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# ART AND DESIGN DEPARTMENT





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It is impossible not to be inspired by and be in awe of the beauty that permeates the city of Florence. Beauty is everywhere in Florence: in the landscape, in the monuments, in every single work in the famous and lesser-known museums, in the food and in the lifestyle. Walking around the city can be considered an artistic experience in itself: the objective of our Art and Design courses is to raise our students' awareness of this all-pervasive beauty and to teach them to transfer it into their creations, be they drawings, sculptures, paintings, fabrics, or photographs. AEF will provide its students with a creative environment of rigorous technical level, while connecting them with the unique cultural resources of Florence, to prepare them for careers in the artistic fields or support them accomplishing their own passion.

## OUR COURSES

Our Art and Design courses are organized into three main categories: Applied Arts, Art Theory and History, Fashion and Design, whether students want to study the academic side of Art, Fashion and Design, or if they prefer the practical side of it.

**APPLIED ARTS:** Florence is a living, 3-D encyclopedia that is brimming with artistic inspiration. For this reason on-site classes and visits to museums and places of interest play a huge role in the Applied Arts courses. AEF Applied Arts students are encouraged to walk around the city and learn from what they see in front of them.

- WATERCOLOUR
- SKETCHING
- STUDIO DRAWING
- PAINTING
- CERAMICS
- MODELLING
- PAPER RESTORATION
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- MINDFULNESS SKILLS FOR ART PERFORMERS

**ART THEORY AND HISTORY:** The name of Florence is immediately associated to one of the most incredible periods in Art History: the Renaissance. And during the Renaissance, the city was home to some of the most remarkable events of artistic creativity: Brunelleschi, Masaccio, Donatello, Ghiberti, Botticelli, Raffaello, Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo lived and created their masterpieces here. How could this happen in a single city? Through learning about the history of a city so dense in culture, students will suddenly have a new, more informed perspective on the artworks that they walk past every day. For the experience of studying in the city will offer them the unique opportunity to learn and understand why those buildings and monuments were conceived and realized in a particular context: Florence's beauty and mystery will uncover in front of their eyes!

- THE HISTORY OF ART: *Audiences of Art*
- THE HISTORY OF ART: *Reading and Writing, Art Criticism*
- THE HISTORY OF ANTIQUES

**FASHION AND DESIGN:** As the city where fashion began in the 50s with the Pitti Fashion Show in the Sala Bianca, Florence is the ideal setting for students looking to learn more about design, or cul-



tivate their already established skills. From just walking down streets such as Via Tornabuoni, with its world-famous brands, or visiting the small ateliers and artisans' workshops around the city, students can take inspiration and transfer it into their own work in the AEF classroom, under the guidance of an experienced faculty.

- TEXTILE DESIGN
- DRAPING
- INTERIOR DESIGN
- THE HISTORY OF FASHION

## SEMESTERS, SHORT TERMS AND TAILOR-MADE COURSES

Our Art and Design courses are available all year round, and can be taken in conjunction with semesters abroad, or alongside Italian language classes. With the flexibility of being able to choose when to start and for how long to stay, students can create their own tailor-made courses to suit their schedules and needs. All our courses embrace a full cultural immersion, because our aim is to make students feel they are citizens, not tourists.

Daily 'after-school' recreational activities programmes involving students, teachers and staff, contribute to making the experience more exciting and enriching.

## AEF'S BACHELOR-LEVEL SEMESTERS IN FINE ARTS

The AEF three-year practice-based Fine Arts Bachelor-Level Semesters focus on mastering the fundamentals of drawing and painting, while looking at the future as contemporary artists. Masterpieces of artists such as Giotto, Botticelli, Leonardo Da Vinci and Michelangelo hang across Florence, and they are only the highlights of an incredibly rich visual arts tradition that still is very present and a constant inspiration all over the city. This creates a unique environment and an opportunity to learn about the artists' craft and technique while in continuous dialogue with them.

The Fine Arts Bachelor-Level Semesters prepare students for professional careers in art, through using a variety of materials and techniques, studying color theory, and playing with form, structure and proportion. All of this is supported by an integrated theory program that enables them to explore personal ideas, develop an artistic language and understand the cultural position of their work in relation to historical and contemporary painting starting from the European and the Italian styles and fundamentals. The outcome is a unique learning and path, with continuous verification of the abilities and skills of the students.

The course is taught by experienced artists and theorists in the school's studios, within a lively art school community. Internationally known visiting speakers enrich the curriculum. Students complete their studies by participating in the School's exhibitions, which take place regularly along the semester. As well as the art studios within our school, lessons are often taught 'on site', so that students can fully benefit from the inspiration that surrounds them in the city of Florence. Activities may include sketching in the city, visiting museums and gardens, or seeing exhibitions.

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"Decanter" design by  
Leonardo Rossano and Debora Mansur

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## OUR TEACHERS:

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### **ANGELA BALDI - DRAPING**

Angela Baldi began her creative research around 1990, creating personal clothing, specifically designed for tailor-made wear. Since 1995 she has established her studio - workshop in the historic center of Florence, indispensable place of her roots and cultural traditions. Angela Baldi's works of superior craftsmanship have been included by the City of Florence amongst the "Florentine excellence" of Art Fashion. Angela collaborates regularly with the major city institutions and the Università di Firenze.

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### **ELIZABETH BUTLER - THE HISTORY OF ART: Audiences of Art**

Born in Virginia (USA), Elizabeth obtained a degree in Renaissance Art from Syracuse University in Florence with a thesis on "Women's art production in convents". Her research into women artists in convents is ongoing. With a myriad of study and work experiences abroad she also obtained a tourist guide diploma for the city and province of Florence where she also works as a lecturer in numerous museums.

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### **CRISTINA CASINI - STUDIO DRAWING, SKETCHING, MODELLING**

Cristina Casini graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts of Carrara (sculpture section); an artist and sculptor, she lives and works in Florence where she also teaches drawing, modelling and sketching courses at the Accademia Europea di Firenze. In her work, the ongoing search for renewal in art aims to highlight the relationship between the artwork and the context, revealing unexpected harmonies between creation and everyday life.

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### **VALENTINA DOLARA - MINDFULNESS SKILLS FOR ART PERFORMERS**

With a Law Degree from the University of Florence, Valentina began her work in Human Rights, completing her training at the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in Geneva and the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg. She then expanded her range of interests to Mindfulness practices, studying at the Santa Barbara Institute for Consciousness Studies and Greater Good Center of Berkeley University and collaborating with the University of Florence and Toronto.

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### **LAURA FENELLI - THE HISTORY OF ART: Reading and Writing, Art Criticism**

Having obtained an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Medieval History at Università degli Studi di Bologna, Laura went on to conduct research as a Postdoctoral Fellow in prestigious universities throughout Europe. Her research activities include 'Saints' Iconography between Middle Ages and Early Modern Times' and 'Tracing the devotional topography of the Miraculous Image in Post-Tridentine Europe'. She is an accomplished author and contributor to books, school manuals, articles and peer-reviewed publications.

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## OUR TEACHERS:

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**ERNST KARL JORNS - TEXTILE DESIGN, THE HISTORY OF ANTIQUES, THE HISTORY OF FASHION**  
Karl studied architecture in Rio de Janeiro and textile design at the International Fashion Institute (Polimoda) in Florence. He has extensive experience in the creation and realization of garments, accessories and costumes, as well as in the field of photography. Since 1995 he has been teaching at Polimoda, at the Fabric Museum of Prato, and in numerous American programs.

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**DARIO ORLANDI - PHOTOGRAPHY**  
A professional photographer since 2003, Dario has worked with leading newspapers such as *La Repubblica* and *L'Unità*, as well as prestigious agencies including the Massimo Sestini Newspictures Agency. His photos appear regularly in the most important Italian and foreign magazines. He has taken part in numerous exhibitions including his own one-man show at the Fratelli Alinari Museum in Florence. He has teaching photography since 2006.

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**LEONARDO ROSSANO - INTERIOR DESIGN**  
Architect and designer, Leonardo graduated in Florence in 1991. During the nineties he collaborated with architect Claudio Nardi in projects for private homes, public areas and boutiques. Since 1998 he has been working as a freelancer, designing furniture, products, and exhibition spaces, with focus on the corporate image and communication.





ACCADEMIA EUROPEA DI FIRENZE  
Via Cavour, 37 - 50129 Florence - Italy  
Tel: + 39 055 21 15 99 | Fax + 39 055 239 99 94  
*Skype: accademiaeuropeafirenze*  
*info@aefirenze.it*  
*www.aefirenze.it*