

SMS (School of Mobile Studies) FAG (Fine Art Group) is an art school where you can study simply by text messaging. You can register as a student of the school by texting your name to this number: +0. No special equipment or previous experience is necessary, all you need is a mobile phone subscription. Instructions will be sent to you as text messages, and also the certificate on completion of the course. The price of a message is 0.25 euro. It's easy and cheap. Why don't you give it a try?

01Sub01 Welcome to SMS/FAG!

Your student number is XXX. We will send you a series of text messages containing lectures that we expect you to comment on by texting us. You will also receive study assignments you can complete by texting. If you do not reply to the lectures and assignments, your course will be suspended until you do so. To begin your studies, send in your student number by SMS to the number +0. Thank you!

02Lec01 Rt history THE BEGINNING OF ART

The earliest evidence of artistic thinking in humans goes back 250,000 years. Art at that time was not a discipline, but a mixture of art, play and ritual. Its purpose was to make the invisible world visible and to give expression to things that were important to the community. Art made things particular. How is this apparent in contemporary art? Text in your reply to SMS.

03Tsk01

Make a work that mixes art, play and ritual. Send a description of your work by text message to SMS.

04Lec02 Rt history WESTERN EUROPE

In the Middle Ages, nearly all works of art belonged to rulers or religious institutions. Artists knew exactly what was expected of them. As society became more secular, galleries, collectors and critics began to intervene between artists and their audience. This signalled the birth of the art world, and art became something done by experts. Artists began making art for art's sake. What do you think about making art for art's sake (*L'art pour l'art*)? Text in your reply to SMS.

05Tsk02

Make a work of art for the president and for a religious leader in your country. What is your message to them? Send a summary of your message by texting to SMS.

06Lec03 Rt history CURRENT SITUATION

In the beginning of the 20th century, art in Western Europe was searching for new forms of expression. The search was inspired by new scientific theories, new technologies, foreign cultures and spiritual experiences. Western art broke up into different movements, each with its own followers. Today anything is art that an artist declares as such and the art world agrees to exhibit as art. What do you think about such a definition of art? Text in your reply to SMS.

07Tsk03

Choose an object and give reasons as to why it is a work of art. When you have listed your reasons, try to sell it as art. Send a text message to SMS and tell us about the object you chose, your grounds for considering it as art and your success in selling it.

08Lec04 Rt theory THINKING BODY

Thinking is a bodily action, because the brain we use for thinking is an inseparable part of our body. Art too is always bodily, because we experience art through our senses and sensory perceptions are processed by the brain. In spite of its sensory and bodily aspects, there are also non-bodily conceptions and meanings in art. How can we reconcile conceptuality and the body? Text in your reply to SMS.

09Tsk04

I think, therefore I am. Try to make a work of art using nothing but thoughts. Send a text message to SMS telling us how you succeeded.

#### 10Lec05 Rt theory CONCEPT

Concepts and ideas occupy an important place in contemporary art. Sometimes they can be even more important than traditional media in art. A work of art can consist of nothing but a concept, and its only material aspect is the documentary evidence of the concept. Conceptuality has expanded the artist's work into the field of philosophy. How is philosophy manifested in visual art? Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 11Tsk05

First, create a work that is composed of concepts and give it a title. Then give the work another title. How did the retitling change the work and the meaning of the concepts that gave rise to it? Send your reply by text message to SMS.

#### 12Lec06 Rt theory INTERTEXTUALITY

Intertextuality means the references to other texts contained in a text. In visual arts, intertextuality takes the form of direct or indirect allusions to other works of art or to texts. Intertextuality is associated with interdisciplinarity in science and art, and the combination of different disciplines together. Think of an example of intertextuality. Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 13Tsk06

Illustrate a religious text or work with pictures taken from a mail order catalogue. What does the work look like? How does it differ from traditional illustrations of holy texts? Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 14Lec07 Rt theory GENDER

The term gender refers to socially conditioned gender as opposed to sex. Gender is closely connected to identity, which is one of the central themes in contemporary art. The exploration of gender raises the issue of different combinations of biological and social gender, with new interpretations of gender being introduced alongside traditional ideas. How does an artist's sex or gender affect his or her art? Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 15Tsk07

Spend a day in the role and clothes of the opposite sex. Make a work from your experience and tell us about it in a text message.

#### 16Lec08 Rt theory PERFORMANCE

In performance art, the work consists of the artist's presence and actions in a certain place. A performance can take place anywhere and at any time. It can be any kind of situation, as long as it involves four elements: time, place, the artist's body and interaction between the artist and the audience. A performance can be of any duration. How does performance art differ from theatre? Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 17Tsk08

The main thing in action and doing is movement itself, not who moves. Therefore it differs from theatrical acting, where the actor is central. Create a performance that is based on doing instead of acting. Send a description of your performance to SMS in a text message.

#### 18Lec09 Rt theory INTERVENTION

An intervention in art is a reaction or comment to some existing work. An intervention can also challenge some particular work, theme or audience expectations. An intervention can be understood as an action whereby the artist appropriates a situation to express his or her own view. What interventions can you find in the media? Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 19Tsk09

Try to gain access to some medium, newspaper, radio, television or the Internet, and carry out your own artistic intervention there. Tell us about it in a text message to SMS.

#### 20Lec10 Rt theory COMMUNITY ART

In community art the artist works with a community or a group of people. The community participates in the making of the artwork. Community art raises the question of who is the author of a work, when the work is finished, and what a work of art ultimately consists of. It also asks for what purpose and for whom is art made. Who do you think art is made for? Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 21Tsk10

Gather a group. Plan and create together a work of art and share it with others. Send a text message to SMS and tell us how democratic the project was.

#### 22Lec11 Rt theory PUBLIC SPACE

Works of art have always been put up in public places, squares and plazas. Today artists are also interested in less glamorous places such as underground train stations, toilets, alleys, bars. At the same time, they challenge our notions about who the public space belongs to, who decides what can be exhibited in public and what it can be like. What do you think? Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 23Tsk11

Interview people in some public place. Create a work from the interviews and exhibit it in the location where you carried them out. Send us a text message telling how people reacted.

#### 24Lec12 Rt theory SITE-SPECIFIC ART

In site-specific art, the artist takes into account the place where the work is to be shown while planning it. The place or the environment is an inseparable aspect of the work and its meanings in site-specific art. Find a site-specific work and tell us how its surroundings affect the meaning and interpretation of the piece. Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 25Tsk12

Design a work that can exist only in some specific place in the world and that reveals its real meaning only in that particular place. Describe the work in a text message and send it to SMS.

#### 26Lec13 Rt theory DECONSTRUCTION

Deconstruction is a critical way of reading that seeks to reveal hidden contradictions in ideas and conceptions, and to show the variability of language and meaning. Meaning does not exist in the sense of a clear-cut absolute category. Everything cultural is constructed by man and therefore it can also be deconstructed and reinterpreted. Give an example of deconstruction. Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 27Tsk13

Select some object as a starting point of your work. Break up the object into the smallest possible parts and put it back together in a new way. Send a text message to SMS and tell us how the object changed in the process.

#### 28Lec14 Pic analysis READING IMAGES

Examining a work of art, we must consider what it is made of, what its themes are, and where and how it is exhibited. All viewers also receive the work in their own way, depending on their personal history and life situation. Compare a work and its printed reproduction. How do they differ? Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 29Tsk14

Look at the same work when you are sober, drunk, glad, sad, angry or in love. How is your experience and the meaning of the work affected by your emotional state of mind and bodily feeling? Report your observations by text message to SMS.

### 30Lec15 Pic analysis FORM

In a formal analysis of a work of art, only relevant features are considered. The significant forms of the work are analysed next, those that create the mood of the piece. The work is considered as a "pure" image onto which viewers project their own meanings and interpretations later. In your opinion, what is the point of formal analysis? Text in your reply to SMS.

### 31Tsk15

Analyse an advertisement in a newspaper as if it were a work of art. Did you manage to analyse only its formal qualities? What was the most difficult thing in the analysis? Send your reply by text message to SMS.

### 32Lec16 Pic analysis CONTENT

Content and form are often closely linked in a work of art and it is difficult to consider them separately. Objective examination is also impossible: the viewer always changes the thing that is viewed. In art, emptiness is never empty, just as an untitled work is never nameless. Is this possible? If it is, how? If not, why not? Text in your reply to SMS.

### 33Tsk16

Dreams in their immateriality are pure content. Analyse a dream of your own as a work of art. What did you notice? Send your reply by text message to SMS.

### 34Lec17 Pic analysis CONTEXT

Art is an open concept which defies exhaustive definition. Art can be considered a kind of game or play where someone first suggests something and then another person comments on it. Art is in a continuous state of change, defining itself. A work of art also receives part of its meaning by existing in an art-historical continuum. Give an example of this. Text in your reply to SMS.

### 35Tsk17

Nature does not express anything, it is pure form. A natural object is not a work of art by itself unless the artist does something to it, such as moving it to a gallery. Take a natural object and place it on a shelf in different shops. What kinds of meanings does the object get in different places when it is disconnected from its original context? Send your reply by text message to SMS.

### 36Lec18 Tech THE BOUNDARIES OF ART

Fine art is traditionally divided into three disciplines: painting, graphic art and sculpture. This division is no longer relevant, as artists have adopted new techniques and are combining together different areas of art. The division into genres has also broken down, and so has the division into high and low art. How can we tell that this is so? Text in your reply to SMS.

### 37Tsk18

A total work of art (*Gesamtkunstwerk*) brings together different disciplines, seeking to attain a maximum total impact on all the senses. Make your own total work of art which employs different senses, different genres and areas of art. Send a description of the work by text message to SMS.

### 38Lec19 Tech REPETITION

Repetition is a device that is used to reinforce the message of an artwork. Repetition and continuity are also vital aspects of ritual. On the other hand, repetition can also make a thing banal, like all the countless replicas of the Eiffel Tower. Paradoxically, repetition both ritualises and demystifies its object. What do the replicas of the Eiffel Tower stand for? Text in your reply to SMS.

### 39Tsk19

Make a work in which you gather, copy or repeat something as many times as possible. What happened in the process? Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 40Lec20 Tech SCALE

The natural sciences study things ranging in size from 10 to the power of  $10^{-22}$  to 10 to the power of 23 metres. Artists too work with different scales. In spaces of all sizes, works have been made as big or as small as possible, depending on the artist's or the contractor's intentions. A work of art can show things very close by or very far away. Give an example of a macroscopic or microscopic work. Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 41Tsk20

Make a work by enlarging or reducing an object of your choice. How did the change in scale change the object? Send your reply by text message to SMS.

#### 42Lec21 Tech HYBRID

In biology, a hybrid is a cross between two species. In post-colonial theory, hybrid refers to things and phenomena that were created when the cultures of the conquerors and of the conquered blended together. Hybrids challenge the permanence of mainstream culture, reminding us that there is no return to paradise. Tell us about some cultural hybrid. Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 43Tsk21

Ready-mades (*Objet trouvé*) are works that are made using existing objects. Make a ready-made work by combining two existing objects that represent different cultures. Send a description of the finished piece by text message to SMS.

#### 44Lec22 Tech MICROHISTORY

Official histories tell about events from the winner's perspective. By contrast, microhistory tells about events from the individual's point of view. It tells about the importance of everyday life and about the individual's experience in society. Tell us about some event where official history and an individual's experience are different. Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 45Task22

Make a work where you explore the way in which some historical event has affected your life. Send a description of the event and the work by text message to SMS.

#### 46Lec23 Colour DEFINITION OF COLOUR

Colour is electromagnetic radiation whose wavelength is between 350 and 700 nm. There is an infinite number of colours. Black and white are not actually colours: a black surface does not reflect light of any colour and white is a mixture of all colours. The human perception of colour is always subjective. Also the experience of colour is subjective. How do different people define the colour turquoise? Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 47Tsk23

Look at artworks in a museum through differently coloured sunglasses. Make a work of your own based on the experience. Send a description of it by text message to SMS.

#### 48Lec24 Colour VISIBLE LIGHT

Light is that part of the electromagnetic spectrum which is visible to the human eye. Its wavelength is from 350 to 700 nm. The human eye sees yellow or yellow-green light best. Ultraviolet light, X-rays and gamma rays have a shorter wavelength, while infrared, microwaves and radio waves have a longer wavelength. Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 49Tsk24

Look at a rainbow. What order are the colours in? Can you see all visible colours in it? Make a work using visible light. Send a description of the work by text message to SMS.

#### 50Lec25 Colour INFRA AND ULTRA

In a rainbow, after violet comes ultraviolet and after red comes infrared. Man has built devices that can also make these wavelengths visible to the human eye. When they study works of art, conservators use infrared and ultraviolet photos that reveal more things about the artworks. Find such photos and compare them to the original work. What did you notice? Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 51Tsk25

Look at heat camera pictures. What forms do they produce? Wear white clothes and go to a nightclub that has UV lights. Which materials reflect UV light best? Make a work that must be seen in infrared or UV light. Send your replies by text message to SMS.

#### 52Lec26 Colour DARK MATTER

The universe is not made only of visible matter. Astronomers have concluded that there must also exist invisible dark matter in the universe, accounting for an estimated 90% of all matter. In other words, the visible matter of which we and our galaxy are made is in a minority in the universe. How does this affect your idea of the world? Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 53Tsk26

Go to an observatory and look at galaxies with the telescope. Astronomers have calculated that there is a lot of dark matter along the edges of galaxies, slowing down their rate of rotation. Try to picture dark matter. Make a work that can only be observed indirectly. Send a description of the work by text message to SMS.

#### 54Lec27 Composition CHAOS AND ORDER

Artists have always used mathematics and randomness in their work. An interesting work of art should be neither too predictable nor too random. It also forms a coherent whole. Complexity increases the intensity of the work. There must not be too much complexity or the coherence of the work suffers. This reduces the intensity created by complexity and coherence. How does this appear in practice? Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 55Tsk27

First make a work where you use some mathematical formula, and then another where you use randomness. How do the results of these two approaches differ? Send your reply by text message to SMS.

#### 56Lec28 Composition COHERENCE

Man is considered a coherent creation, a kind of image of God, the ideal against which comparison is made. It is a state of affairs, a goal. One may pretend to have attained it, even though this is not the case. On the other hand, it is the departure from the ideal, the flaw, which makes us unique individuals. Who defines this human ideal? Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 57Tsk28

Children are taught in school to write longhand, which is a cultural contract of what legible writing should look like. The goal is to learn the shape of letters, a kind of ideal ABC. Yet handwriting that differs from the model is called personal. Make a work that explores this contradiction between the ideal and the flawed. Send a description of the work by text message to SMS.

#### 58Lec29 Composition COMPLEXITY

Chaos theorists study limits where a system becomes so complex that it crashes. Weather for example is so complex that it is impossible to predict: a small change somewhere that can lead to great changes somewhere else. In art, complexity creates tension and can itself serve as content. How does the complexity of different systems affect your life? Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 59Tsk29

Make an extremely complex work. Send a description of the work by text message to SMS.

#### 60Lec30 Composition INTENSITY

When a movie sweeps us along, we forget time and place. We can thank scriptwriters and psychologists for this, but also ancient Greek poetics, according to which tension is created when a moral person makes a fateful mistake and faces peril. The tension grows with sudden turns of the plot and when situations are recognised, and is resolved in the end. How can this be applied in visual art? Text in your reply to SMS.

#### 61Tsk30

Make a work that examines intensity in everyday life and send a description of it by text message to SMS.

#### 62Flwk1 CHOICE OF TOPIC

Congratulations, you have completed the basic module of SMS/FAG studies! All that remains now is your diploma work. If you cannot think of a topic or theme, take a dictionary, open it at random and choose a word with your eyes closed: there's your topic. When you know your topic, send it by text message to SMS.

#### 63Flwk2 CHOICE OF MEDIUM

Next you will have to decide how you want to make your diploma work. Remember that you can always ask your friends for help. A work of art does not have to be physically produced by the artist him/herself. When you know your medium, let us know by text message to SMS.

#### 64Flwk3 SCHEDULE

Draw up a schedule for the realisation of your work: when you can start working on it, when it will be finished and when you will exhibit it. Reserve one day for the diploma seminar. When you know the schedule, send it by text message to SMS.

#### 65Flwk4 FUNDING

Draw up a budget for your diploma work. If you don't have enough money, revise your plans or find out about available grants and apply for them. Send your budget by text message to SMS.

#### 66Flwk5 VENUE

Find a place where you can exhibit your diploma work. You can ask about galleries or other places that have art exhibitions. If you cannot find any other place, hold your graduation exhibition at home or in a public space. Remember to send a text message to SMS telling us your choice of venue.

#### 67Flwk6 PRESS

Write a press release about your diploma work. This also doubles as the written part of your work. When you have finished the release, send it to as many newspapers, radio stations and TV channels as you can. Remember to send a copy of your press release by text message to SMS.

#### 68Flwk7 OPENING

Plan your exhibition opening. What you will wear and what you will serve at the opening are important. Design an invitation that you can send by text message to everyone you want to invite to your opening. Send one invitation for the archives of SMS.

#### 69Flwk8 SEMINAR

Invite people you respect to see your diploma work and to discuss it with you. Send a summary of the main points of the discussion to SMS.

#### 70Flwk9 DOCUMENTATION

Photograph your diploma work before you dismantle the exhibition. Send the digital photos (max. five photos, max. 500 kB/photo) of your work to [www.smsfag.org](http://www.smsfag.org).

#### 71Dipl DIPLOMA

Congratulations! You have completed the basic study module of SMS/FAG and have successfully held a diploma show. You have attended 30 lectures and kept a lecture diary. You have also completed 30 study assignments, participated in seven distance diploma tutoring sessions and have organised a diploma seminar, reporting it to SMS. Good luck and success in your career as an artist!