



**ANNUAL THEME** **Art and Challenging Times**

**Introductory week to the annual theme**  
21. - 25. September 2020

**THE THREE SUBJECT AREAS OF THE YEAR**  
1. Human Form 2. Poetry of Colour 3. Four Elements

**FULL-TIME STUDIES**

The full-time program takes 4 years to complete, and students graduate with a diploma. Each study year is divided into three subject areas. During the input weeks, the students 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.

*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 the various processes and shape their individual artistic approaches.

**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. HUMAN FORM**  
12 October – 11 December 2020

**Input weeks** 12 October – 30 October 2020  
**Project weeks** 2 November – 11 December 2020

- Exploration of the human form: structures of the physical form, its movement and painterly transformation
- Portraits, figure / nude drawing and modelling
- Polarity of nerve-sense and metabolic-limb systems,
- Skeletal and muscle shape language
- Study of the human form in the history of art
- Graphics: etching, woodcut, linocut, photography
- Performance / movement



**2. POETRY OF COLOUR**

11 January – 26 March 2021

**Input weeks** 11 January – 29 January 2021  
**Project weeks** 1 February – 26 March 2021  
(Basel Carnival 22 – 26 February)

- Colour combinations: How do colours communicate with each other? Exploring and experimenting with colour intervals
- Relationship of painting / drawing to poetry and music
- The element of time in the visual arts: How do rhythm and movement manifest themselves in painting?
- Synaesthesia, the mixing of sensory levels: taste, smell, touch, hearing interpreted in colour and shape
- Haiku
- Expressiveness of colour: What do I say with colour? What does colour tell me?

**3. FOUR ELEMENTS**

19 April – 25 June 2021

**Input weeks** 19 April – 7 May 2021  
**Project weeks** 10 May – 25 June 2021

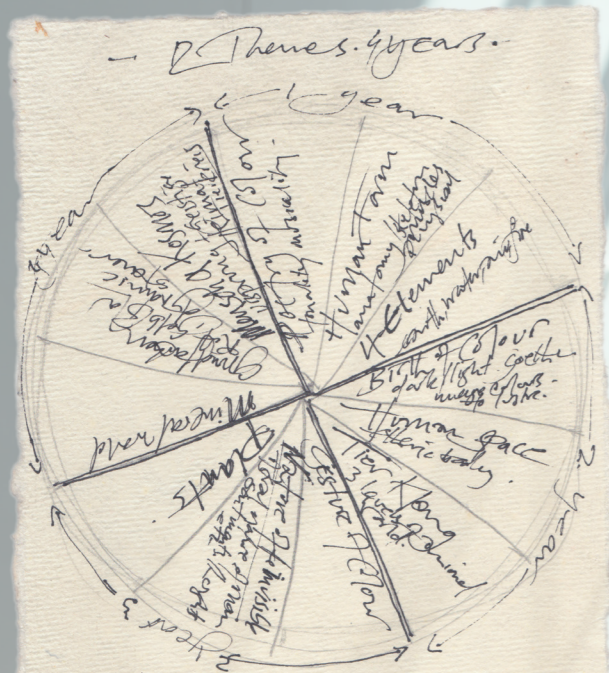
- The forces of the elements earth, air, fire and water as a starting point for observation and experiment in the artistic process.
- 10-day field trip: study of the elements in the landscape and their relationship to the mineral, plant or animal world
- Ceramics workshop
- Installation work with the elements
- Drawing/painting, photography and printing
- Large format: painting / drawing
- Graphics: etching, woodcut, linocut, photography
- Video

**Weekly program**

**Monday – Thursday** 9.00-17.00  
**Friday** Free studio  
Once a week: aesthetics, history of art / interpretation of art

In agreement with the school direction, it is possible to work in the studio in the evenings or on the weekends.





**The twelve themes of the four year program**

- 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 - Mensch und Kosmos

Further information, school fees and registration:

**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 expressions 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 requirements 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 and performance. Our art school is situated in the large, renovated rooms of the Walzwerk factory area in Münchenstein, 5 km away from the city of Basel. 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 year's program by taking part in the 10 weekend workshops and in the summer workshop. These courses form the foundation of the part-time study program, and can lead to a diploma after 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),

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**HUMAN FORM**

- 18./ 19./ 20. Sept 2020
- 23./ 24./ 25. Oct
- 13./ 14./ 15. Nov
- 11./ 12./ 13. Dec

**POETRY OF COLOUR**

- 15./ 16./ 17. Jan 2021
- 05./ 06./ 07. Feb
- 12./ 13./ 14. March

**FOUR ELEMENTS**

- 23./ 24./ 25. Apr 2021
- 21./ 22./ 23. May
- 18./ 19./ 20. June

**Summer workshop in Northern Italy**

August 2021

**Weekend plan**

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

10 Years VASB

**VISUAL ART SCHOOL**  
**BASEL**

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



**Study program of the Visual Art School Basel**  
**Full-time and part-time program**  
**2020/2021**