

TRANSCULTURAL  
COLLABORATION



**ANNOUNCEMENT 2017  
INTERNATIONAL MA SEMESTER PROGRAM  
IN THE ARTS AND DESIGN  
PRINCIPAL VENUE: HONG KONG**





„For me, TC 2016 was an immensely important experience beyond an academic curriculum. One of the most intense semesters of my studies, changing perspectives by pushing me out of my comfort zone. Making me creative in new ways by collaborating with students from different cultures and backgrounds. All this in the inspiring and unique setting of Hong Kong, a city between total freedom and repression, trying to stay in control while being dragged through global development.“

**Daniel Eaton, MA Music Pedagogy/Jazz, ZHdK**



„It triggered so much of my hidden personality while working with people who are unpredictably different.“

**Zhang Xiaofei, MA Cinema Production/Directing, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts**



„In a sense we collaborate to unlearn. I had a lot of stereotypes about China, but where were they after Transcultural Collaboration? In the recycling center! Haha. You expect this, according your education and then it's not this. It's a surprise!“

**Léo Collin, MA Composition and Theory, ZHdK**





„I had the chance to meet a very inspiring Asian collaboration partner with whom I still continue working today and through whom I learned a lot. Exchanges with people of other cultures are very demanding but also very enriching, as they can really hold you up a mirror in a way no one of your own culture could - and it's not always nice to look into it.“

**Nina Williman, Choreographer, MA Transdisciplinary Studies, ZHdK**



„Platform of differentiation: Five mates in our group came from different countries (Switzerland, Netherlands, Korea, Mexico, China) and majors (Design, Fine Arts, Film, Theater, Curating). We have had different methodologies, starting from similar interests in the human body. We worked hard, played hard. And now we are close friends.“

**Jiecong Men, MA Contemporary Art / Curating, China Academy of Art, Hangzhou**





# ANNOUNCEMENT 2017 INTERNATIONAL MA SEMESTER PROGRAM IN THE ARTS AND DESIGN PRINCIPAL VENUE: HONG KONG

We are pleased to announce the 3rd edition of our **transcultural and cross-disciplinary graduate program** in the arts and design. This unique format enables students from the participating partner institutions to spend one semester in a challenging collaborative setting. The program is based mainly in **Hong Kong** and includes stays in **Zurich and Singapore**.

## PROFILE

We are convinced that encountering and debating transcultural issues is **essential for contemporary art and design practitioners** to be prepared for their future (professional) life. Today's world requires artists and designers to critically reflect on manifold issues and questions within a **global framework**. They are challenged to **position and distinguish themselves** within different political, social, economic, and cultural contexts and must build the knowledge needed to produce and expose their work in a dynamic transnational environment.

Under these global conditions, the arts and design require not only professional expertise, but the ability to negotiate **the diversity of global cultures and societies**. Our MA semester program aims precisely to develop the transcultural sensitivity needed and it allows students to gain **advanced skills and a certificate** in this field. The program also enables participants to establish their international **network** within a vibrant metropolitan environment.

## PROGRAM

The program has two central characteristics that can be experienced and explored only in this setting. Its general focus are **transcultural topics**, such as traditions, identity, values, hybridisation, different forms of life, or power structures, **globalization processes in general and between Europe and East Asia in particular**. Their social and cultural sensitivity makes art and design practices ideally suited to contributing to transcultural discourse and to expressing a variety of topics through aesthetic means. Hong Kong is predestined as an **exemplary location** within this thematic context.

The program's second important focus is **practical cross-disciplinary collaboration** between different cultures and forms of art. This principal working method promotes intense exchange about and first-hand experience of transcultural issues. It also helps participants to **further differentiate and extend their own discipline**. Students receive close supervision and expert support from selected faculty from all partner institutions and from independent artists and experts from various art and design disciplines.

The program begins with a 3-week stay in Zurich before continuing for three months in Hong Kong. While the core program is dedicated to practice-based collaboration and teamwork on self-defined topics, **theoretical inputs** will enable participants to critically reflect on transculturality, and thereby gain further insights into this pressing issue. Special **practical workshops** with renowned artists and a **field trip to Singapore** complete the program. The last week of the semester is reserved for **public presentations** in Hong Kong.

## SEMESTER DATES

**Autumn/Winter 2017**

21 August – 1 December 2017, 15 weeks

## PARTICIPANTS

The program offers places to **30 MA students** of the **participating partner institutions** (approx. 10 from ZHdK) from a wide range of art and design disciplines including **performing arts, music, fine arts, media arts, design, and art education**. Emphasis is placed on a good mixture of disciplines.



## ADMISSION CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS

- A genuine interest in and willingness to identify and analyze transcultural questions
- An ability and interest to work in teams whose members come from different cultural and disciplinary backgrounds
- A willingness to expose oneself and one's work, to engage in critical reflection, to experiment and take artistic and research-based risks, and to participate full-time in the semester program
- Good English skills

## CREDITS

Students remain enrolled in their home MA programs. ZHdK students will be awarded ECTS (in consultation with the head of their respective MA program)

## STUDENT COSTS ZHDK

- Tuition fees: Regular home institution semester fees
- Accommodation Hong Kong: Covered by ZHdK
- Travel Expenses:
  - a. Return flight Zurich - Hong Kong – Zurich;
  - b. Return flight Hong Kong – Singapore – Hong Kong; Total: 1'200.00 CHF (approx.)

## TEACHING FACULTY

Lecturers and artists from Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Singapore, and Europe. Faculty come from various arts and design disciplines and a range of academic backgrounds.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

- Letter of motivation (1-2 pages in English)
- CV
- Interview

**Submission deadline for letter of motivation and CV:**

**3 APRIL 2017**

Please send all application documents to:

**Karin Wegmann**

karin.wegmann@zhdk.ch

Administrator Connecting Spaces Hong Kong – Zurich

Interviews will be conducted in April 2016

Final confirmation of participation by 27 April 2016

## PARTNERS

- China Academy of Art, Intermedia Arts, Hangzhou/China, <http://eng.caa.edu.cn>
- Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA), [www.hkapa.edu](http://www.hkapa.edu)
- Taipei National University of the Arts, Taiwan, [www.tnua.edu.tw](http://www.tnua.edu.tw)
- City University of Hong Kong, School of Creative Media, [www.scm.cityu.edu.hk](http://www.scm.cityu.edu.hk)
- LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore, <http://www.lasalle.edu.sg>
- Hong Kong Baptist University, Academy of Visual Arts, <http://ava.hkbu.edu.hk>
- Zurich University of the Arts, Switzerland [www.zhdk.ch](http://www.zhdk.ch)

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For a personal talk or any questions at any time, please contact:

**Daniel Späti**

Head of Connecting Spaces Hong Kong - Zurich

Head of Transcultural Collaboration

[daniel.spaeti@zhdk.ch](mailto:daniel.spaeti@zhdk.ch)

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## INFORMAL INFORMATION EVENT

Meet former participants, get an impression of their work and experiences, enjoy some live performances, music and have a drink:

**Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 18.00 – 23.00, 5.K12 (Kunstraum), Toni Areal**

## DOCUMENTATION TRANSCULTURAL COLLABORATION 2015/2016\*

[www.transculturalcollaboration.com](http://www.transculturalcollaboration.com)







„I had so many doubts that challenged me, made me reflect but also react and search for clear proposals, “signatures” and approaches. Locations, people and equipment were mixed together in order to create a safe “laboratory of collaborations.” This program is a call to experience the difference, to break down given paradigmas, and it will for sure affect my practice from now on.”

**Jesica Bastidas, MA Theatre, Accademia Teatro Dimitri**



„The beauty is the difference among the participants. That inevitable conflict based on cultural, aesthetic, and political experience out to be deemed as material for art work. It shouldn’t be regarded as a road of impossibilities but as sources of uniqueness. Get the ass off the comfort zone and experience the other you through mirroring yourself into others.”

**Mbene Mbunga Mwambene, MA Theatre, Hochschule der Künste Bern**



„I am not exaggerating when I say the semester program completely changed my way of creative working. To get in touch with people from different cultures and disciplines, to learn from and to teach each other, to work, laugh and fight, to become friends, that’s what „Transcultural Collaboration” felt like.”

**Simon Dietersdorfer, MA Composition for Film, Theatre and Media, ZHdK**



