

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS APPLYING
for
MA in Visual Art

SCCE is visualised as a location that implements a new vision of art pedagogy and practice in the country. The School will provide a nurturing ground for the development of new and different art making practices and theoretical insights across the areas of Visual Art, Literary Art, Performance Art and Cinematic Art.

The Visual Art Programme takes into view a crisis in the discipline of Fine Arts and therefore stresses the need for initiating a new model of pedagogy.

The systemic crisis in the available practices of high/Fine art allows a wide gap to exist between artistic production, its circulation in the public sphere and consumption. The presence of art as a possessable fetishistic commodity has led to its insufficient visibility in the public gaze, and the unavailability of it for larger public purposes such as social instruction and empowerment.

Increasingly, there are examples of Indian artists' search for alternative practices, where individual and institutional interventions have led to the creation of unconventional possibilities of producing and circulating art. However, art teaching institutions have mostly shown apathy to such developments. Such apathy is also apparent towards relatively non-objectifiable art, such as new media art, installation art, video art, new uses of photography, performance art, internet art, digital art etc. The possibilities offered by these new mediums and media very often dematerialise art as concepts which defy certain hegemonic market logic of commodity exchange. Significantly, such practices have also enabled artists to shift towards community oriented collaborations that challenge the conventional values enshrined in art.

The above inchoate developments would be gathered together to form a new pedagogical philosophy and structure in art education. The Programme undertakes to integrate various inputs of interdisciplinary character combined with skills, methodological framework, conceptual thinking, theoretical and historical knowledge, socio-political awareness and ethical integrity

Programme Features and Objectives:

The Visual Art programme is designed to enable the student to engage with critical art practice and to carve out new spaces or strengthen available spaces of alternative creative practices. The Programme also enables students to take up research—practice-based or otherwise. It inculcates theoretical and historical knowledge regarding artistic production, dissemination and reception in the context of the larger socio-political and economic conditions which structure this field. The School's decision to admit students from various fields for this Programme also opens up interdisciplinary and collaborative possibilities of simultaneously working as artists, illustrators, architects, and designers with critical and theoretical insight.

- Help students in expanding the horizon of art and thereby enable them to partake in the new modes of cultural and artistic production.
- Provide students adequate knowledge in all aspects of art-making: conceptual, practical, historical and theoretical
- Help students to develop capabilities which enable them to engage with more participatory modes of art production.
- To develop analytical and critical thinking regarding the production, dissemination, reception and consumption of works of art.
- Enable students to research around the initial concept through a multi-disciplinary approach.
- To provide the students a platform for experimentation and mentor them in this process.
- Enable the students to develop a structural and systemic understanding about issues and events through familiarizing them the theoretical understanding regarding the objective, aim and functions of culture and art.
- To provide a new understanding and sensibility regarding art through the sensitive integration of theory and practice.

Structure:

The Programme is of two years duration with four semesters. A semester is 16 weeks long. A course meeting for four credit hours a week for the duration of a semester enables students to earn four credits. Students should register for a minimum of 16 credits each term and need to earn 64 credits to complete the programme successfully. They may register for more credits on payment of extra fees.

All students of SCCE in the four different MA programmes offered need to take three common Foundational Courses, one each in the first three semesters, for 12 credits in all. In the spirit of fostering interdisciplinary learning they are encouraged to take four Elective Courses offered by the School or any other School in the University, one each in all the four semesters, for 16 credits in total. They need to take seven compulsory Core Courses pertaining to their respective discipline for 28 credits in total. Their MA Dissertation work in the final semester will earn them eight credits. The total of 64 credits earned thus qualifies a student for the MA degree.

The Foundation Courses, common to all students in the School, provide them with exposure to key texts in Critical Theory and Cultural Studies. The Elective Courses offered in the School explore interdisciplinary grounds of all the four programmes.

The Core Courses will explore both art making as well as critical reflection on the process of art making. Students will be introduced to the importance of concept development in art practice and provided a practical understanding regarding the relationship between concept and media. They will also be introduced to archive-based research as a method of artistic practice. They will gain in-depth understanding of the foundational logics of digital media which would enable them to undertake cutting-edge experimental practices in this field. The basics of curatorial practices will be introduced both in terms of theory and practical considerations. This would enable the students not only to organise works of art in a conceptual framework, but also to think through processes of selection, modes of display, spatial and temporal dynamics,

etc. in terms of the ways in which meanings are generated. The practical components of the courses will be realised through workshops and studio-based practice.

Careers

The Visual Art Programme is designed to enable student to critically and creatively engage with the art making Practices. Though an MA in Visual Art is not directly related to employment, a student may demonstrate his/her awareness of the intricacies of the art making practices to secure placement in various pedagogical, creative and artistic fields and institutions. A student may also proceed to be an independent artist or artistic researcher. It should be borne in mind that this is a practice-based programme and the primary aim of the programme is to cultivate critical artistic practitioners.

Medium of instruction: English

Eligibility: The minimum eligibility criterion is a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with pass marks (or an equivalent grade) from a recognised University. Students applying to the MA programme in Visual Art are not necessarily expected to have done any course in art making. However, they should have a reasonable exposure to the historical and formal elements of art practice, keen interest in the critical analysis of art and an involvement in thinking critically about contemporary art practice. The students are expected to carry a portfolio of their previous work to the interview.

Fees:

Tuition Fees: Rs. 25120 per semester (Rs. 1570 per credit)

Extramural Interface Cost: Rs. 5000 per year

Caution Deposit: Rs. 5000 (One-time, Refundable)

Student Welfare Fund: Rs. 500 per semester.

If a student opts for extra credits an additional fee of Rs.1570 per credit has to be paid.

*Partial/full fee waiver and scholarships are available. Full waiver of tuition fees will be extended to students belonging to SC, ST and PwD categories.

Instructions for Entrance Examination:

The question paper will consist of four parts. The first part will be multiple choice questions in which the candidate may be asked to identify specific work of art in terms style or time period, identifying citations from artists or manifestoes and makers/producers of famous and recognised creative works. This part takes 15 marks. The second part consists of 10 short responses (30 to 50 words) to key words on artistic genres/forms, aesthetics, and history of art both in the global and national contexts. This part carries 20 marks. The third section will ask students to write two short pieces/proposals consist of critical or creative response to a given work of art or a thematic. (100 to 300 words). This part will carry 20 marks. The final section will be a long essay of 500 to 800 words discussing a general theme or topic related to artistic practices. The final section carries 20 marks. The whole paper is set to 75 marks to be answered in the duration of two hours.

Shortlisted candidates from the entrance test will then be interviewed.

Tips for preparation:

The entrance test will focus on examining the applicant's ability of analytical skills in terms of critical appreciation of works of art and the historical knowledge regarding artistic practices. An awareness of various artistic forms, movements and history will help the students to face the entrance test. The students are encouraged to respond to the artistic expressions of various sorts, both in creative and critical fashion. It can be in terms of a creative reflection on a specific work of art through expanding or interrogating it in innovative ways (mostly in terms of work plan or a conceptual framing) or a critical appreciation of it keeping in mind the historical and contemporary relevance of it.