KONSTFACK
Department of Konst

COURSE SYLLABUS

Artist-run: practice and theory

Konstnärsdrivet: praktik och teori

7,5 credits / 7,5 högskolepoäng

1. Main course content:

The course *Artist-run: practice and theory* provides an introduction to the practical skills and theoretical issues of the self-organised art scene. The course gives an overview of the key concepts and formation of the artist-run sector, skills in starting and managing an artist-run initiative, and the capacity to navigate within the contemporary international artist-run scene.

Self-organised, artist-run art initiatives – initiatives run by artists – are characteristic of their non-institutional way of organisation, flat hierarchy and often experimental formats. They comprise a widespread and important part of the contemporary art scene, yet their visibility and awareness of their function in the art sector remain low. Artist-run initiatives exist all over the world in a variety of formats and structures. The course will give an overview of their common motivations, goals and issues as well as provide examples of different types of activities and organisational forms.

In the duration of the course we will look at different forms of grant support and ways to start and run an artist-run initiative in various formats. Presentations will be delivered by invited art professionals on the international cooperation of self-organised activities, work methods and organisation and shared issues and visions.

The course includes an introduction to all practical matters of running an artist-run project: programme development, curatorial approaches, organisational forms, fundraising, logo and branding, press, work with social media, newsletters, event listings and connecting locally and internationally.

The course is a part of Artist-Run Network Europe (ARNE), a European project with focus on artist-run initiatives co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union. ARNE aims to strengthen the self-organised artist-run sector in Europe with focus on local and international cooperation. From October 2020 to April 2023 the project will host a range of activities, including exhibitions, conferences, workshops and lectures. Among others, the project will involve students from the art schools HDK Berlin, SRH Berlin University of Applied Sciences, Berlin School of Popular Arts and the Royal Academy of Fine Art in The Hague.

2. Intended learning outcomes:

After completion of the course the student will be equipped with the capacity to:

- Work in project planning, organisation- and production processes within the artist-run sector.
- Apply practical knowledge in curating an exhibition or exhibition programme.
- Describe concepts and the background of the artist-run sector.
- Navigate within the different types of artist-run initiatives around Europe and internationally.
- Account for different forms of grant applications and ways to start and run an association.
- Reflect upon common motivation, issues, goals and questions of the artist-run sector.
- Analyse the different approaches and methods of working within the artist-run sector.
- Reflect on their own and others' strategies and how one's own artistic practice can be expanded through self-organisation.

3. Entry requirements:
60 credits in Arts, Crafts, Design, Curation or other subject relevant to the course.
Additionally, proficiency is required in English equivalent to Swedish upper secondary school English Course 6 (English course B).

4. Grading scale:
The course uses the grading scale Fail (U) or Pass (G).

5. Forms of examination:

Active participation in theoretical seminars and other course activities.
Participation in discussions and course assignments.

An examiner is responsible for providing grading criteria for the examination and for these to be published on the intranet. Students who receive the grade Fail in an examination are entitled to take further five examinations in the duration of the course in order to achieve the grade Pass.
Students who fail an examination twice by an examiner are entitled to request that another examiner is appointed to decide grades for the test. A request should be made to the Head of Department.

6. Reading list and other study material:

The reading list is presented as an appendix to the course syllabus.

7. Additional Information:

The course is a freestanding course.
The course is given in English.

The department is responsible for other essential information, such as detailed teaching methods and grading criteria, to be available for students before the start of the course.
This course may not be credited towards a degree together with similar courses taken and passed, where the content is completely or partly the same as the content of this course.