MEET THE DELEGATES
Ellen K. Aslaksen

Ellen Aslaksen is Dean of the Art and Craft department at Oslo National Academy of the Arts. She joined KhiO in 2015. Aslaksen is trained as an anthropologist and worked earlier as Head of Research at Arts Council Norway. She has been member of the program board for several research programs at the Norwegian Research Council. Today she is among other, boardmember of Mimeta – Center for Culture and Development.

Her research interests range from cultural traditions/folk culture to cultural aspects of big events as Olympic Games, to cultural policy and artistic practice. She has worked on various types of mission research in the field of culture and with artistic, aesthetic, art sociological and cultural policy issues. The interaction between social practice and ways of thinking in the field of art and culture has been central to her research. She has written several books, including Young and Promising. Young artists - experiences and working conditions (2004).
Ursula Bachman

Ursula Bachman received her teaching certificate at the Lucerne University of Applied Science and Art – School of Art and Design. She graduated with a Master of Arts in Fine Art degree from Birmingham University (GB). Since then she has lived and worked as an independent artist in Lucerne and Zurich. She has taken part in national and international exhibitions and festivals, where she has exhibited drawing, installation and animation. She has also realised several art and architecture projects.

Studio residencies in New York and Cairo followed and frequent travel in the Middle East made her an expert on the region. From 2004 – 2010, she was a member of the Swiss UNESCO Commission.

From 1995 – 2011, Prof Ursula Bachman has taught at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts – School of Art and Design.

Since 2011, she has been Vice Dean and Head of Interdisciplinary and Public Programmes.
Thomas Beck

Thomas Beck is president of the University of the Arts in Berne/Switzerland (HKB). Being educated as a journalist he studied literature, theatre science and musicology in Erlangen/Germany. After leaving the university Thomas Beck became chief dramaturge at the Theatre of St. Gallen/Switzerland before he changed to Swiss National Television as head of the Performing Arts departement.

Ron Burnett

Dr. Ron Burnett has been President + Vice-Chancellor of Emily Carr University of Art + Design since 1996. In 2013, Dr. Burnett received the Order of Canada and in 2015, he received the Order of British Columbia. He was awarded the Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government in 2010 and received the International Digital Media and Arts Association Outstanding Leadership Award. He received his BA, MA and PhD from McGill University in the areas of media arts, communications and cultural studies. Dr. Burnett began his career as a post-secondary professor and administrator at
Vanier College in Montreal where he founded the Creative Arts Department. He went on to work at LaTrobe University in Melbourne, Australia and then became the Director of the Graduate Program in Communications at McGill University.

In a career spanning forty years, Dr. Burnett has published three books; book chapters and reviews; over 150 articles; as well as two monographs. Internationally known for his work in media and distance education, he served on an "eminent persons panel" at UNESCO in Paris to advise on the development of Internet resources for the Third World. He is currently the Chair of the BC Association of Institutes and Universities (BCAIU) and a member of the Executive Committee and Board of the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design. He is a member of the Learning Development Institute Board, the BCNet Board, and was formerly the Board Chair of the Knowledge Network.

In 2012, Dr. Burnett received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Media in honour of his significant contributions and achievements and in 2002, he received the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal for service to Canada and Canadians. He was inducted into the Royal Canadian Academy of Art in 2003 and was voted Educator of the Year by the Canadian New Media Association in 2005. Dr. Burnett is an Adjunct Professor in the Graduate Program in Film and Video at York University, Toronto. He is the William Evans Fellow at the University of Otago in New Zealand and is a Burda Scholar at Ben Gurion University, Israel.
Anastasia Butrym

Anastasia Butrym has extensive experience in management as well as comprehensive knowledge and expertise in the fields of business and creative industries. Throughout her longstanding career in advertising Anastasia has worked as Managing Director of the advertising agency TBWA Russia (EMCG), Managing and Strategic Director of the branding agency TANGO (TBWA Group), CEO and owner of the advertising agency 3SBA.

From August 2014 Anastasia has been employed as Director of British higher School of Art&Design and has been overseeing the School’s strategic development, production and launch of new study programmes and management of all administrative and technical resources.
Paula Crabtree

Since April 2014 Paula Crabtree has held the position as Vice Chancellor at Stockholm University of the Arts in Sweden. Prior to this she was Rector at Bergen Academy of Art and Design (KHiB) in Norway (2010 – 2014) where she was also Dean at the Dept. of Fine Art (2002 to 2010). She is an artist and anthropologist.

Paula Crabtree has been a member of the ELIA executive board since 2010 and Vice President since 2012.
Ulf Dalnäs

Ulf Dalnäs is the Head of the Academy of Design and Crafts at the University of Gothenburg.

Ulf has been involved in several national and international boards and projects (including ELIA board for 8 years).
Aparajita Dutta

Aparajita Dutta (1967) is Head of International Affairs at Royal Academy of Art and University of the Arts The Hague. Aparajita is involved in internationalization of higher education since 1999. She worked for the University of Amsterdam (1999 – 2002), Leiden University (2002 – 2008) and Nuffic (Team Coordinator Netherlands Education Support Office 2008-2010) before joining Royal Academy in 2011. She came to the Netherlands from India to study Master International Relations at the Univ of Amsterdam (1998). She also has a Master in Political Science. At the moment, Aparajita is Chair of X-Files Working Group, Cumulus and All Netherlands Art Academies International Relations.

She is Vice-chair of All Netherlands University of Applied Sciences International Relations. She also gives talks/workshops on intercultural awareness/issue. In 2017, she started a PhD trajectory on “Internationalisation and the effect on Art and Design Education” at the Dual PhD Centre, Leiden University.
Ingrid Elam

Ingrid Elam is a Swedish writer and critic and a professor of Literary composition. Since 2012, she is Dean of the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts at the University of Gothenburg and Chair of the research platform PARSE.

She holds a PhD in Comparative literature since 1985. Between 1989 and 2000 she was the cultural editor of the Swedish newspapers iDAG, Göteborgs-Posten and Dagens Nyheter. 2003-2012 she was employed at Malmö University, where, among other positions, she acted as the Dean of The School of Art and Communication.
Karianne Bjellås Gilje

Karianne Bjellås Gilje, Dean of the Design Department at Oslo National Academy of the Arts (KHiO), former Program Director at “Design and Architecture Norway” (DOGA), editor of the journal “Prosa” and at the Scandinavian University Press (Universitetsforlaget). She has been columnist in several Norwegian newspapers, and has edited and written several books, f. ex "Grete Prytz Kittelsen. Enamel and design "(2012, W. W. Norton & Company, New York/London) and "Oslo. 100 unique experiences "(2016, only Norwegian, Kagge).
**Nina Grunder**

Teacher education, Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Classical Singing, as well as, a Master of Advanced Studies in Integrative Management. As of 2004, founder and director of an art agency for young musicians, from 2005 onwards managing several large projects in the music field (amongst others, for the Venice Biennale, the Warsaw Autumn Festival, the Days for New Chamber Music in Witten and the Bern City Theatre). As of 2006, director ad interim of the Bern Music Festival. In 2009 developed several further education programmes for the Bern University of the Arts, in 2010 established the arts doctoral programme “Graduate School of the Arts”. Director of the renowned music competition „Concours Nicati“ and artistic representative of the Opera Hallwyl Castle. Since 2012, member of the board of directors at the Bern University of the Arts and within the scope of this role responsible for the education field. At the same time, head of the further education programmes in singing voice and absolving Master’s Studies in organization development.
Jonathan Harris

Jonathan Harris is Head of Birmingham School of Art and Professor in Global Art & Design Studies. He is author and editor of 21 books, most recently *The Global Contemporary Art World* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2017). This is the final authored book in a trilogy on globalisation and contemporary art, the other titles being: *Globalisation and Contemporary Art* (2011, edited collection) and *The Utopian Globalists: Artists of Worldwide Revolution, 1919-2009* (2013, author).

Harris has lectured at universities, art schools and museums around the world for 35 years and worked on a partnership with Tate Liverpool since 1999. His work focuses on modern and contemporary art, criticism and theory, with a special interest in politics and art, and the role of the state in cultural production. His recent book is concerned with contemporary art and art institutions in Hong Kong, India, South Korea, China and Palestine.
Jiang He
Ph.D of Education and director of the foreign affairs office of China Academy of Art

Swetlana Heger
Swetlana Heger is a visual artist, Professor in Fine Arts and Head of the Department Art & Media at Zurich University of the Arts. Previously she was a Professor and Dean of the Umea Academy of Fine Arts in Sweden. She holds the Executive Degree in International Leadership in Visual Arts Management from deusto Business School and NYU in collaboration with the Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao.

Various international solo and group exhibitions i.e.: Musée des Beaux Arts/Nancy, Le Consortium/Dijon, Melbourne Biennale, Berlin Biennale, Centre Georges Pompidou/Paris, Arts Space/New York, Vienna Secession, Centre

Her art works are represented in international private and public collections.
Bogdan Iacob

Born in 1979, Bogdan Iacob is art historian and art critic and works as senior lecturer, Ph. D. at the University of Art and Design in Cluj – Napoca. He teaches Art History and Contemporary Art (since 2002) and is currently Director of the Department for Theoretical and Pedagogical Disciplines of the university. His institutional experience also includes work within the Department for Public and International Relations, as coordinator of the university’s gallery, among other tasks (2006 – 2009), and holding the position of Chancellor of the university (2008 - 2011).

Aleksandra Janik

Aleksandra Janik received her MFA in printmaking from the Academy of Fine Arts in Wroclaw, Poland in 1996. In 1996-97 she was the DAAD grant holder at the Braunschweig University of Art in Germany. Her artistic and academic interests concentrate mainly on printmaking and photography.

Since 2010 she has held the position of associate professor at the Studio of Digital and Experimental Printmaking, at the Faculty of Graphics and Media Art, Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wroclaw, Poland.

She is currently the Vice-Rector for Arts, Research and Foreign Cooperation at the Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wroclaw, Poland.
Man Jinfan

Lecturer at School of Design, China Academy of Art.
Mart Kalm

Prof. Dr. Mart Kalm is an Estonian architecture historian and critic, since 2015 Rector of the Estonian Academy of Arts. He studied art history 1979-84 at University of Tartu, PhD-s 1991 Moscow and 1998 Tallinn.


Kalm has co-chaired the Estonian Delegation at the UNESCO World Heritage Committee 2010-2013 and has been active member for DOCOMOMO (Documentation and Conservation of Modern Movement Architecture).

In 2010 Kalm became an elected member of the Estonian Academy of Sciences and since 2015 he is the vice-president.
Balázs Kicsiny

Balázs Kicsiny is an artist, working with various mediums, from installations, videos to paintings. He is also an associate professor of artistic research at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts Doctorate School in Budapest. Balázs Kicsiny also taught and lectured at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, Washington University in St. Louis, USA; at the University of Theatre and Film Arts in Budapest, Hungary. He was visiting lecturer among others at the Chelsea College of Art, UAL and at Slade School of Art, UCL, London U.K. In 2005 Balázs Kicsiny represented Hungary at the 51st Venice Biennale. In 2014 he had a retrospective exhibition at the Aboa Vetus & Ars Nova Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art in Turku, Finland. He has had solo exhibitions at the Kemper Art Museum, Saint Louis, USA; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Szczecin, Poland; the Museum Ludwig / Contemporary Art Museum, Budapest.

Bridget Kievits

Born in 1960 in The Netherlands, she studied Dutch Language and Literature at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, where she graduated Cum Laude in 1988. After graduation she started working at De Nederlandse Opera, where after two years she became manager of the Opera Choir. In 2004 Bridget left the Opera and became head of the management team at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague.
In 2008 she went to the Amsterdam University of the Arts (AHK), where she became Secretary to the Executive Board, under Olchert Brouwer, the then President.

Since October 2010 she has been Vice-President of the Executive Board, together with her colleague, Bert Verveld, who is President. Her principal portfolios are education and research, quality control, lectorates, student affairs and accreditations.

The AHK exists of six independent and unique art schools, from the Conservatoire of Amsterdam, to the Reinwardt Academy for cultural heritage studies. The Board has the final responsibility for these schools; to govern them with an eye on the uniqueness of each school, with an understanding of their differences and with a vision on what they have in common.

Since 2014 Bridget is a member of the Executive Board of Elia, as well as treasurer. She is chairperson of Via Berlin, a young music theater group based in Amsterdam. In her spare time she sings in a small vocal ensemble, Duodektet, for which she is also the chair.
Dr Rebekka Kill is Head of School: Art, Design and Computer Science at York St John University. She's been involved in the Art and Design community in HE for almost two decades and has held leadership roles for around 8 years.

Her research interests are: Festival Performance, Disciplinary Pedagogy, Practice as Research, Academic Identity Construction and Social Media. Her outputs include performance art, visual practice and written published outcomes. Her research addresses complex academic identities that are anchored in the dual contexts of discipline- specific pedagogy and practice as research in higher education. Dr Kill’s career as an artist is equally varied. She originally trained as a painter and still makes visual art. Alongside this she has worked as a nightclub DJ, taught DJ skills and has worked at venues and at music festivals.
Rachelle Viader Knowles

Rachelle Viader Knowles is an artist/academic and Associate Head of School for Art and Design at Coventry University UK, responsible for internationalisation. Previous to her current role, Rachelle served as Head of Visual Arts at the University of Regina in Canada. Her research explores translocal approaches to dialogue as art, and artistic practices/methods developed through participation, collaboration and networks. Knowles’s work have been performed, screened, found, hear, read, played or encountered at numerous international venues and conferences including the <Immune Nations> exhibitions in Trondheim, Norway and UNAIDS Geneva; Residencia Corazon Gallery in La Plata, Argentina; La Cite des Arts Internationale in Paris; the Kwangju Biennale in South Korea; the TransWhat? symposium Berlin; the Sobey Art Awards, Halifax, Canada; the Gyumri Biennale, Armenia; and the Can Gelabert Gallery, Mallorca, Spain. She is an active member of the international advisory board for the Armenian Art Centre of Social Studies, Yerevan, Armenia.
Cecilie Broch Knudsen

Cecilie Broch Knudsen is an artist and former rector of Einar Granum Kunstfagskole (1996 – 2007) and Oslo National Academy of the Arts (2007 – 2015). During the past five years, Knudsen has held a number of positions as a board member in cultural institutions. At present she holds the following positions of trust:

- NARP Norwegian Artistic Research Programme, chair of board
- PEEK The Austrian Programme for funding Artistic Research, board member
- Talent Norway AS, member of board
- Trafo Kunsthall, chair of board
- The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, deputy of the board
- ELIA European Institute of the Arts, member of representative board and the working group for artistic research.
Charlotte is in charge of international relations at the École européenne supérieure de l’image Angoulême-Poitiers (ÉESI). She takes part in the definition and implementation of the international strategy of the ÉESI. She ensures the development of the network of foreign partner institutions, in close consultation with the Director General and the Director of Studies. She is the referent for international projects, in charge of seeking funds for these projects as well as their follow-up and dissemination. She accompanies individual mobility projects (studies, internships, teaching, training, residencies). She also supervises the welcome of foreign students and foreign visiting teachers.
Graham McLaren

Head of the Field of Research, Postgraduate and Enterprise at Bath School of Art and Design. McLaren oversees the research activities of individual staff as well as supporting a very active community in the School who engage in consultancy and in various enterprise initiatives. He is in charge of the development of the School’s academic community at both Masters and Ph.D level.

He joined the University in September 2004 having previously worked at the University of Wolverhampton as Head of Learner Support and Equal Opportunities, and Staffordshire University (1989-2004).

By training he is a historian of art and design with specialisms in the history of design education, ceramics and glass and in the ethics of art and design practice. My current research includes completion of a book on the history of Bath School of Art and Design from its beginnings in 1853 to the present day.
Thomas D. Meier

Thomas D. Meier is a Rector / Vice-chancellor of Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK). He is holding a doctorate in history from the University of Bern. His professional experience includes managerial and public relation responsibilities at Bern Historical Museum. From 1996 to 2003, he served as founding Director of the Museum of Communication in Bern. He was appointed founding Director of Bern University of the Arts in 2003. Between 2011 and 2013, he acted as President of the Rectors’ Conference of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts.

Since November 2014 Meier is the President of the European League of the Institutes of the Arts.
Tina Moor

Tina Moor is a textile designer and researcher. She developed interior fabrics and textile-pneumatic structures for applications in the aviation, automotive and health sectors. Since 2004 she works in the research team Products & Textiles at Lucerne School of Art and Design. The actual research projects are in the field of natural fibers and textile architecture. Since 2011 Tina Moor is head of the Bachelor’s programme in Textile Design.

Karen Neervoort

Karen Neervoort was born the 11th of March 1958 in Paramaribo (Surinam). The family soon moved to Europe, where Karen followed primary school, highschool and finally graduated with distinction at the University of Utrecht (Theatre Studies).
Her career started as a dramaturg in Youth theatre and from there developed direction Theatre Marketing and Program development. In this field of work she experienced the challenge to match art with commerce, with education, the amateur-field and finally with politics and local policies.

Somewhere during this busy theatre live she developed the desire to get more involved in developing the arts itself and not only curating programs and organising venues. She changed job and started her new working life as Faculty director Theatre and Dance at ArtEZ, School of Fine and Performing Arts in Arnhem, Zwolle and Enschede. This worked out as a wonderful choice. Working with talented students and professionals in a very inspiring environment proved to be the exact place where she wanted to be at that moment. Her network from the theatre and experience with entrepreneurship proved to be of value to the school.

After eight great years at ArtEZ, she made the switch to Fontys, School of Fine and Performing Arts in Tilburg. Here she accepted the position of Dean and since then is responsible for 10 bachelors and 5 masters in all disciplines, 1500 students and 460 professors and other employees. Fontys School of Fine and Performing arts (FHK) represents a school actively involved in social and environmental issues. FHK is in the middle of the process implementing the new strategic policy in which interdisciplinary research and exploring co productions play a very steering role. She is very much looking forward making this policy stronger in the School and more visible for an international context.
Mara Rațiu

Mara Rațiu is Associate Professor within the University of Art and Design in Cluj-Napoca, Romania and Vice-Rector for Institutional Partnerships within the same university (since 2012). She holds a PhD in Philosophy, while her main research interests are in aesthetics, contemporary artistic practices and institutions and their socio-political implications. She has published several articles in peer-reviewed journals and she is the author of the book *Arta ca activitate socială / Art as social activity* (2011) and the editor of the volume *Discursuri asupra artei / Discourses on Art* (2014). She is a GETTY – New Europe College Bucharest fellow (2010 / 2012), as well as a RAVE Stipendium alumna (2003). For her work in international relations within the academia, as well as for her constant support for the French-speaking culture in the Romanian context, she was awarded the title *Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques* of the French Republic. Since December 2016, Mara Rațiu is a member of the ELIA Representative Board.
Bernhard Rüdiger

Bernhard Rüdiger is an artist. Born in Rome in 1964 he lives and works in Paris. He is Vice-president in charge of international in the Administrative Board of ANdÉA, the french National Association of Higher Schools of Art. He graduated from the Accademia di Belle Arti in Milan with Luciano Fabro, and teaches today in Lyon. He is in charge of the research unity ACTH (Art Contemporain et temps de l'histoire).

Bernhard Rüdiger’s works confront visitors with a physical experience involving object, body and space. At once sculptures, monumental models and architectures, through their meticulous spatial and acoustic arrangement, his works seek to make history ring out.

Sabine Coady Schaebitz

A Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts Sabine is Associate Head for Enterprise and External Engagement at the School of Art and Design and Principal Lecturer in Architecture at Coventry University. Her career spans many years in the UK and Germany, as architectural and urban designer and educator, researcher and networker with focus on strategic pioneering partnerships and developments working across stakeholders nationally and internationally, including academia, industry, public bodies and communities.

Sabine trained as an Architect at the Bauhaus University in Weimar/ Germany and studied Architectural Conservation in Rome/ Italy.

Sabine’s research publications and interests focus on cultural heritage, architectural and urban history, and design education. Sabine is currently the Co-Investigator for the AHRC Research Network project on New Town Heritage, promoting the value of the architectural and urban heritage of post war New Towns in the UK and Europe.
Maren Schmohl

Vice Rector of Merz Akademie. Responsible for Quality Assurance (internal QA, external programme accreditations, external institutional accreditations) as well as for the development of current and future study programmes and international relations.

Member of the Management Board of EQ-Arts. External reviewer in numerous international reviews during the last decade.
Stephan Paul Schneider

Stephan Paul Schneider is a German painter and musician. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Münster with Wolfgang Kliege and Ulrich Erben. 1992 he finished his studies as a master student of Ulrich Erben.

In 2001 he founded the “Independetd Academy of Fine Arts” (Freie Akademie der bildenden Künste/fadbk) in Essen. Since 2013 he is President of the “University of Fine Arts (HBK) Essen”, where he teaches Painting and Graphics as a Professor and head of the Department of Painting and Graphics.

Marieke Schoenmakers

Marieke Schoenmakers (1966) started in 2014 as Director of the Royal Academy of Art and since 2017 she is also President of the University of the Arts The Hague. Marieke has over 20 years of experience in managing creative professionals in art schools, art institutions and public television. She was Director of the Netherlands Film Academy and a member of the management team of Amsterdam University of the Arts (2000-2008). She was Director of VPRO (2008-2013) and in the nineties, she was Deputy-director of Het Muziektheater (now: National Opera and Ballet). After graduation in Visual Anthropology, she worked as a teacher at the University of Amsterdam and as assistant secretary at the Arts Council. Marieke has supervisory
positions at Prins Bernhard Culture Fund (Zuid-Holland) and is chair of the Association for Higher Art Education in The Netherlands.

Gao Shiming
Art curator and vice-president of China Academy of Art.
Ana Telles

Portuguese pianist Ana Telles has studied in Lisbon, New York and Paris, with Yvonne Loriod-Messiaen, Sara Buechner and Nina Svetlanova, among others. She graduated from Escola Superior de Música de Lisboa («Bacharelato»), Manhattan School of Music (Bachelor’s Degree in Piano Performance) and New York University (Master’s Degree in Piano Performance). She holds a doctoral degree in Music History and Musicology from the University of Paris – Sorbonne and the University of Évora (Portugal); her thesis on Portuguese composer Luís de Freitas Branco’s piano music was distinguished with the highest classification. Ana Telles plays regularly in Portugal, Germany, France, Italy, Ireland, Cuba, Brasil, Taiwan and the United States. She teaches at the University of Évora’s Music Department, and is currently Director of the School of Arts of the same university. She develops research projects in the fields of Music of the 20th and 21st centuries, Portuguese modern and contemporary music, Piano music.
Anamaria Tomiuc

Anamaria Tomiuc is Associate Professor within the History and Theory of Art Department of the University of Art and Design in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, teaching courses in communication and management in visual arts, exhibition theory and practice, art writing. She is also Head of the International, PR and Cultural Programs Office of the same university, initiator of cultural projects and International Relations Coordinator. She holds a PhD in Visual Arts at the University of Art and Design in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Her research has focused on interdisciplinary studies, on different subjects such as: the relationship between art and advertising, branding in the arts, audience experience with mobile technologies used in cultural institutions, digital communication and the use of social media within the cultural sphere, exhibition theory and practice and the new museology.
Bert Verveld

Bert Verveld President Executive Board Amsterdam University of the Arts

About Amsterdam University of the Arts: The Amsterdam University of the Arts (Dutch: Amsterdamse Hogeschool voor de Kunsten / AHK) occupies a prominent place, both nationally and internationally, in education, the arts and cultural life. The courses are given in alluring locations in Amsterdam, the cultural centre of the Netherlands. The AUA/AHK offers courses at bachelor and advanced or master level in the following subjects: music, film and television, theatre, dance, museum studies, architecture, fine art and design teaching. The academies of AuA/AHK are: the Amsterdam Academy of Architecture, Breitner Academy, the Academy for Theatre and Dance, the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, the Netherlands Film Academy, the Reinwardt Academy. As President of the AUA/AHK Bert Verveld is also member of the Steering Committee of the Amsterdam Creative Industries Network (ACIN). The Amsterdam Creative Industries Network is the national expertise centre for talent, knowledge and business between HE institutions (Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Amsterdam University of the Arts and InHolland University of Applied Sciences), creative industries, IT and Arts. He is also chair of the Board of the Amsterdam Research Institute for Arts and Science (ARIASnl) The Amsterdam Research Institute for Arts and Science is a network between University of Amsterdam, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences and the Amsterdam University of the Arts. The network aims at improving research cooperation in Arts research, attracting external funding, creating PhD opportunities and creating a platform. He is member of the General Assembly of the Netherlands Association of Universities of Applied Science (Vereniging Hogescholen / VH) and of the Special Committee for Research of the VH. He is member of the advisory board on internationalization of the University of Göttingen (Germany). Former positions: From 2000 till 2015 Bert was Secretary General / Head of Administration (also called: General Director) of the University of Groningen.
Mark Wennerström

University of Gothenburg, Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts, Sweden

Mark Wennerström is the Head of Faculty Office of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts at the University of Gothenburg. He is a graduate as an officer from the Military Academy Karlberg and also holds a bachelor in Pedagogy and Human Resource management from Stockholm University. He has a background as a sea officer in the Swedish Royal Navy, as a manager within administration, service and HR and as HR business partner at Chalmers University of Technology. He has also worked with IT development, change management and as a group developer. From both his military career and academic studies he holds a very special interest in leadership and management.
Martin Wiedmer

Martin Wiedmer is a trained architect (Dipl. Architekt HTL) and works since 2012 as vice dean at the Lucerne School of Art and Design.

He is in charge of the four research groups, the bachelor’s specialisations in object design, textile design, jewellery design, design management international and the master’s degree programs in design and film.

Prior to this assignment, from 2001 he built up the research at the Academy of Art and Design of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland. Between 2005 and 2012 he headed the Institute of Art and Design Research.

During this time he carried out multiple research and service projects in art and design, especially in the fields of interaction and design thinking.

Martin Wiedmer is active in various research commissions, juries and (conference) committees.
Stefan Wuelfert

Stefan Wuelfert obtained his doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of Berne, Switzerland, before specialising in the field of (art) conservation science. He began his professional career at the Swiss Institute of Art Research (SIK) in Zurich, where he introduced modern analytical techniques to identify artist materials. At the same time he taught Conservation Science at the Bern University of the Arts, HKB. He has authored several publications, including a monograph on light microscopic techniques for use in his field of expertise. He is currently committed to a revised, competence-oriented and student-centred curriculum in conservation-restoration at his university. Today, he is Head of the Conservation and Restoration Department at the Bern University of the Arts and at the same time its Deputy Director.
Kristaps Zarins

Prof. Kristaps Zarins is the Rector of the Art Academy of Latvia (2017). While long being a professor at the Art Academy of Latvia (1994), Kristaps Zarins has consistently pursued his mission - to provide the voice for young artists.

Born April 10, 1962 in Riga.


Prof. Kristaps Zarins is one of the most influential contemporary artists in Latvia.

With all the aesthetics and lightness his works serve one big idea – “bare life”, which stands at the crossroads – to be or not to be.

Prof. Zarins' works have regularly been on display in solo and group shows in Europe, China, India, Hong Kong, USA, etc.

His works are represented in numerous public and private collections.

He has received an honorary award of the Italian president Cavaliere nell ordine „Al Merito della Repubblica Italiana" (2004).