

TRANSART INSTITUTE — INTERNATIONAL LOW-RESIDENCY MFA AND STUDIO-BASED PHD



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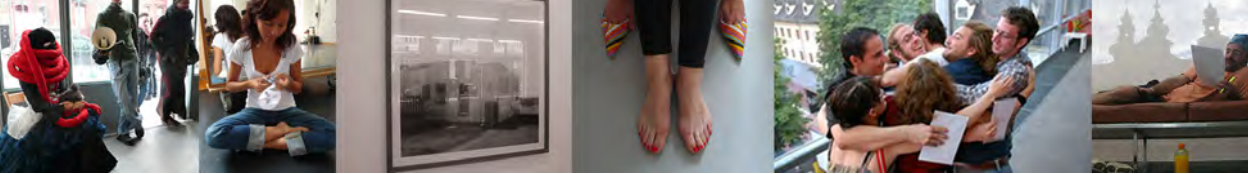
[www.transartinstitute.org](http://www.transartinstitute.org), [info@transartinstitute.org](mailto:info@transartinstitute.org)

Mail: 228 Park Ave S. #34726, New York, NY 10003

US: +1 (347) 410 9905, Fax: (508) 682 2853



Architect's office, Kreuzberg. Covers: The 1st exhibition OK Centrum for Contemporary Art



What's next?

In our sixth year we are excited to complement our MFA course with a program in which artists, composers, performers, designers and architects with a decided focus can deepen an already established artistic practice by offering the first international practice-based low-residency PhD program. Through transdisciplinary inquiry and critical discourse MFA students complete year long projects engaging in a process of refinement and commitment oriented toward a specific range of topics, ideas and related questions. Once this focused practice is established a PhD proposal can be submitted.

The practice-based PhD differs from the traditional thesis-based PhD model in which the thesis “explains” the art work. It is rather an expression of a specific achievement, an original contribution to the fields of art and culture, a programme of research in which creative work forms a significant part of the intellectual enquiry, in fact the artistic practice is recognized as the research and the thesis is evidence of the research process.

Practice-based PhD's were first awarded in the UK two decades ago but have not been offered in a studio-based low-residency format until now. What's significant here is that it becomes possible for artists, scholars and teachers, professionals with families and/or complex work obligations to participate wherever they work and live and to be part of an international art community through transdisciplinary inquiry and critical discourse. We look forward to seeing this model grow and being adapted so that particular areas of practice-based research are expanded, including our own. It is important that artists receive recognition for their unique contributions to the advancement of knowledge, social change, and the enrichment and expansion of expressive possibilities.





Transart Institute offers an international low-residency MFA, a practice-based PhD and a non-degree certificate program for working artists, teachers and all professionals in related fields who are seeking advancement in Visual Arts and New Media in a highly individualized format. In these a-disciplinary student-centered programs participants are free to pursue work in any art-related genre and to create their own course of study, working independently and with the support of faculty and self-chosen studio and research advisors.

Short periods of intensive residency permit students to continue with their professional work and artistic commitments while participating in an academic program. All programs are geared towards the development of a sustainable artistic praxis rather than training in certain media or genres, challenging students to think conceptually and work creatively in new ways. Current students work with animation, choreography, curating, digital media, film, gaming, graphic design, installation, painting, participatory art, performance, photography, robotics, sculpture, sound, text, video and film.

Transart faculty practice and research areas include: critical spaces, documentary art making, language/image, digital art and network culture, sound/body, performance and participatory art, the role of art in peace, mediation and international relations and land/water.





The two year MFA program comprises three intensive summer residencies in Europe and two winter residencies in New York. In the four semesters between residencies students create their own course of study realizing individual art and research projects with the support of faculty and self-chosen advisors wherever they work and live. The PhD is a 2–4 year full-time degree program with an average work commitment of 30 hours per week. The Degree is offered exclusively for practice-based research (creative work) accompanied by a written thesis that contextualizes the work. Transfer from the MFA to the MPhil/PhD is possible at the end of the first year with an accepted proposal.

Emerging Artist Options: MFA (2 years) > MPhil (1–2 years) > PhD (2–4 years)

Mid-career Artist Options: MA (1 year) > MPhil (1–2 years) > PhD (2–4 years)

A Summer Residency Certificate Program is offered for artists who are not seeking a degree but are looking for a creative surge. Participants join MFA students in workshops, lectures and critiques and leave the residency with input on project plans for the year ahead. Certificate students have the option to participate in a year-long critique group for long term support with their artistic projects.

Artists attend Transart Institute's program to bring their practice to the next level, revitalize it or take it in a new direction, to get a fresh perspective on their work and to become part of an international community of artists, theorists and curators.

# Filmtheater

Photographer and performer Angelika Rinrhofer found that “to work independently can pose a challenge but it also offers freedom and flexibility. Since a large number of students are accomplished artists and earn a living, Transart’s concept is ideal to work toward a degree and to expand one’s artistic career in addition to having a job.”






**LOCATION** Summer residencies take place in cooperation with arts organizations in Europe, currently Berlin. Winter residencies take place in New York at various arts initiatives and galleries. Transart Institute provides a range of accommodation listings and arranges a special group rate at a hotel each summer as well as a travel and city guide. Most students and faculty prefer to stay together. Students make their own arrangements though.

**LANGUAGE** The on-site program takes place in English. Many languages are spoken but courses all take place in English. Off-site work can take place in any language students and advisors have in common, final thesis work is submitted in English.

**GUIDANCE** Students call group meetings with all their advisors to discuss their projects each semester and as needed, ensuring a vital and informed connection between theoretical and artistic aspects of the work.

**CRITIQUE** Critique groups formed at the summer residency continue through the year either in person or through virtual channels. In addition to the individual critique sessions with their advisors, students enter various modes of exchange and critique amongst themselves.

**PRESENTATIONS** MFA Students present in the plenum, in small critique groups and in individual sessions with faculty thus getting the benefits of many different perspectives on their work. Issues of delivery, content, aesthetics, technique, audience, media, genre, gender, culture and process are discussed, resources are shared and students learn to present their work to audiences of varied size and purpose.



“Transart pushes faculty to teach in their top form... everyone comes with such a genuine desire to expand their practice... the kind of competition that exists in a normal MFA program – I don’t see it here... incredible bonds develop out of this program, the intensity and intimacy is of such a level that it can last a lifetime.”

Mary Ting, Transart Faculty



PhD students initially present in the MPhil seminar and in individual sessions with faculty. After the transfer to candidate status the presentations in the PhD seminar are being held public in preparation for the viva voce. Students develop and refine their proposals through the MPhil year with individual faculty and the guidance of their principal advisor, the director of studies. Candidates submit a transfer to PhD report detailing a literature review, description of methods and an explanation of the originality and contribution to knowledge that the project will make.

**PROPOSALS** MFA students prepare project plans with input from faculty in group and individual planning sessions throughout the residency as their ideas develop, submitting plans for approval by the end of the first and second residency.

PhD students develop and refine their proposals through the MPhil year with individual faculty and the guidance of their principal advisor. Candidates submit a transfer to PhD report detailing a literature review, description of methods and an explanation of the originality and contribution to knowledge that the project will make.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** Scholarships available to MFA and PhD students: Merit Scholarships (10% tuition reduction), Achievement Scholarships (25% tuition reduction), Developing Country Scholarships, (50% tuition reduction). All scholarships are offered for two years at acceptance, no separate application is required.



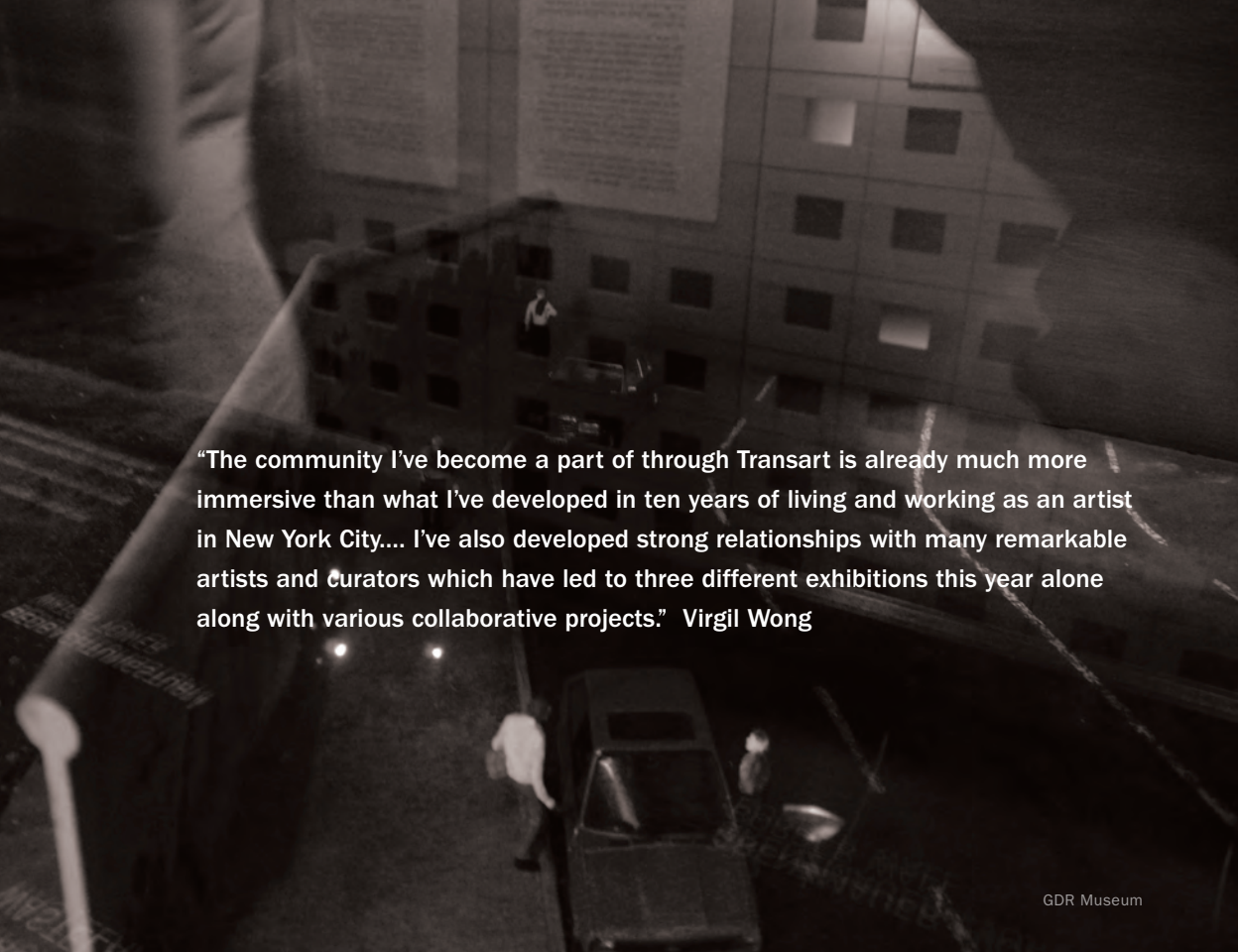


## SUMMER RESIDENCIES MFA

The summer residencies are both milestones and resources, beginning with closure to the previous year's studies through intensive critiques, exhibitions, presentation and performances. With new students, work done prior to commencing the program is presented, examined and discussed. Residencies open with the Transartfest, performances, screenings, lectures and a public vernissage. Studio workshops, cultural studies seminars and student presentations are at the heart of each residency. In addition, guest lectures, artist and curator talks and critiques as well as individual meetings with faculty take place each week in order for students to plan, inform and revise their project plans.

**SEMINARS** Students partake in one elected cultural studies seminar per residency. Seminars which are the cultural studies equivalent of the workshops help students put their work in context and find ways to inform their art projects through research while also getting practice articulating new ideas, exploring new ways of thinking and making connections through discussions and critiques. Seminars are chosen from current cultural topics viewed through the lens of media studies, literature, sociology, philosophy and history.

**WORKSHOPS** Students participate in two elected studio workshops per residency. Workshops are not intended to further technical virtuosity but to enhance creativity by exposing students to new approaches to working in various genres. It is recommended that students work with what they are technically familiar with for these sessions. Students



**“The community I’ve become a part of through Transart is already much more immersive than what I’ve developed in ten years of living and working as an artist in New York City... I’ve also developed strong relationships with many remarkable artists and curators which have led to three different exhibitions this year alone along with various collaborative projects.” Virgil Wong**

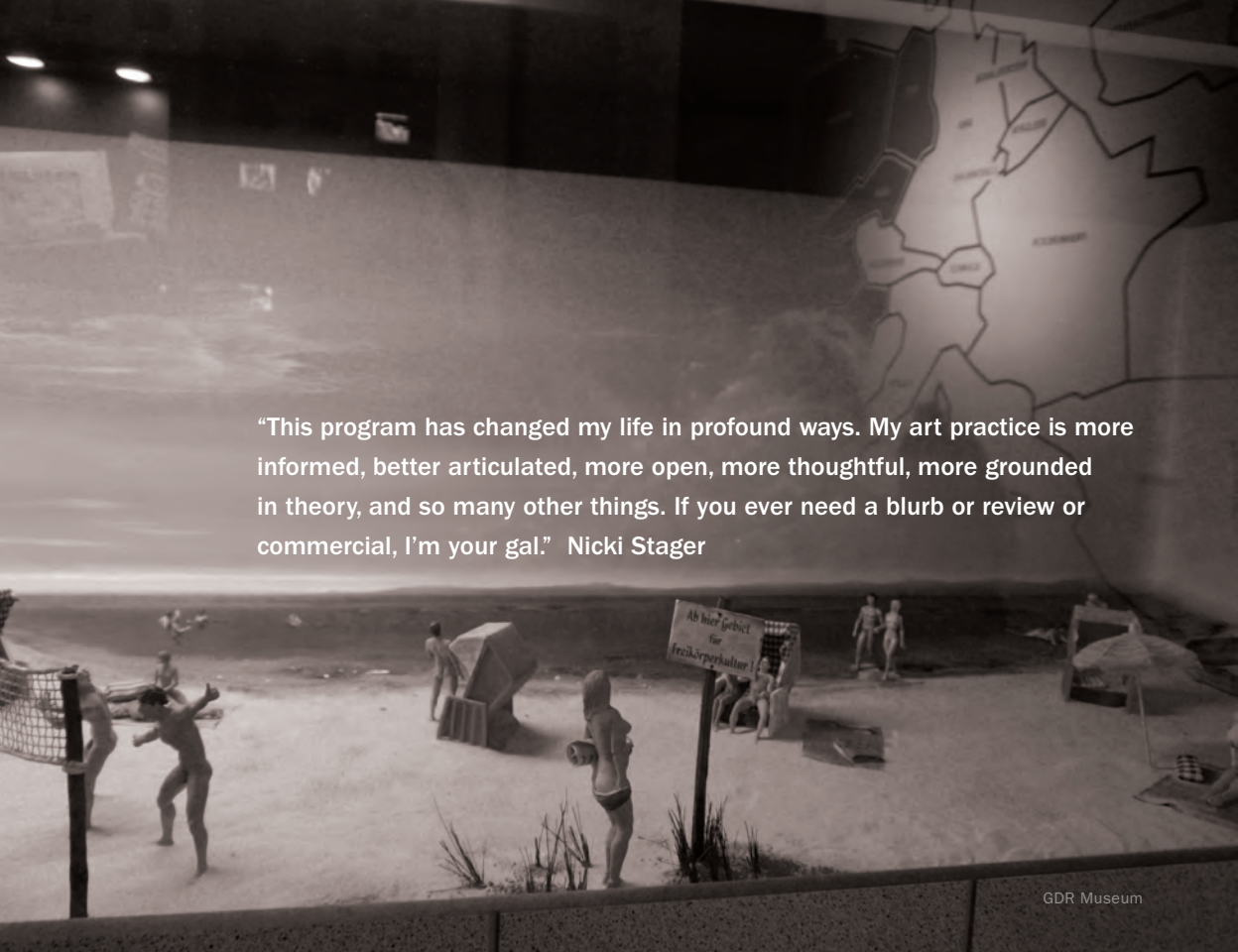


should bring their own tools, whatever they like to work with i.e. cameras, powerbooks, sketch pads. Scanners, video projectors and printers will be available.

**INDEPENDENT STUDY** Students work intensively in the summer and winter residencies on-site with faculty, artists, curators, media practitioners, writers and theorists. Between residencies, PhD students work with their individual advisors, MFA students work one-on-one with a research advisor by correspondence and a self-chosen studio advisor in an exchange which includes a minimum of two intensive critique meetings or studio visits each semester.

#### WINTER RESIDENCIES MFA

Four day residencies take place at the end of the fall semester. The focus is on presentations, critiques, feedback and the sharing of resources mid-way through studio and research projects. Students have the opportunity to exhibit work in conjunction with their presentations in order to explore exhibition and documentation possibilities in anticipation of the summer thesis exhibition. Guest artist talks, screenings and practical topical workshops (i.e. the art of the artist talk, professional development, teaching application, funding and grant writing, and technical studio courses) complete the residency.



“This program has changed my life in profound ways. My art practice is more informed, better articulated, more open, more thoughtful, more grounded in theory, and so many other things. If you ever need a blurb or review or commercial, I’m your gal.” Nicki Stager



## RESIDENCY PROGRAM MFA WINTER NEW YORK 2011

January 6 – 8: Presentations, exhibition try-outs, professional development workshop, meetings

January 8, 6 PM: Artist Talk: Coco Fusco

January 9: Individual student appointments, faculty meetings, PhD session

## RESIDENCY PROGRAM MFA SUMMER BERLIN 2011

July 23: MMX thesis exhibition vernissage and performances

July 24: 2011 Orientation and registration

July 25 – 31

“Foreign Exchanges”, Dorit Cypis, MFA, MA, Israel/Canada/USA

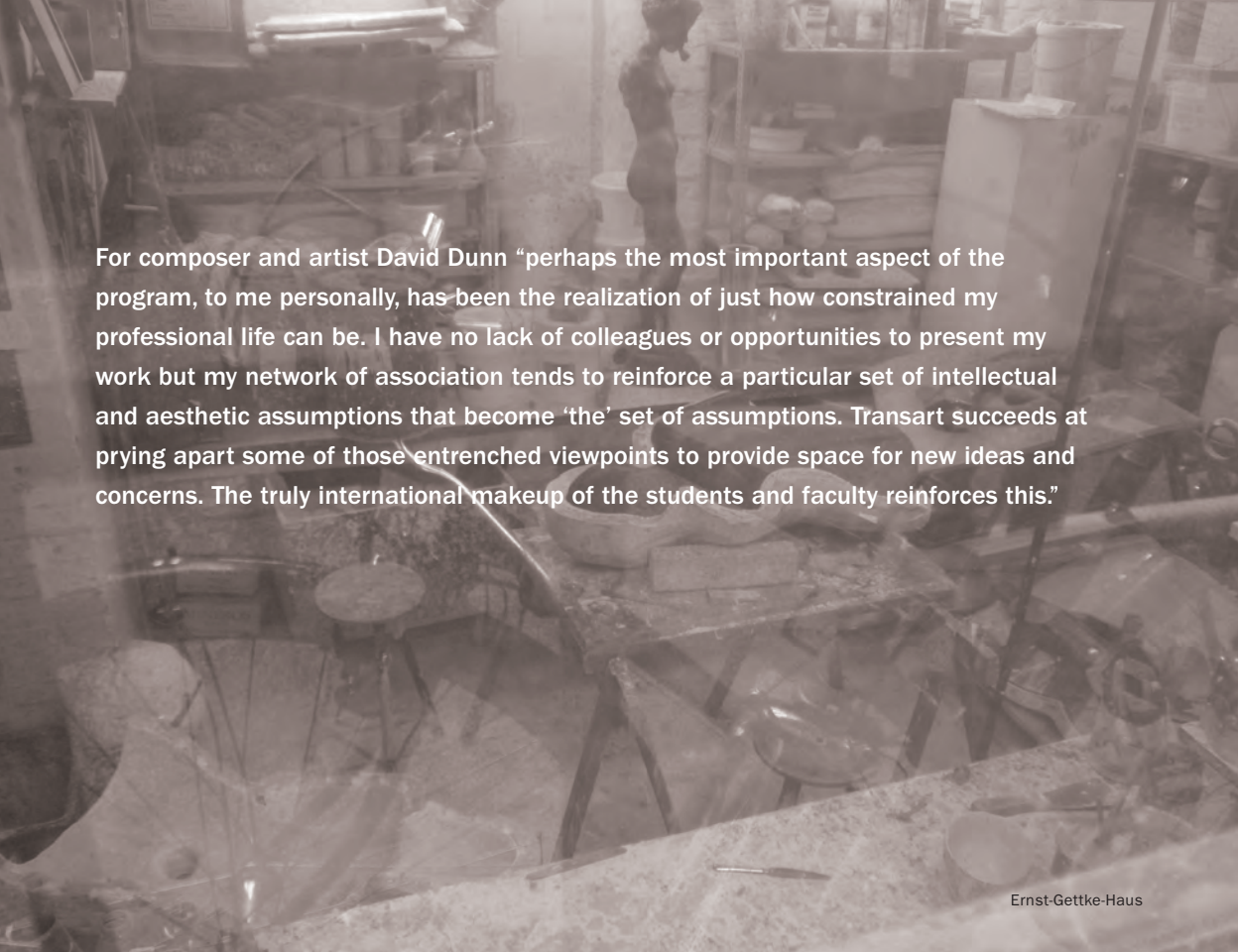
“The History of Forgetting, and the Nature of Laughing”, Jean Marie Casbarian, MFA, USA

“Framing a Practice”, Radhika Subramaniam, PhD, USA

“Broken Grammar”, Michael Bowdidge, PhD, UK ‘11/12

“The Index: Contemporary Taxonomist”, Mary Ting, MFA, China/USA, ‘11/12

Project planning, study and fieldwork, movement class, student, faculty and guest presentations and on the weekend:  
individual meetings, critique groups, field trips, and a film night.



For composer and artist David Dunn “perhaps the most important aspect of the program, to me personally, has been the realization of just how constrained my professional life can be. I have no lack of colleagues or opportunities to present my work but my network of association tends to reinforce a particular set of intellectual and aesthetic assumptions that become ‘the’ set of assumptions. Transart succeeds at prying apart some of those entrenched viewpoints to provide space for new ideas and concerns. The truly international makeup of the students and faculty reinforces this.”



August 1 – 7

“Reciting Sites: Performance, Public Monuments and Cultural Politics”, Myron Beasley, PhD, Brazil/USA

“Seeing and Writing”, Victoria Hindley, MFA, USA/Austria

“Work of Art as Analyst”, Laura Gonzalez, PhD, Spain/UK

“Art and/or Business as Usual”, Geoff Cox, PhD, UK/Denmark, Tatiana Bazzichelli, PhD, Italy/Denmark, and members  
DARC (Digital Aesthetics Research Centre)

“Cultural Translation”, Wolfgang Suetzl, PhD, Austria, ‘11/12

Project planning, study and fieldwork, movement class, student, faculty and guest presentations and on the weekend:  
individual meetings, critique groups, field trips, and Open Frame Night.

August 8 – 12


“Salad on the House”, Nicolás Dumit Estévez, MFA, Dominican Republic/USA

“High Fidelity: on Adaption, Re-enactment and Re-telling”, Ofri Cnaani, MFA, Israel/USA

“The Convergence of Sensation: Dialectic of the Eye and the Ear”, David Dunn, MFA, USA

“Intensities – Extended Body, Extended Voice”, Lynn Book, MFA, USA, ‘11/12

Project planning, study and fieldwork, movement class, student, faculty and guest presentations, picnic/open house,  
graduation ceremony and group dinner.



“Transart’s self-motivated structure made it possible for me to tailor the program and learning goals to my specific needs and interests while relying on a support system of peer critique and professional advice from faculty and mentors.” Markus Wernli Saito



## MPHIL AND PHD

YEAR 1: Summer residency research training and support study sessions week

Offsite: Develop proposal, critique group meetings and individual supervision

Winter residency support studies: research presentations, group and individual critiques, lectures

YEAR 2: Summer residency research training and support study sessions

Week 1: PhD research proposal presentation, first possible transfer to PhD registration from MPhil

Week 2: Seminar "Art as Research, Research as Art", critiques, lectures

Offsite: Development of practice-based research project, critique group meetings and individual supervision

Winter residency support studies: research presentations, group and individual critiques, lectures

YEAR 3: Summer residency research training and support study sessions

Week 1: PhD research proposal presentation,

Week 2: Seminar "Framing a Practice", critiques, lectures

Offsite: Completion of practice-based research project, critique group meetings and individual supervision

Winter residency support studies: research presentations, group and individual critiques, lectures

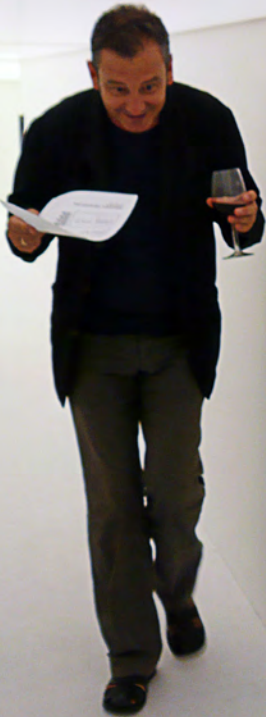
Final summer residency: Research result presentations, viva voce, pedagogical praxis seminar, lectures



Tanzfabrik courtyard. Photography and design by Transart students, faculty and alumni.



**CURRENT & PAST MFA FACULTY** Deborah Aschheim, MFA, US; Tatiana Bazzichelli, PhD, IT/DK; Myron Beasley, PhD, BR/US; Lynn Book, MFA, US; Michael Bowdidge, PhD, GB; Jeremy Beaudry, MFA, US; Jean Marie Casbarian, MFA, US; Cella, MFA, US; Ofri Cnaani, MFA, IL/US; Geoff Cox, PhD, GB/DK; Dorit Cypis, MFA IL/US; Rosina Santana Castelon, MFA, PR; Thomas Helyar-Cardwell, MA, GB; Gaye Chan, MFA, HK/US; Claire Daigle, PhD, US; David Dunn, MFA, US; Nicolás Dumit Estévez, MFA, DR/US; Laura Gonzalez, PhD, ES/GB; Carolyn Guertin, PhD, CA/US; Christopher Hewitt, BA, GB/DE; Victoria Hindley, MFA, US/AT; Leon Johnson, MFA, ZA/US; Klaus Knoll, PhD, AT/US; Heimo Lattner, MA, AT; Aaron Levy, MPhil, US/GB; Sophia Lycouris, PhD, GR/GB; Nancy Price, MFA, CA; Giaco Schiesser, CH; Gebhard Sengmüller, MA, AT; Nandita Sharma, PhD, CA/US; Radhika Subramaniam, PhD, US; Wolfgang Sützl, PhD, AT; Mary Ting, MFA, CN/US; Jeff Thompson, MFA, US; Ming Turner, PhD, GB/CN; Marjorie Vecchio, PhD, US; Thomas Zimmer, BFA, US. **MFA ADVISORS & GUEST SPEAKERS** Iole Alessandrini, MA, IT/US; Patrik Andersson, PhD, CA/US; Antonio Arroyo, PhD, US; Isak Berbic, MFA, RS/AE; Louise Lemieux Bérubé, BA, CA; Sarah Bennett, PhD, GB; Ruth Bianco, PhD, MT; Wafaa Bilal, MFA, IQ/US; Martina Corgnati, PhD, IT; Ellen Flanders, PhD, CA; Coco Fusco, MFA, US; Tina Gharavi, PhD, GB; Rafael Goldchain, MFA, CA; Derek Holzer, MFA, NL; Phillis Ideal MFA, US; Wilma Kiener, PhD, AT/DE; Christine Keith, MA, US; Stefan Keller, MFA, CH; Jan Korbes, MA, NL; Stephen Kovats CA/DE; Manuel Lima, MFA, US/GB; Juan Pablo Macias, MFA, MX/US; Liz Magor, BFA, CA; Chris Mann, AU/US; Helen Mirra, PhD, US; Linda M. Montano, MFA, US; Alison Nordström, PhD, US; Freya Olafson, MFA, IS/CA; Stewart Parker, MFA, GB/US; Christiane Paul, PhD, DE/US; Nancy Price, MFA, CA; Zoran Poposki, MFA, MK; Pierre Proske, BS, AU; Claudia Reinhardt, MFA, DE; Cate Rimmer, MA, GB; Kerry Schuss, MFA, US; Aili Schmeltz, US/FI; Dread Scott, BFA, US; Analia Segal, MFA, US; Igor Siddiqui, MA, US; Alec Soth, MFA, US; André Stitt, GB; Tom Stroud, BA, US; Anita Thacher, MFA, US; Dimitris Tzamouranis, GR; Jan Verwoert, MA, DE; Annette Weintraub, MFA, US; Debra Werblud, BA, US/IT; Wochenklausur, AT. **PHD FACULTY ADVISORS** Sarah Bennett, PhD, UK, Lynn Book, MFA, US, Michael Bowdidge, PhD, UK 2012, Jean Marie Casbarian, MFA, US, Ofri Cnaani, MFA, IL/US, Dorit Cypis, MFA, MA, IL/CA/US, Geoff Cox, PhD, UK/DK, David Dunn, MFA, US, Nicolás Dumit Estévez, MFA, DR/US, Victoria Hindley, MFA, US, Laura González, PhD, ES/UK, Klaus Knoll, PhD, AT/US, Radhika Subramaniam, PhD, US, Wolfgang Suetzl, PhD, AT, Mary Ting, MFA, US.



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