



# VISUAL ART SCHOOL

BASEL

[www.visualartschool.ch](http://www.visualartschool.ch)

## The 12 themes of the four-year training

1. Poetry of Colour - Human Form - 4 Elements
2. Birth of Colour - Human Space - Tier Klang
3. Gesture of Colour - Nature of the Invisible - Plants
4. Mineral World - Grundfarben - Human and Cosmos

Further information, fees and course inscription:

## Visual Art School Basel

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## Beppe Assenza (1905-1985) and his method

As a young man, Beppe Assenza was a successful Sicilian portrait painter. During the second World War he was looking for new forms of painting and became acquainted with the expressionist movement. Inspired by the work of Rudolf Steiner on the nature of colour, the exploration of colours became a central theme in his painting. He came to Basel, Switzerland, and founded the Assenza painting school in Dornach, in 1968.

Assenza's sketchbooks are an important part of his work. They contain his methodical research of colours as well as a large number of painting and composition exercises. Further, he researched the individual quality of the colours, the various levels of their formal potential, through to their gestural and linear forms of expression.

## Mission Statement

The school structure should help bring together various aspects of the artistic path: individual **experimentation, research and exercising**, implementation and development of artistic processes in the student's own **projects, history of art** in theory and practice, an anthroposophical view of the **human being**.  
**Goethe's and Steiner's** Theory of Colour, the artistic research of Beppe **Assenza**, perception of the **demands of our times** and dynamic **group work**.

## The Visual Art School Basel (VASB)

Free-lance artists Charles Blockey and Fredy Buchwalder founded the art school in September 2011.

Having previously taught at the Assenza painting school, both artists are now the main teachers at the VASB.

Guest lecturers complement the school's program with specialised subjects such as biology, geometry, geology, the study of colours, music, video, photography, sculpture and performance.

Our art school is situated in the large, renovated rooms of the Walzwerk factory in Münchenstein, 5 km from Basel city centre. Known as one of the world's art capitals and situated close to the Goetheanum in Dornach, Basel is an exciting place to study.

## Part-time studies

Weekend Workshops

Professionals and working people can follow the four year program by taking part in 10 weekend workshops and a summer workshop each year. These courses form the foundation of the part-time study program, and can lead to a diploma with the completion of an individual project after four years.

Guest students may take part in single weekend courses or follow a thematic unit. (if space is available)

## TOPIC OF THE YEAR **Origins - Perspectives**

### Mineral World

22 / 23 / 24 Sep 2023  
20 / 21 / 22 Oct  
10 / 11 / 12 Nov  
08 / 09 / 10 Dec

### Primary Colours

19 / 20 / 21 Jan 2024  
09 / 10 / 11 Feb  
15 / 16 / 17 Mar

### Human and Cosmos

19 / 20 / 21 Apr 2024  
24 / 25 / 26 May  
14 / 15 / 16 June

### Summer workshop

19th - 24th August 2024

### Weekend plan

Friday 18.00 - 21.00  
Saturday 9.00 - 12.00  
14.00 - 17.00  
Sunday 9.00 - 12.00



2023/2024

Program of the Visual Art School Basel

Full-time studies

Part-time studies





**YEAR'S THEME :** Origins - Perspectives

**INTRODUCTION WEEK**  
25th – 29th September 2023

**THE THREE THEMES OF THE YEAR**  
1. Mineral World 2. Primary Colours 3. Human and Cosmos



## FULL-TIME STUDIES

The full-time program with diploma is 4 years. In the course of one year three themes are focussed. During 3 Input weeks, students and teachers intensively explore the trimester theme. Subsequently students develop their own projects with the help of a mentor and tutorials during the project weeks. Projects are presented each term. Each year there is a new theme (Focus for the Year) connecting all three terms.

*The aim is for the students to discover and formulate their own questions. The artist himself engages in a process of self-transformation. He trains his own sensory perceptions, develops his creative abilities, and learns to create something new from the deep connection with himself and the world surrounding him.*

The craft of painting and drawing constitutes the foundation of the study program at the Visual Art School Basel (VASB). Individual experimentation and exploration as well as exercises inspired by the Assenza Method (see reverse) help the students become aware of process and enable them to shape their individual artistic capacities.

## Minor subjects

In addition to the main subjects of painting and drawing, the study program also includes the following minors: art history, aesthetics, anthroposophy, graphics and printing, performance, sculpture, installation, photography and video. VASB is equipped with a printing studio and photo lab.

## Material

Students are encouraged to experiment and work with a wide variety of materials and techniques on different grounds. Materials include acrylics, pigments, mineral pigments, oil, watercolours, ink, and plant colours on grounds including paper, canvas, wood, synthetic and mineral.

**A one-year study program is possible**

**Visiting students** can attend the input weeks (if place is available)

**Part-time study program** (see reverse for program)

**Evening and summer courses** (visit [www.visualartschool.ch](http://www.visualartschool.ch))

## I. Mineral World

16th October – 22nd December 2023

**Input Weeks** 16th October – 3rd November 2023  
**Project Work** 6th November – 22nd December 2023

The world of substance is the starting point of this year's study program. The mineral world can be a source of inspiration in many ways. We will be studying and translating the structures and shapes in the world of things, taking the mineral substances themselves as a focus for pictorial development, using the wide range of forces at work within the mineral world as energy sources for our work.

- Study of the basic differences in rock and earth qualities for example: granite, clay and limestone
- Earth pigments in painting
- The planet metals
- Still-life drawing and painting
- Etching
- Egg Tempera technique



## 2. Primary Colours

15th January – 22nd March 2024 (break 19th - 23rd February 2024)

**Input Weeks** 15th January – 2nd February 2024  
**Project Work** 5th February – 22nd March 2024

For the painter the three primary colours blue, red and yellow are the triangle of forces for the structure of colour composition. Although blue is not just blue there is something universal about it that unites all its different shades. We will study and experiment each of these universes; tracing their dynamic characteristics and individualizing them to image.

- A study of the basic language of the painterly surface and relating this to each of the source colours
- Body awareness exercises as a basis for observing surface movement, gestures and line
- Painting technics including watercolour, pigments and inks
- Off the wall - colour in space

## Weekly schedule

**Monday-Thursday** 9.00-17.00

**Friday** open studio

**Weekly** Aesthetics, art history and observation

It is possible to use studio space evenings and weekends, by agreement.

## 3. Human and Cosmos

15th April – 21st June 2024

**Input Weeks** 15 April – 3rd May 2024  
**Project Work** 6th May – 21st June 2024

Images of the human go back thousands of years and in pre-historical art often evoke the questions of origins. We will be studying their archaic forms in the search for authentic contemporary human representations that move the questions, in the sense of Gauguin: "Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?"

- Fieldtrip to Val Camonica (prehistoric art site)
- Mythology of ancient cultures as inspiration for artistic process
- The Zodiac, a series of images relating directly to the roots of our culture
- Study of an anthroposophical view of human origins: Occult science (R. S.)
- Drawing/painting, photography and printing

