





ABOUT



GERRIT RIETVELD ACADEMIE

The Gerrit Rietveld Academie is a small-scale, independent and internationally oriented university for fine art and design in Amsterdam (NL). A wide range of artistic expertise converges at the academy.

It is home to a close-knit community of students and teachers from around the world. Students and teachers create a learning environment that brings together thinking and doing and where unexpected, innovative ideas are born.

In this open educational environment, students of the Rietveld Academie prepare themselves for individual and collective practices, armed with a great deal of independence and self-organisation, and in dialogue with each other and the world around them. Rietveld graduates are able to contribute to communities, contexts and situations, or create these themselves, in a discerning and experimental manner.


Over half our students come from outside the Netherlands. For us, the fact that different cultures come together in our academy is a strength, as it challenges the students and teachers to relate to each other from different perspectives and histories, and to enter into a constructive exchange about the creative process. English is the language of communication at the academy.

The Rietveld Academie offers a four-year bachelor's degree programme that starts with a general formative year, the Basicyear, after which students can make an informed choice from twelve different specialisations, the departments. The Rietveld Academie also offers a five-year part-time bachelor's degree programme called DOGtime. All the departments at the academy question their own disciplines and share an experimental approach to education.

The academy has 23 workshops that form its very heart. These include the library as the 'workshop for the mind.' The workshops enable students to experiment with different techniques and materials while learning to use professional equipment.

The programme is concluded with a final presentation during our annual public Graduation Show. Graduates may use the title of Bachelor of Arts in Art and Design (BA).

As a student, the academy expects you to show initiative, to be capable of self-reflection, and to demonstrate the motivation to exchange ideas with others. We have opted for research, experiment and critical questioning, greatly valuing a committed and open attitude to others and to society.



Rietveld
op Proef

Orientation
Course

Preparatory
Course

✕ PREPARATORY TRAJECTORIES ✕



PREPARATORY TRAJECTORIES

Are you thinking of applying for the Gerrit Rietveld Academie and want to see what it's like here first? Or perhaps you are hoping to expand your skills and work on your portfolio? The academy offers three preparatory trajectories — one workshop series and two extensive courses — so you can get a taste of the Rietveld Academie or prepare yourself for the bachelor's programme.



WORKSHOP SERIES

Rietveld op Proef offers four Saturday workshops, especially for young people aged 16 - 21 who are interested in studying at an art academy in the future. Do you enjoy being creative, and don't know what you can expect from an art academy? The workshops, that are focused on mixed media, architecture, drawing, video and sound, will give you an impression of what our art academy has to offer.



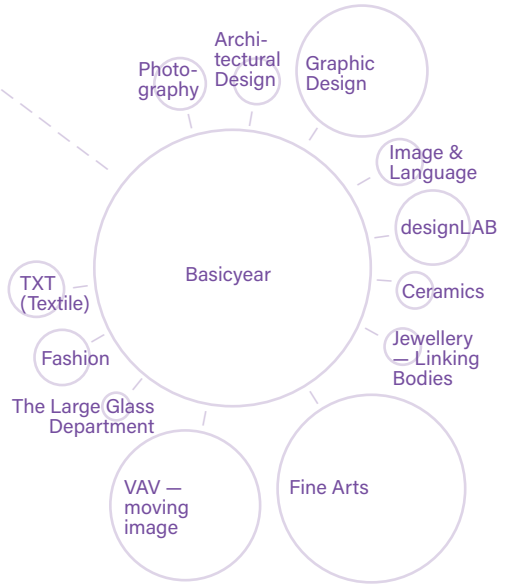
COURSES

Both the Orientation Course and the Preparatory Course allow you to create visual work at the academy and discuss it with your teachers. You can get to know the general workshops, go on excursions and learn to reflect on your work process. The various assignments mean you can work on your portfolio while gaining first-hand experience of life at the Rietveld Academie. Both courses run for 25 weeks. Which course to take depends on your goal, your age, and how much time you have per week.

The Orientation Course is an *exploratory* programme. This course is intended to help you decide whether studying art and design is for you. The classes are held on Saturday afternoons. You can attend a first round of admissions during the course to assess your options for further study. Participants range in age between 16 (the minimum) and 50 (the limit) and come from many different backgrounds — that's what makes the course so special.

The Preparatory Course is an extensive *preparatory* programme. It consists of three to four compulsory half-day sessions every week. It is open to participants up to the age of 25, who have obtained at least a havo (senior general secondary education) diploma, or mbo (senior secondary vocational education) diploma at level 4, or an equivalent qualification. A positive final assessment can support access to the first year (Basicyear) of the academy's full-time bachelor's degree programme.

You can find more information about the courses, admission procedure and costs at www.rietveldacademie.nl



✕ FULL-TIME BACHELOR ✕



BASICYEAR

The Basicyear is the first year of the four-year bachelor's degree programme. At the Rietveld Academie, students complete the Basicyear before starting to specialise. It is a general, formative year that offers a broad and coherent programme, all the components of which are compulsory. The programme focus is to get thoroughly acquainted with many different views, concepts and working methods, with the aim of linking these to your own interests and potential.

A joint first year provides insight into the diversity of talents and potential among students, leading up to the extensive academy-wide exchange and collaboration of the later years.

The Basicyear lays the foundations for working independently. From the outset, the required level and pace are high, demanding serious effort. At the same time, this year offers the appropriate amount of stimulation and encouragement for up-and-coming artists and designers who have an adventurous, receptive and inquisitive attitude. A critical eye and a willingness to collaborate with others are essential preconditions for ensuring that you get the most out of the programme.

Towards the end of the first year, students can make an informed choice from the twelve different specialisations.



● FULL-TIME BACHELOR ●

 ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

The way that cities are envisioned, planned, built, lived in, experienced and remembered today is changing at an unprecedented pace. The Architectural Design department focuses on engaging with the production of the built environment through reflection, fabrication and speculation. To achieve this, it combines spatial intuition, architectural knowledge, artistic practice, political engagement, critical inquiry and multidisciplinary research.

We work at the crossroads of the real and the imagined: the past, present and future. Through speculative design studios, real-world collaborations, workshops, theory seminars and research labs, you learn to think about, and intervene within, the relationships between events, things, systems, experiences and places.

Here, architectural design is understood in the broadest sense of the term, ranging from buildings, interiors, scenography, urban design and public space to infrastructure, interfaces, networks, materials, organisms and beyond.

Students become independent spatial practitioners with their own perspective on the role of architectural design in society.

 CERAMICS

The Ceramics department is first and foremost what we call 'material based'. While working with clay, you get to know your own interests and fascinations. You learn to be open to the possibilities of the material, exploring how it relates to your own ideas.

To enable you to work with the material so that it can express your ideas, you will be offered a solid technical introduction to the ceramics process. In our own workshop you will learn, for example, to build up shapes, to make moulds, to cast, turn and glaze. You will learn both traditional and modern techniques.

There is a constant interaction between experimentation, creation, reflection and concept development among the students, lecturers and technicians in the communal workspace.

Clay is the core of our discipline, but the Ceramics department is a place where you are free to engage with other techniques and materials outside the ceramics field. You are encouraged to explore beyond the boundaries of the discipline with your sculptural and spatial work.



▶ FULL-TIME BACHELOR ©



DESIGNLAB

A lab is a place for asking questions, conducting experiments, undertaking research and testing ideas. At designLAB, we work in a similar way. Making and thinking are two processes that are intertwined and inseparable.

At designLAB, we work with objects and spaces. We question elements of our surroundings — their functionality and materiality — in order to create new ways of experiencing the world. Driven by curiosity and the urge to experiment, we explore familiar crafts and techniques, finding new ways to create and think. We are thinkers through making.

At designLAB, our aim is to investigate and transcend the limits of what design can be or what design could aim to provide.

We invite you to explore your role as an autonomous designer, as well as engaging with a collective body. We equip students to become intuitive and radical makers.



FASHION

At the Rietveld Academie, fashion is approached in an open and experimental manner. In the Fashion department you will adopt a critical curiosity as you explore fashion and its traditions, systems and semiotics. You will push the discipline's boundaries and not be afraid to cross them.

In developing a strong personal vision and working method, you seek to share new narratives and enrich the notion of fashion.

Making, thinking, research and play go hand in hand as you refine your conceptual, technical and visual skills. As you progress, you become increasingly independent in determining your own emphasis and goals.

By working together across disciplines and engaging socially, you will lay the foundation for a critical fashion practice that matches your talents and interests. Primed to see possibilities beyond the traditional fashion industry roles, our fashion alumni have the confidence to carve out their own place in the field of fashion.





✦ FULL-TIME BACHELOR ✦



✦ FINE ARTS

The Fine Arts department trains students to become professional visual artists, ready to join the art world and qualified to follow the best postgraduate and post-academic courses in the Netherlands and internationally.

Students who join the department step into an ongoing conversation about the possibilities of fine art, both as a thinking discipline and a creative practice. You will learn to think critically through making. The trajectory of the BA in Fine Arts involves a shift from regarding things "as they are" towards a recognition of the complex existence of materials, objects and ideas within changing contexts.

Studio practice, one-to-one tutorials, group classes and classes in theory form the basis of our teaching approach. Throughout the programme, you are invited to take part in excursions, exhibitions, workshops, collaborative projects and group presentations.

In addition, a curatorial component trains you in the critical decision-making process regarding presenting and displaying work within a professional art environment.



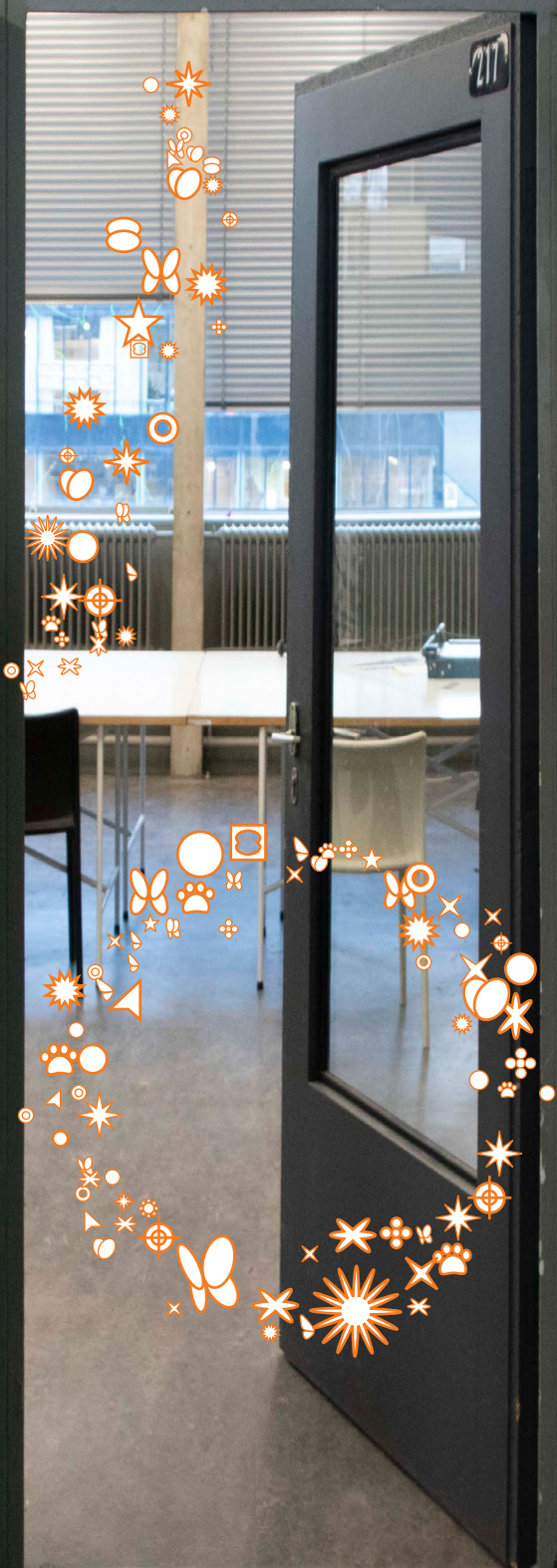
● GRAPHIC DESIGN

Graphic design plays an important role in the organisation and transmission of messages. Within the Rietveld Academie's Graphic Design department, we explore, evaluate and experiment with the many possible ways of communicating through visual languages.

The department's foundation is the teaching of core subjects that we feel are valuable to a graphic design practice: typography, image, editing and theory. We approach this learning process through both analogue and digital techniques, and in a conceptual and playful manner.

Teaching in the department happens mostly through assignments, over time leading to more independent forms of study and the possibility of applied commissions from within and outside the academy. You are encouraged to develop a productive-critical approach to your work and learn to take responsibility for chosen points of departure when giving form to ideas. We encourage our students to explore the boundaries of graphic design.

All the teachers in the department are actively practising designers, artists, curators or theorists, creating a proximity to contemporary practice.





★ FULL-TIME BACHELOR ★



★ IMAGE & LANGUAGE

The Image & Language department is a place for versatile and curious makers who have an interest in language. Our aim is to explore the scope of language and its interplay with other media.

English is our shared language and Dutch students can get feedback on their Dutch texts.

We approach language from the perspective of literary forms such as prose, the essay and poetry, and encourage you to understand language as a material, instrument and construct as well. The various subjects alternate between reading and writing, making visual work and combining both.

Parallel to the programme's core courses, Image & Language offers a variety of electives to choose from every semester. This means you can experiment with different kinds of image making, performance, making publications, film (essays), artistic research, translation, and philosophy of language – as well as unpacking the question of what happens when the boundaries between these disciplines are blurred.



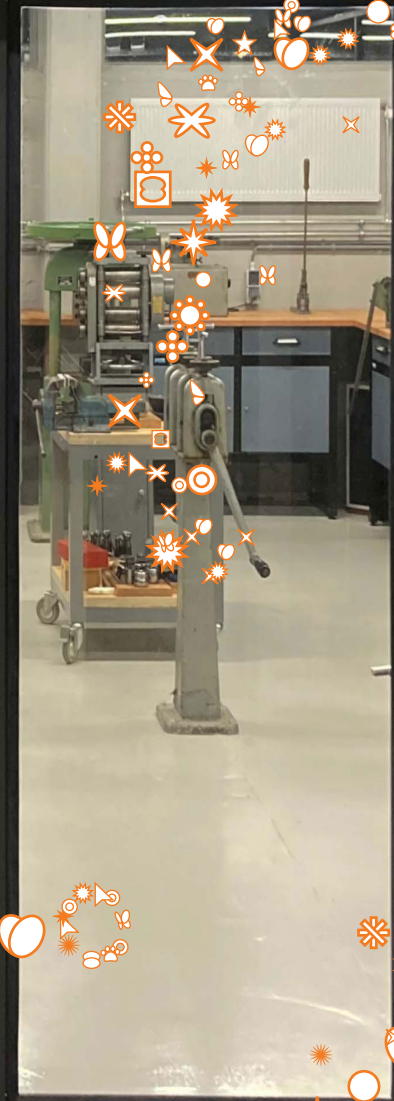
★ JEWELLERY – LINKING BODIES

The Jewellery – Linking Bodies department approaches the field of jewellery as an independent art form at the interface of applied and fine art. We share a 'jewellery attitude': a fondness for tactility, details, zooming in and out, and working with scale. However, what the students make varies enormously, from body-related objects to installations and performances.

The department's starting point is the body. Jewellery is traditionally intrinsically connected to the human body. Linking Bodies questions what a body *is*. It explores the body and its relationship to other bodies – those of humans and also other life forms.

Several jewellery techniques are taught, and you will investigate a wide range of materials in their historical, social, ecological and economic contexts. The tutors come from different professional and cultural backgrounds.

Collaborations are important – within the academy, but also with outside partners such as universities and (museum) collections.





✦ FULL-TIME BACHELOR ✦



PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography is the fastest and most popular means of communication and exchanging information. It therefore determines the way we see the world. Our understanding of what and where an image can be is changing rapidly, creating a growing tension between the virtual realm and our shared physical reality.

As a Photography department that is part of this intense, contemporary image culture, we feel the need to critically reflect on our own position and our responsibilities as image-makers.

We aim to cultivate a critical attitude that challenges the medium technically, conceptually and theoretically. To do this, we use both digital and analogue techniques in our workshop. A studio, darkroom, inkjet machines and high-end scanning are among the facilities offered by the department.

Together, we observe and engage, construct and imagine. We embrace chaos, relish the absurd and discover our own logic. In our department, you will join a group of people whose goals are progressive thinking and radical working methods.



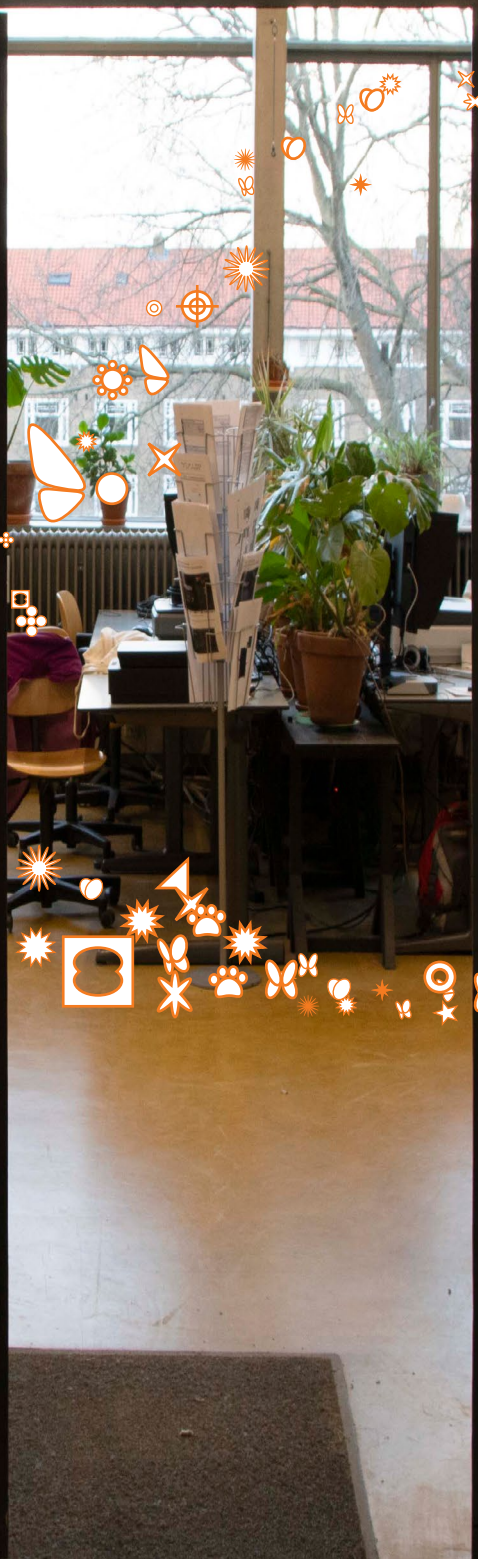
THE LARGE GLASS DEPARTMENT

The Large Glass Department approaches glass as a sculptural material in contemporary art. Challenging the traditions of 'studio glass', we would rather consider our work to be part of the fine art tradition.

We teach glassmaking techniques throughout the programme. Technique is a tool, not a goal. We encourage you to explore and innovate, and to challenge the material by moving beyond the boundaries of this specific field. Besides sculptural and spatial work, (combinations with) painting, performance, video and installation work are frequent forms of expression.

Students work independently on individual projects. You are accompanied by your regular tutors and a varying group of guest lecturers. You learn how to participate in analytical and critical dialogue with your lecturers and fellow students.

A high degree of responsibility and autonomy is required to jointly maintain the studio, improve technical skills, and at the same time meet the challenge of developing ideas and concepts.





♥ FULL-TIME BACHELOR ♣

TXT (TEXTILE)

The textile department of the Rietveld Academie is called TXT. This abbreviation stands for textiles, but also for text. Both words stem from the Latin word *tessere*, meaning weaving. Within the department, the relationship between materiality and the written word is examined from various perspectives. That makes TXT a department for making and thinking, for hands and head.

In the weaving and the textile workshops, you learn a variety of textile making and printing techniques. During your studies, you translate these techniques into different domains in your work and research.

Theory, philosophy, reading and (creative) writing play an important role in mapping the historical, aesthetic, social, political and material value of textiles.

You work on both individual projects and shared research topics. The experiments can result in new materials, autonomous work or socially committed statements in the form of an essay, lecture, publication, performance or intervention in public space.

VAV – MOVING IMAGE

VAV – moving image is a department that focuses on the development of the moving image, which is continuously in motion. This means that the curriculum is geared to research, experimentation and innovation.

We encourage research across various disciplines, including video, film, animation, sound, fine arts, performance and new media. It is precisely on this interface between image and sound, analogue and digital, factual and fantastic that unique works can be created.

This enables you to explore specific themes of your choice, finding a way to clearly articulate your position as an artist in the cultural landscape. Equally important in our education is the development of your vision of the meaning of your work in society, finding forms and a stance to bring your critical view across.

Teachers and students communicate on equal terms about the progress of the works. We organise group and individual talks, presentations, projects and excursions. The department has studios and project spaces and uses the various workshops for instruction in software applications that are important for the various disciplines.

DOGtime
propaedeutic
years

Unstable
Media

Expanded
Painting

★ PART-TIME BACHELOR



PART-TIME BACHELOR

DOGtime is the part-time bachelor's degree programme of the Rietveld Academie. Our curriculum is challenging, critical and progressive. It provides a solid foundation for beginners and more in-depth tuition for more advanced students.

DOGtime offers a five-year programme with two propaedeutic years, followed by three in-depth years when students can specialise by following the courses in Expanded Painting (EP) or Unstable Media (UM). Lessons take place in the evening from 18.45 until 21.30 hrs.

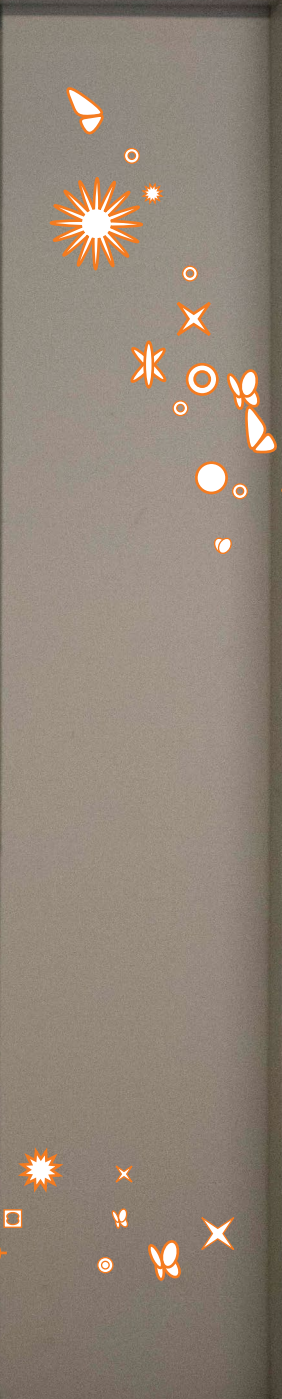
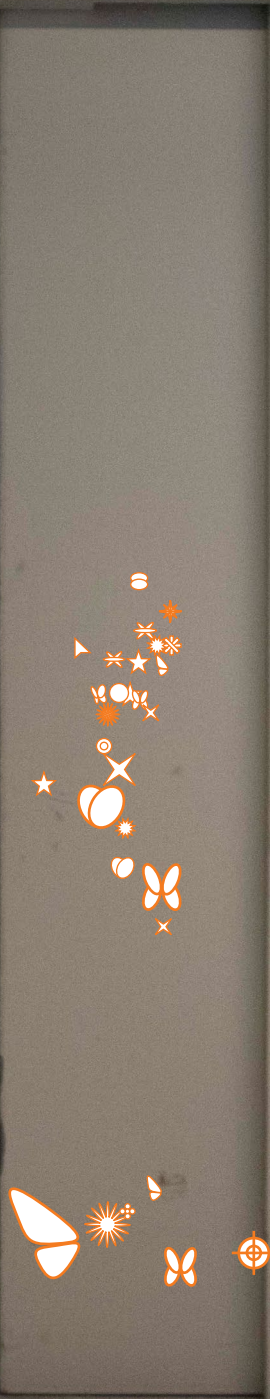
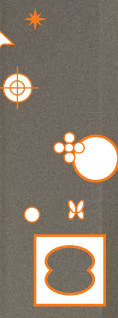
The DOGtime propaedeutic years offer a multitude of disciplines related to Unstable Media and Expanded Painting. By giving well-articulated assignments and progressive feedback, we sharpen your interests, technique, research abilities and choice of medium. At the intersection of stable and unstable media, exciting forms of inter(e)action can be expected. After receiving a positive final assessment, you can continue your studies with one of the DOGtime specialisations or in one of the full-time departments.

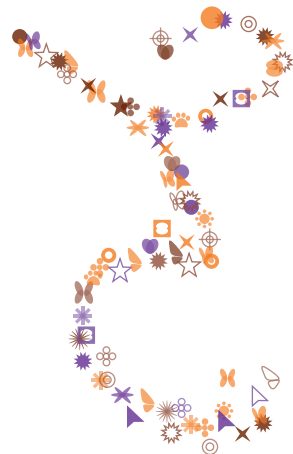
The DOGtime Expanded Painting (EP) programme is based on the rich tradition of painting and the history of depicting. You will explore the boundaries of painting by crossing the physical dimensions of the classical stretched canvas and using materials other than paint, such as sound, video, performances and ecological strategies.

DOGtime Unstable Media (UM) encourages you to generate projects for the online environment and/or in physical (public) space. The work of UM students varies from (generative) software art and web art to interactive installations, performances, digital and analogue mediations, and projects in which art, technology and science interact.

A distinction between Expanded Painting and Unstable Media can be made through their respective theoretical input and media references: art theory versus media theory, stable versus unstable. However, overlap is not out of the question. The combined classes of Expanded Painting and Unstable Media encourage the mutual exchange of knowledge and potential.







★ BEFORE STARTING YOUR STUDIES ✦

✦ADMISSION PROCEDURE

The minimum admission requirement for studying at the Rietveld Academie is either a havo (senior general secondary education) diploma, or mbo (senior secondary vocational education) diploma at level 4, or an equivalent qualification (EQF level 4). In addition, you must have sufficient artistic talent. The admission procedure consists of two rounds: the consultation interview and the entrance examination.

THE CONSULTATION INTERVIEW ✦

During the first admission round the candidate's potential suitability for the academy will be assessed by a teacher. You are requested to show a wide range of work, as diverse as possible and preferably made less than three years ago. The work does not have to consist of end results alone. Preliminary sketches, ideas and plans can offer insights into the work.

✦THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

After a positive assessment of your portfolio in the first admission round, you may apply for the entrance examination. Prior to the exam, Basicyear candidates will be given home assignments. An admissions committee will assess the portfolios and interview the candidates. During this interview you will present a large and varied selection of your visual work. The committee will ask questions concerning your work, the home assignments, motivation, sources of inspiration, ambition and expectations of the programme. Within a month after the entrance exam week, you will be notified by e-mail about whether or not you have been admitted to the Rietveld Academie.

You can find more information about the admission process and deadlines for Dutch and international students at rietveldacademie.nl/apply



ORGANISATION OF THE BASICYEAR

During the Basicyear, you will be assigned to a group with its own classroom and regular team of teachers. One of these teachers is your mentor, who will oversee your general development over the course of the year. During the Basicyear you will be working on assignments. Twice a year, the study results will be assessed on the basis of a presentation composed of the work you have made. A written essay is part of the theoretical component of the programme. At the end of the Basicyear, you and your teachers will assess whether you have laid a sufficient foundation for continuing your studies. In order to make a well-founded choice for a specialisation, over the course of the year you will become acquainted with all departments and workshops.

ASSESSMENT



Every study year, there are two moments when the tutors together assess the students' work and progress. Areas of focus include: visual ability; motivation; technical aspects; communication concerning the work; and the ability to reflect on and analyse the work. The Rietveld Academie does not use a grading system but is instead fully committed to issuing textual evaluations based on these assessments. A text specifies and evaluates each student's individual study progress and provides individualised directions for further development.



STUDY POINTS

For each positive assessment, the student will receive 30 study points, aka ECTS credits. Two positive assessments will result in the maximum amount of 60 study points and will enable the student to start the next academic year. It is only possible to be promoted to the next year at the end of the academic year.

STUDY SUPPORT



In the event of (study) problems, the mentor or head teacher is the student's first point of contact. The mentor or head teacher can refer the student to the student counsellor, a coach or a group programme.

The student counsellor can offer support and advice in relation to study skills, such as planning, learning to communicate and adopting reflective approach. They can also refer a student to other people or bodies for more specific help.

Students who feel they have come to a dead end in terms of their development, and whose lecturer or mentor cannot provide adequate help, can receive personal coaching.

Students who struggle with problems involving their work process, motivation and attention span can get help to tackle these problems through a group programme: the StudySkillsProgram. The group programme is about exchange, talking about the moments where you get stuck, comparing work methods and finding strategies to cope.





STUDYING WITH A LIMITATION

The Gerrit Rietveld Academie does everything possible to offer students with a handicap or functional limitation the same possibilities as students without a limitation. Because of the specific nature of its education, the Gerrit Rietveld Academie does not offer the kind of standard facilities often provided in regular education. Usually, identified impediments can be solved easily on an individual or department level or with the guidance of the student counsellor. When certain disabilities require more substantial adjustments, an appropriate solution will be sought.

WORKSHOPS

The Rietveld Academie has 23 workshops. Some of these are for general use, others are connected to specific departments. The workshops enable students to experiment with different techniques and materials while learning to use professional equipment.

- Analog/Digital Film Workshop
- Audiovisual Services
- Bookbinding Workshop
- CAD/CAM
- Ceramics Workshop
- Computer Workshop
- Editing Studios
- Fashion Workshop
- Film Studio
- Glass Workshop
- GraPrintshop
- Jewellery Workshop
- Letterpress Workshop
- Library
- Metal Workshop
- Photography Workshop
- Printmaking Workshop
- Screen printing Workshop
- Sound Studio
- Textile Workshop
- Wood Workshop
- Weaving Workshop
- X-Lab



STUDIUM GENERALE

The Rietveld Academie's Studium Generale is an extensive theoretical programme for students and teachers from all departments of the academy, but it is also freely accessible to others. Its intrinsic purpose is to offer an insight into how art and design are always inextricably linked to other fields.

HONOURS PROGRAMME

The honours programme ART and RESEARCH is a collaboration between the Gerrit Rietveld Academie and the University of Amsterdam. It allows art students to engage in more in-depth theoretical studies, while acquainting the University of Amsterdam students with creative processes.





✕ AT THE ACADEMY ✕

LECTORAAT

The Lectoraat for Art and Public Space (LAPS) researches how art operates in the public space and the way in which art is made public. The research institute also encourages both theoretical and practice-based research.



UNSETTLING RIETVELD SANDBERG

Unsettling Rietveld Sandberg is an initiative that is active between and beyond the structures of the academy, aiming to cause disruption from the ground up. Unsettling Rietveld Sandberg supports student initiatives, develops outreach programmes, outlines new perspectives and makes the academy's context more inclusive with respect to all voices, minds and bodies.



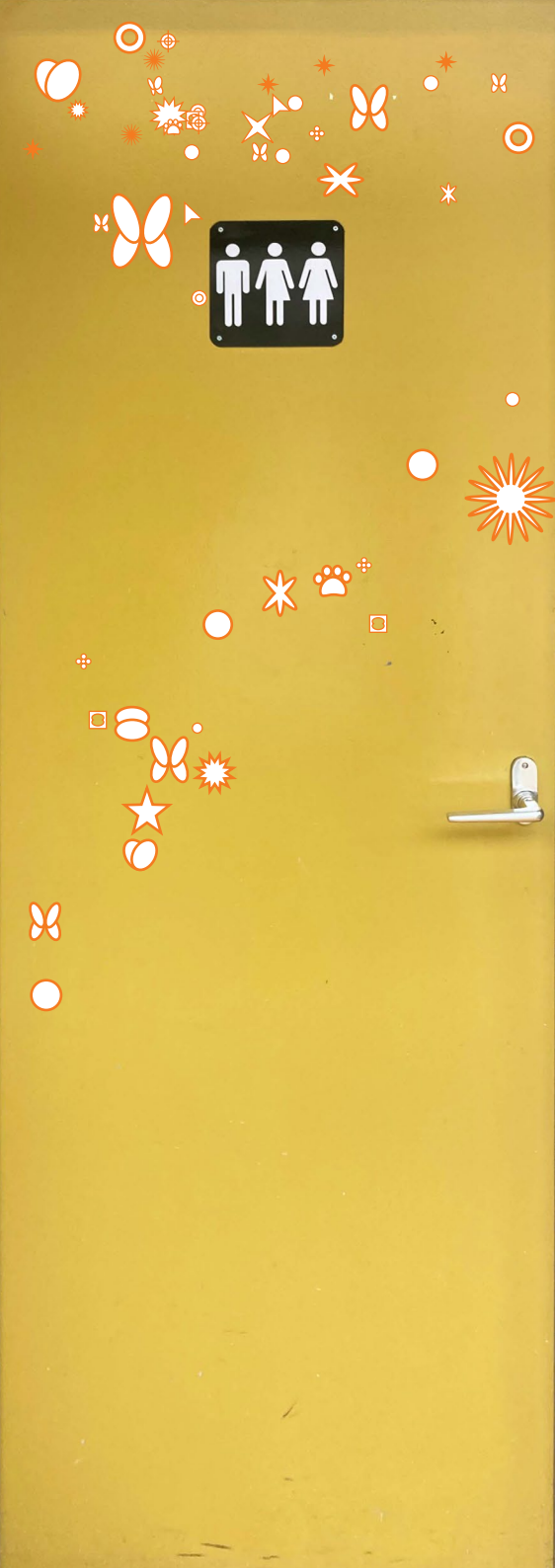
STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council was founded for the purpose of encouraging students to become more actively involved in shaping the academy. The Student Council consists of seven student members from the Rietveld Academie and the Sandberg Instituut. Its role has three aspects: listening to student voices in order to put forward student-centred ideas; supporting community-oriented student projects with funding; and developing democratic structures, created for and by students. The Student Council connects students, staff and teachers with each other through information and other means. Student Council members aim to lend a hand, share knowledge, and listen carefully.



MORE INFORMATION ✕

Would you like to find out from our students and alumni what it's like to study at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie? Or are you considering applying? Visit one of our Open Days and/or the Graduation Show to really get to know the academy. Would you like to know more about the admission procedure, deadlines and study costs? Visit our website for more information: www.rietveldacademie.nl



RIETVELD ACADEMIE

● PREPARATORY TRAJECTORIES ▲

Rietveld
op Proef

Orientation
Course

Preparatory
Course

years

● FULL-TIME BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMME ●

1 1 1 2 2 2 3 3 3 4 4 4

Basic-
year

Ceramics
Fine Arts
Photography
VAV – moving image
Architectural Design
Jewellery – Linking Bodies
The Large Glass Department
Image & Language
Graphic Design
TXT (Textile)
Fashion

years

● PART-TIME BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMME ●

1 1 1 2 2 2 3 3 3 4 4 4 5 5 5

DOGtime
propaedeutic
years

Unstable Media

Expanded Painting

SANDBERG INSTITUUT

■ MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME ♀



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There is also a Dutch version available / Deze brochure is ook beschikbaar in het Nederlands
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