



2017-2018

**VALENCIENNES  
SCHOOL OF ART  
AND DESIGN**

*A SCHOOL FOR EVERYONE,*

*IN THE HEART OF EUROPE,*

*FOR ART AND SPATIAL DESIGN !*

[www.esad-valenciennes.fr](http://www.esad-valenciennes.fr)

# HISTORY

The project of Valenciennes School of Art and Design combines the legacy of the Fine Arts' education with its contemporary most forms. Distant heir of the Academy of Painting and Sculpture founded in 1782, it was later transformed in the School of Fine Arts following the Royal Decree of the August 4, 1819. Rich of an artistic history of two centuries (22 *Prix de Rome* from 1811 to 1968), its purpose was to offer a teaching dedicated to art relating to the needs of local manufacturing. The academic teaching model was structured by a master-student relationship in various *ateliers* such as painting, sculpture, engraving, based on drawing's knowledge, but also the study of living model and the antique, anatomy, documentary study and perspective.

## A SCHOOL LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Through successive academic reforms after 1968, art and design education at the Valenciennes School moves away from academicism in the name of living art, taking into account modern and contemporary art, the importance given to the idea, to the moving image, and to the cultural and conceptual notions of the work and of the artist. From now on, a pedagogy of projects favors the creative process and initiation to research, open to professional and international networks. The result is an experimental school, centered on the training of emancipated artists for a changing world. The last major reform (2000) concerns building links in European higher education to promote students' disciplinary and geographical mobility. The teaching of Spatial Design extends to social space whose needs question the capacity of alternative solutions to the market economy. In this sense, the students-designers join the students-artists working on public and contextual relation of artwork.

## INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

Located at the crossroads of Europe – 1h30 from Paris, 1h from Brussels and Lille, 2 hours from London – Valenciennes lies today at the heart of an urban agglomeration of 200 000 inhabitants. A city with a rich cultural and artistic history, Valenciennes pursues a voluntarist cultural policy and has first-rate infrastructure. The Valenciennes School of Art and Design has partnerships with various schools, universities, businesses, cultural bodies, local authorities and other institutions in France and abroad. As part of Erasmus + program, the School welcomes incoming students and has bilateral agreement with Belgium, Finland and Spain. Collaborative research, seminars and projects are regularly undertaken with university laboratories and other establishments, including the network of art schools in the Hauts-de-France region: the Cambrai School of Art (Graphic Design), the Dunkerque and Tourcoing School of Art (Visual Arts), and Le Fresnoy – National Studio of Contemporary Art, Tourcoing (Audiovisual, Post-Master). As member of the "50° Nord", a French-Belgian network of contemporary art, The Valenciennes School is linked to thirty contemporary art professional structures those vivifying the cross-border territory. The Valenciennes School is also an active member of the National Association of Higher Art Schools in France (ANdEA).

# A PUBLICLY-FOUNDED SCHOOL

The Valenciennes School of Fine Art and Design is a higher education establishment depending on the French Ministry of Culture and Communication. It delivers two nationally-recognized degree: the DNA (*Diplôme National d'Art*, Bachelor's degree, 3 years) and the DNSEP (*Diplôme National Supérieur d'Expression Plastique*, Master's degree, 5 years, which allows the possible continuation of studies with a post-degree or a PhD).

## PREMISES

The Valenciennes School moved to new premises in 2005. Consisting of over 5000 m<sup>2</sup>, the building is contemporary and functional, specifically designed for the needs of art students. It has a first-class auditorium, gallery, library and cafeteria as well as workshops and personal studio space.

## DEGREE PROGRAMME

### ***Art program***

The Art curriculum promotes interdisciplinary projects in sculpture, installation, drawing, painting, engraving, printmaking, photography, scenography, sound, video and new media. Classes span all of these media and are often tailored to the student's individual research interests and projects. Critiques, trials and installations in the public space are prioritized. Art students are required to undertake various exercises as well as focus on the creation of a more substantial body of work that is their personal research project. They attend various General Culture classes, including Modern and Contemporary Art History and Theory, Philosophy and English. The Valenciennes School organizes trips to enlarge the pedagogical offer with external seminars and visit exhibitions. The articulation of an intellectual investigation of contemporary practices and art theory with the student's work (and especially in their research project) is the cornerstone of the Art program.

### ***Spatial Design program***

The course aims to imagine, produce and create objects, images, spaces and services associated with our daily environment. It also proposes scenarios linked to customs, innovation and long-term research into social development. The main themes are: design of urban spaces and landscapes / furniture and interior design / digital design and representation / stage and exhibition design / social design. The teaching of design is part of a general approach and is considered a creative activity that is multidisciplinary and inclusive. The teaching method requires the students to combine multiple factors and respond to a context and to continually create new projects. Students explore the social, productive and economic environment in which their practice is located. There is a fundamental transversality between the Art and Design courses.

# HOW TO APPLY ?

## **Admission for Incoming students (full-time program)**

Candidates wishing to enroll in the first year program must have the French *baccalauréat* or equivalent. Admission is by an entrance examination which is conducted during the spring term (from March to May). Candidates should obtain an enrollment form from the administration office. Depending on their results, candidates will be admitted, placed on a waiting list, and/or refused. The first year gives a general program and students register for an orientation in Art or Spatial Design from the 2nd year.

Candidates wishing to enroll in the following years program (except 3rd and 5th years) may apply through Campus Art organization or come and meet with the jury of the Commission of Equivalence after sending an application form (secretary), academic records, a digital portfolio to the administration office. Compulsory: the knowledge of French Language is assessed by a TCF certification, level B2 for the 3-year phase, C1 for the Master's degree phase.

## **Admission for Erasmus + students (one semester)**

Students, enrolled in European higher education, are eligible to mobility for studies if their institution is part of the Erasmus + Charter and has signed an agreement with the Valenciennes School of Art and Design. Plus, students applying to the Valenciennes School must obtain first the agreement of their institution. Incoming students are welcome for one semester (except 3rd and 5th years). The Valenciennes School's teaching team examines candidate's application to define the integration level, motivated by the desire to provide him/her with a successful experience. A complete application should contain the following documents: an application form, a letter of motivation, a scan of passport (front cover and photo page), a CV and a short portfolio (digital).

**Teaching is given in French language. A sufficient knowledge is required.**

# CONTACT

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Erasmus+