experienced very directly in the primary colours: red, yellow and blue. However, the secondary colours orange, violet and green are central to this theme. What opposing energies and gestures can be discovered in them? Since they each unite two of the primary colours, this gives us a great potential for formative strength and tonal development in painting.

- Painting process; colour as movement as opposed to colour as background or mood
- The interrelationship of the colours to one another; lustre and imaged colours (R. Steiner)
- Tertiary colours (J. Itten, H. Benedikt)
- Watercolours, acrylic and tempera
- Body movement and performance



2. The nature of the invisible

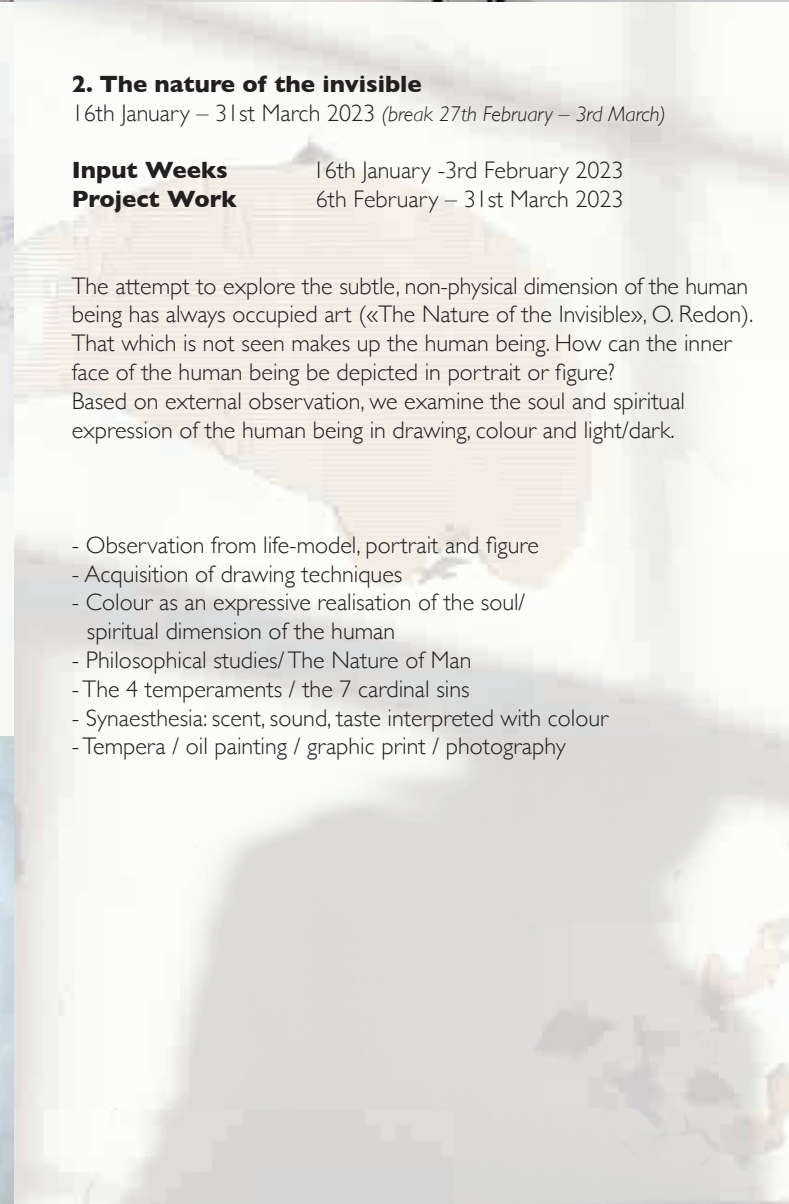
16th January – 31st March 2023 (break 27th February – 3rd March)

Input Weeks 16th January -3rd February 2023

Project Work 6th February – 31st March 2023

The attempt to explore the subtle, non-physical dimension of the human being has always occupied art («The Nature of the Invisible», O. Redon). That which is not seen makes up the human being. How can the inner face of the human being be depicted in portrait or figure? Based on external observation, we examine the soul and spiritual expression of the human being in drawing, colour and light/dark.

- Observation from life-model, portrait and figure
- Acquisition of drawing techniques
- Colour as an expressive realisation of the soul/ spiritual dimension of the human
- Philosophical studies/ The Nature of Man
- The 4 temperaments / the 7 cardinal sins
- Synaesthesia: scent, sound, taste interpreted with colour
- Tempera / oil painting / graphic print / photography



3. Plants

24th April – 30th June 2023

Input Weeks 24th April – 12th May 2023

Project Work 15th May – 30th June 2023

The inspiration of the living forms of plants and their relationship to the elements will be the starting point for drawing and painting. Each plant has its own specific gesture, we recognise this in seed, leaf shape, flower and fruit. This infinite variation of a common impulse in the plant world, will be our source of inspiration for artistic processes. Focus through art on the living, the vegetal is a possibility to give new strength to the basis of life in ourselves and in nature.

- Study of plants, transposition into free painterly compositions
- Field-trip
- Installation
- Etching, photography
- Plant-based colours
- Reference to the theory of the four elements (Aristotle, Empedocles)

Plan of the Week

Monday-Friday 9.00-17.00

Tuesday 8.30- 9.30: esthetics

Wednesday 19.00-21.00: art history and observation

Friday: open studio

It is possible to use studio space evenings and weekends, by agreement.

