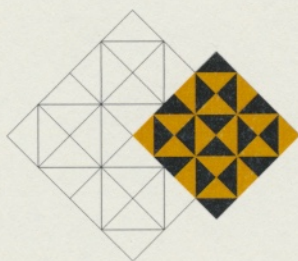
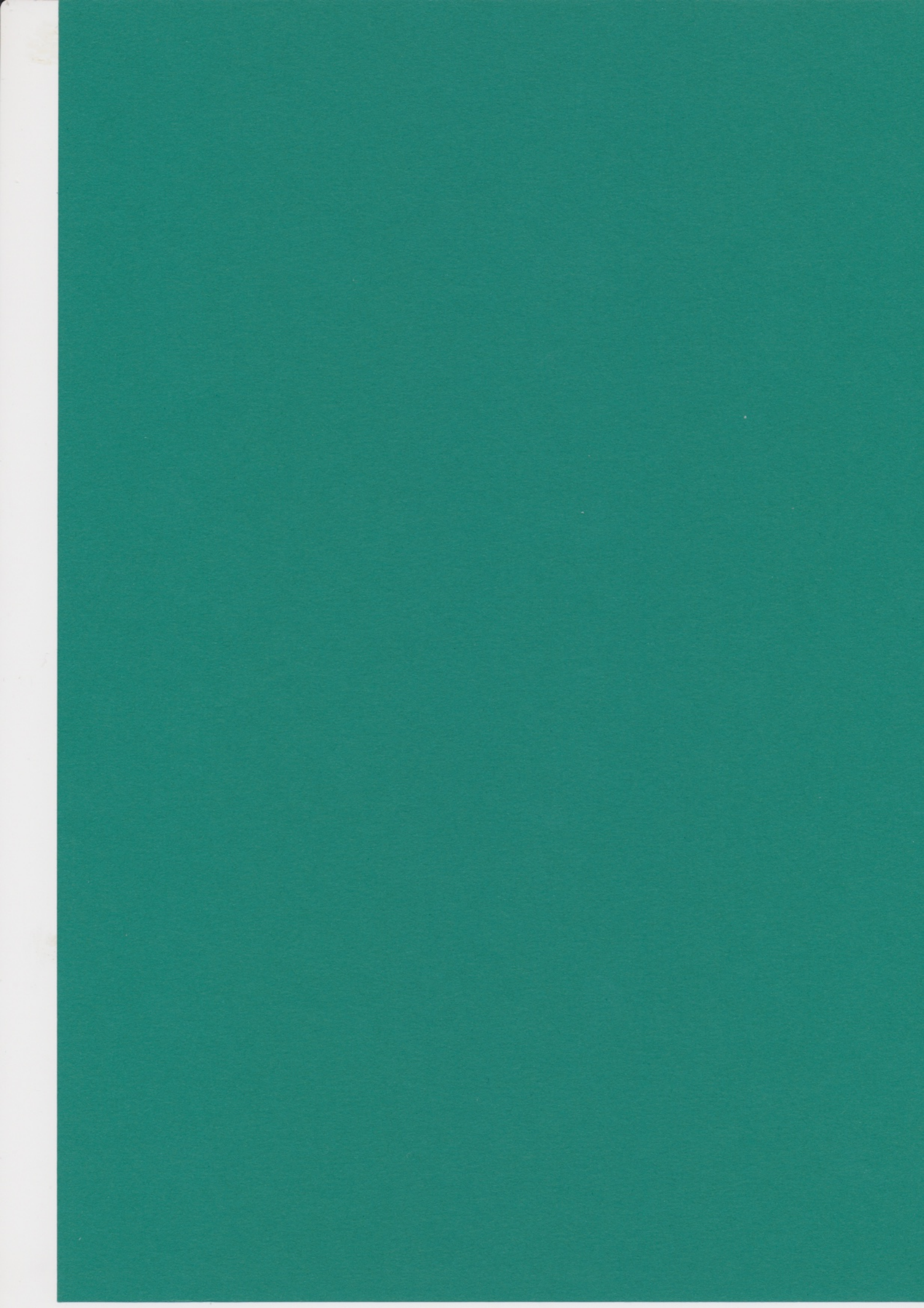


THE SHARJAH ACADEMY
OF FINE ARTS





THE SHARJAH ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

PROPOSAL
Organization of the Academy
Study Programme of
the Basic and Advanced Studies

by

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THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS
Copenhagen 2000

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Preface

To found an Academy for the Fine Arts in Sharjah is a natural consequence of the not only far-sighted, but in fact also necessary cultural policy of H.H. Shaikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohamed Al Qasimi.

A similar vision, implemented by another monarch, in another age, was realized in 1753, when King Frederik the Fifth of Denmark decided to found The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, inspired by the French model and - in the beginning - with French professors.

Following economic expansion and increased building activity, there arose a corresponding need of educating Danish architects, sculptors and painters, who could collaborate in producing and decorating the new buildings of all kinds, as well as the public space, such as squares and parks and thus it became natural for this new Academy to offer teaching in architecture and the visual arts - as well as the different artisan techniques of the period, in a dialogue between tradition and innovation.

The Danish tradition of teaching architecture and the arts in harmonious cooperation has thus existed for a considerable period of time, and today there exists - besides the departments of the traditional art forms - also a Department of decoration and ornamentation of specific sites and spaces, in relation to which there are a number of workshops, where old as well as new techniques are taught.

The establishment of The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, in the middle of the 18th century, can be said to have been directly instrumental in the development of "Danish Art" as such, which not so very many years later was able to present internationally reknown architects, sculptors and painters, who themselves established a national tradition, continued to the present days.

It is therefore with great pleasure that we, on this historical background, at the invitation of the Ministry of Culture and Information have the honour to present this outline of an Academy of the Fine Arts in Sharjah.

The proposal outlines a structure for a 2 year study towards an Art Diploma, with which the student would be qualified to apply to art academies all over the world, including The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, on whose structure and general aims this proposal is based.

A further step - which is also described in the proposal - could be to expand the curriculum a further 2 years towards a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree, thus forming the basis of a future International Academy.

At such a level the Academy, by formalizing the dialogue between Islamic and Western tradition with special reference to art forms - could indeed become a unique institution, of the greatest interest for the International art scene.
Further - the Academy in Sharjah could perhaps even be instrumental in building a "bridge of understanding" between two global traditions.

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Prospectus

The Academy of Fine Arts aims at providing training and stimulating inquiry both within the creative arts (painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, video art, etc.) and within the history and theory of art and civilization, as well as of carrying out the progressive development of the various artistic and technological disciplines which are prerequisite to the work with visual art. In order to accomplish these aims, teachers and students are likewise aware of the need to be abreast of and take part in the development of the International art scene.

The artistic and scholarly activities of the Academy should be guided by three guiding points of view:

- The conception of the work of art is at one time the foundation and the starting point for the frequently changing definitions of the various artistic disciplines as well as being the very life nerve of the Academy's work with research and development.
- The various departments' frequently diversified courses of study and research are generally characterized by the intertwining of theoretical disciplines and artistic creativity as well as dealing with requirements and skills pertinent to technical and material considerations.
- The artistic and scientific activities of the departments aim at creating fruitful relations between tradition and new departures.

Individual student art work is the focal point of the foundation course where artistic working procedures evolve through the interplay of individual discussions between student and instructor and participation in a wideranging catalogue of practical and theoretical disciplines.

The training at the more advanced level of study (Bachelor Degree) is based upon offering the student further possibilities for developing his or her artistic work and opportunities to participate in more specialized theoretical and practical activities.

At both the basic level and the advanced level Arabic and foreign guest lecturers could be invited - artists and architects, poets, philosophers and scientists - to lecture and participate in artistic and theoretical projects and to work with the students alongside with the tenured staff of the Academy.

An important element of the education will be study tours undertaken by the students going abroad to both Arabic and Western countries together with their professors. These travels will be of great importance to the orientation and artistic development of both students and professors.

Study Structure

Departments

The Academy consists of four departments i.e. 1) Painting, 2) Sculpture, 3) Mural & Architectural Media and 4) Photography & Electronic Media.

A professor, responsible for the academic and artistic level, heads each department.

Workshops and Theoretical Departments

The Academy will, besides the main departments, consist of a number of workshops. A lecturer, professor or technician will be assigned as the head of each workshop, and he or she could, if necessary, be the head of more than one workshop, according to the available capacity.

The size and contents of each workshop should be adjusted corresponding to the levels of study (Art Diploma/Bachelor of Art) and to the academy resources.

These workshops will arrange interdisciplinary courses. This will give an opportunity to students in one field to get acquainted with students in other fields at the Academy, and to find the required assistance and supervision which they will need during their work and study period.

All workshops will have the possibility to assist and/or advise any organization or individual from outside the Academy. In this way the Academy will be able to create a dialogue between itself and the outside world, which is represented by both academic and industrial worlds.

Moreover, the Academy will include a Theoretical Department (three departments if the Advanced Studies are established), which will be headed by a specialized lecturer, who will be responsible for deciding the educational program in cooperation with the teaching committee. The teaching in this department will, besides homework, be carried out through lectures, seminars and conferences.

The Study Levels

The study period runs for 2 years, after which the students are graduated with an Art Diploma. However there will be a possibility to extend the study for 2 years, after which period a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree will be awarded to the graduated students.

In the present circumstances we suggest 20 students to start their studies at the Academy.

Admission

The admission is granted on the basis of an evaluation of the applicant's material, as presented to an evaluation committee. Here, we advise that each applicant presents 5 examples of his or her work. The committee will call selected candidates to a test,

lasting 2 weeks, during which each candidate will, on a daily basis, work on solving a programme exercise, developed by the committee.

Exchange Agreements

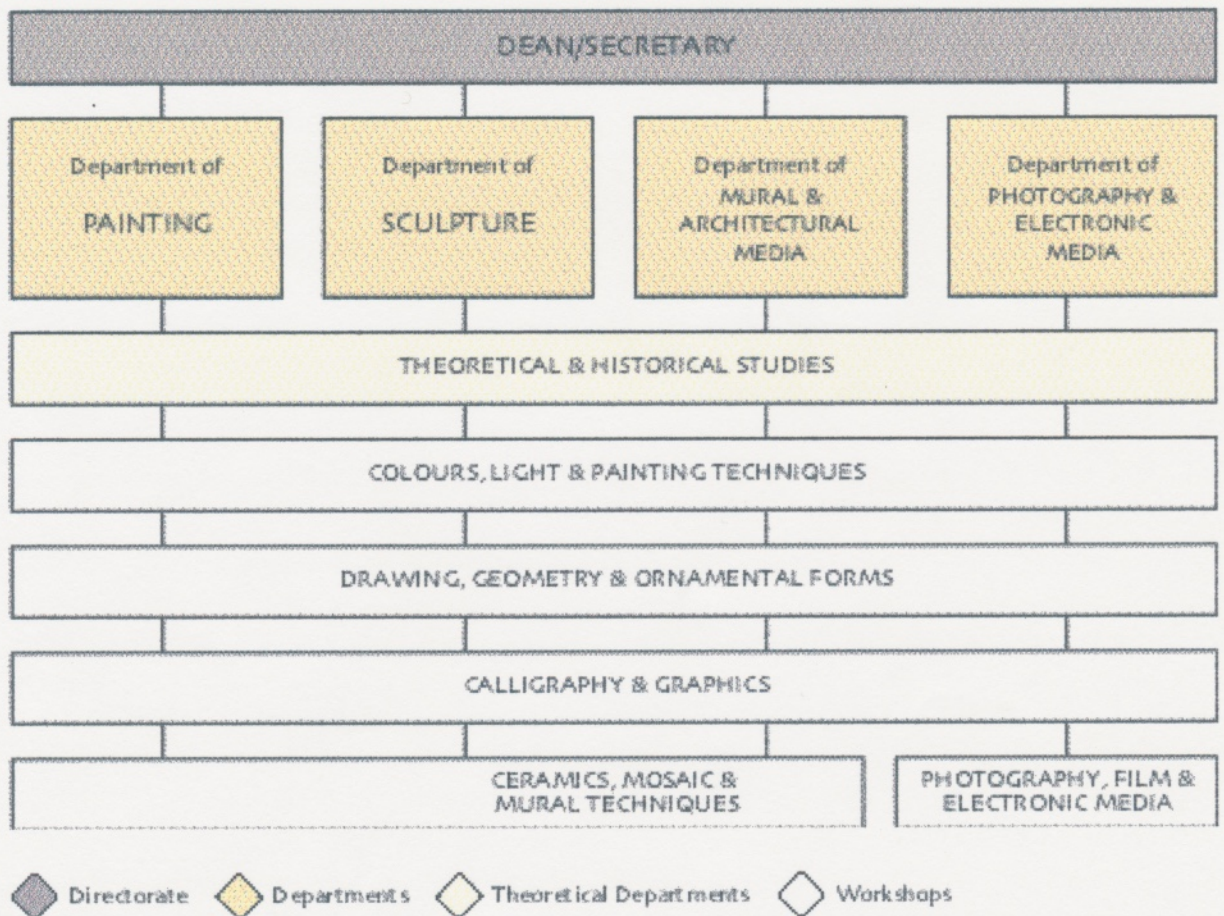
In order to build an artistic and cultural dialogue between the Academy and the outside world, the Academy structure takes into account the possibility of making protocols and exchange agreements with other academies, both in the Arabic World and in the rest of the World. This will make it possible for each student to continue his or her education abroad, in the future.

Directorate

The Dean is the headmaster of the Academy, appointed by a board or the Ministry as responsible for the administration of the Academy.

The daily administration of the Academy is attended to by the Dean and his secretary.

Structure of the Academy: Basic Studies



Departments

The four departments have similar organization and study structure.

- A **Management:** a professor heads each department.
A secretary will be appointed for each professor.
- B **Facilities:** two studios for each department. For the Department of Electronic and Photographic Media a showroom (cinema) will be needed.
- C **Workshops:** according to the needs and requirements of each department, see the following:

The Department of Painting

will consist of specialized areas such as:

Painting, Graphics, Calligraphy.

- Theoretical and Historical Studies
- Colours, Light and Painting Technique
- Drawing, Geometry and Ornamental Forms
- Calligraphy and Graphics
- Ceramics, Mosaic and Mural Techniques

The Department of Sculpture

will consist of specialized areas such as:

Sculpture, Installation, Performance Arts and Scenography.

- Theoretical and Historical Studies
- Colours, Light and Painting Technique
- Drawing, Geometry and Ornamental Forms
- Calligraphy and Graphics
- Ceramics, Mosaic and Mural Techniques

The Department of Mural and Architectural Media

will consist of specialized areas such as:

Ornaments and Monuments Arts, Art in Public Places, Architectural Space, Landscape and Gardening Art.

- Theoretical and Historical Studies
- Colours, Light and Painting Technique
- Drawing, Geometry and Ornamental Forms
- Calligraphy and Graphics
- Ceramics, Mosaic and Mural Techniques

◀

The Department of Electronic and Photographic Media

will consist of specialized areas such as:

Photography, Video, Computer, Image Processing and Film.

- Theoretical and Historical Studies
- Colours, Light and Painting Technique
- Drawing, Geometry and Ornamental Forms
- Calligraphy and Graphics
- Photography, Electronic Media, Video and Film

Theoretical Departments and Workshops

The Theoretical Department is organized as follows:

- A Management:** a specialized lecturer and an assistant teacher
- B Facilities:** an auditorium, a library and a reading room

The student will be introduced to the History of Art and Civilization, Aesthetics and Visual Theory and the subjects, which will be provided here, are:

The History of Art and Civilization

Programme 1: Islamic Art and Architecture and the Islamic Heritage

These subjects will focus on the Islamic Symbols and their role, and the essential époques until the present time. The époques will be exemplified by their essential artworks and their relation, compared to the development of the Western tradition.

This subject will include:

- Early Islamic Art - e.g. the Mosque of Damascus (715) and the Palace of Qasr al-Hair (728)
- The Abbasid Period - e.g. The Palace of Ukhaidir, Iraq, c. 780
- Art in Persia until the Mongol conquest - e.g. the Mosque of Masjid-i-Jami, Isfahan (1088) and stucco work ornament of the Gumbat-i-Alaviyan (c.1200), Hamadan, Persia
- Spain, Egypt and Northern Africa until c. 1200 - e.g. The Great Mosque of Cordova in Spain (786-987) and the Mosque of Al-Azhar (970), Cairo
- Persia, The Mongol Period - e.g. book illustrations and the Masjid-i-Jami (1325-26) at Varamin
- Syria and Egypt, 12th and 13th centuries - e.g. The Mosque of Beybars (1260-77), Cairo
- Late Islamic Art in Northern Africa, Spain and Sicily - e.g. The Alhambra Palace (1333-93), Granada, Spain
- The Seljuks of Rum - the Turkish inspiration - e.g. The Mosque of the Sultan Palace (1229-36), on the Kayseri-Sivas road, Turkey
- The Ottoman Turks - e.g. The Mosque of Sultan Selim II at Edirne (1570-74), Turkey
- Persian Art, Late 14th and early 15th centuries - e.g. book illustrations
- The Late Safavid Age - e.g. the Masjid-i-Shah Mosque, Isfahan (1612-13)



An important part of the above is to study the corresponding development of crafts and book illustrations.

Programme 2: The Western Tradition

The study programme will include the History of the Western Tradition until the present time. This will be exemplified by illumination of art and its relation throughout the development of the societies. The study will start with the Greek époques, Byzantine, Early Christian Art until the Gothic period and the Roman time. Thereafter, the Renaissance, Baroque and Modern and Contemporary Art.

The Contemporary Art will be taught through a series of lectures and debates, focusing on art works. This will be taught mainly by International artists and art historians. This will include both local and international aspects and will deal with the role of art in the present time, i.e. the Electronic and Globalization period.

The students will be involved in art activities, exhibitions and seminars. Visits to local/international exhibitions will be emphasized. Furthermore there will be put weight on the relations to the Press and the Media in order to ensure a dialogue with society and its institutions. This will mediate the concept of art to society and expand its presence, hopefully thus finding larger understanding and acceptance in society.

Aesthetics and Visual Theory

The Study programme will include lectures about:

The analysis of art, the perception of art, the aesthetic production and forming principles, including its production and general relations to society.

Reception and perception theory: how to perceive an artwork, based on different viewpoints.

Receptions in the Eastern and Western philosophy: the world outlook from the Islamic to natural science viewpoints.



Workshops

The Workshops are organized as follows:

- A **Management:** a specialized lecturer
- B **Facilities:** specialized workshops

The Workshop of Colours, Light and Painting Techniques

The student will be introduced to colours and chromatology, surface treatments of different materials, chemistry, light and optics.

The Workshop of Drawing, Geometry and Ornamental Forms

The student will be introduced to free drawing, ornamental techniques, geometry, perspectives and projection drawings.

The Workshop of Calligraphy and Graphics

The student will be introduced to the basic manual and digital techniques, such as Cad-Cam.

The Workshop of Ceramics, Mosaic and Mural Techniques

The student will be introduced to construction, firing and glazing. Also preparing objects, frontage materials and buildings elements in ceramic, concrete and glass.

The Workshop of Photography, Film and Electronic Media

The student will be introduced to the basic techniques such as image processing.

Study and Schedule

Each applicant has to send an application to the Academy, in which one of the main departments at the Academy is applied for. The acceptance of the student depends on the quality of the presented material that is sent with the application, the interview, and the test that the evaluation committee will carry out.

An example of a weekly schedule, seen below, beginning at 9 am. and to continue until 5 pm., and all the subjects are mandatory.

DAY	TIME	SUBJECT	TIME	SUBJECT
Sunday	9.00 - 11.30	Art & Civilization 1	13.00 - 17.00	Studiowork & Workshops
Monday	9.00 - 11.30	Art & Civilization 2	13.00 - 17.00	Studiowork & Workshops
Tuesday	9.00 - 11.30	Aesthetics & Visual Theory	13.00 - 17.00	Studiowork & Workshops
Wednesday	9.00 - 11.30	Studiowork & Workshops	13.00 - 17.00	Studiowork & Workshops
Thursday	9.00 - 11.30	Studiowork & Workshops	13.00 - 17.00	Analysis & Study of artworks

The History of Art and Civilization, Aesthetics and Visual Theory, which represent the theoretical part of the education, will be taught in the form of lectures and seminars. The practical part of the education will take place through the studiowork and in the workshops, where students will have direct supervision from technicians and specialized teachers. The workshops, as shown in the table above, will include all mandatory subjects.

Each department will hold an exhibition at the end of each semester, where the work of the students will be exhibited after being evaluated by their professor. The exhibition should also be open to the public.

The Advanced Studies

It is possible for each student to continue his or her education in the same department in which they have received an Art Diploma.

Consequently, the departments will keep their notations.

However, according to the extended study programme, the facilities and the workshops will then expand.

The Department of Painting

Nothing is to be added.

The Department of Sculpture

1 studio is to be added.

6 workshops are to be added:

1) Metal and Metal Casting, 2) Plaster, 3) Stonework, 4) Woodwork, 5) Scale Modelling, 6) Plastic, Industrial Painting and Surface Treatment.

The Department of Mural and Architectural Media

6 workshops are to be added (common with The Department of Sculpture).

At this study level a cooperation with The America University, Department of Architecture and Design is suggested.

The Department of Electronic and Photographic Media

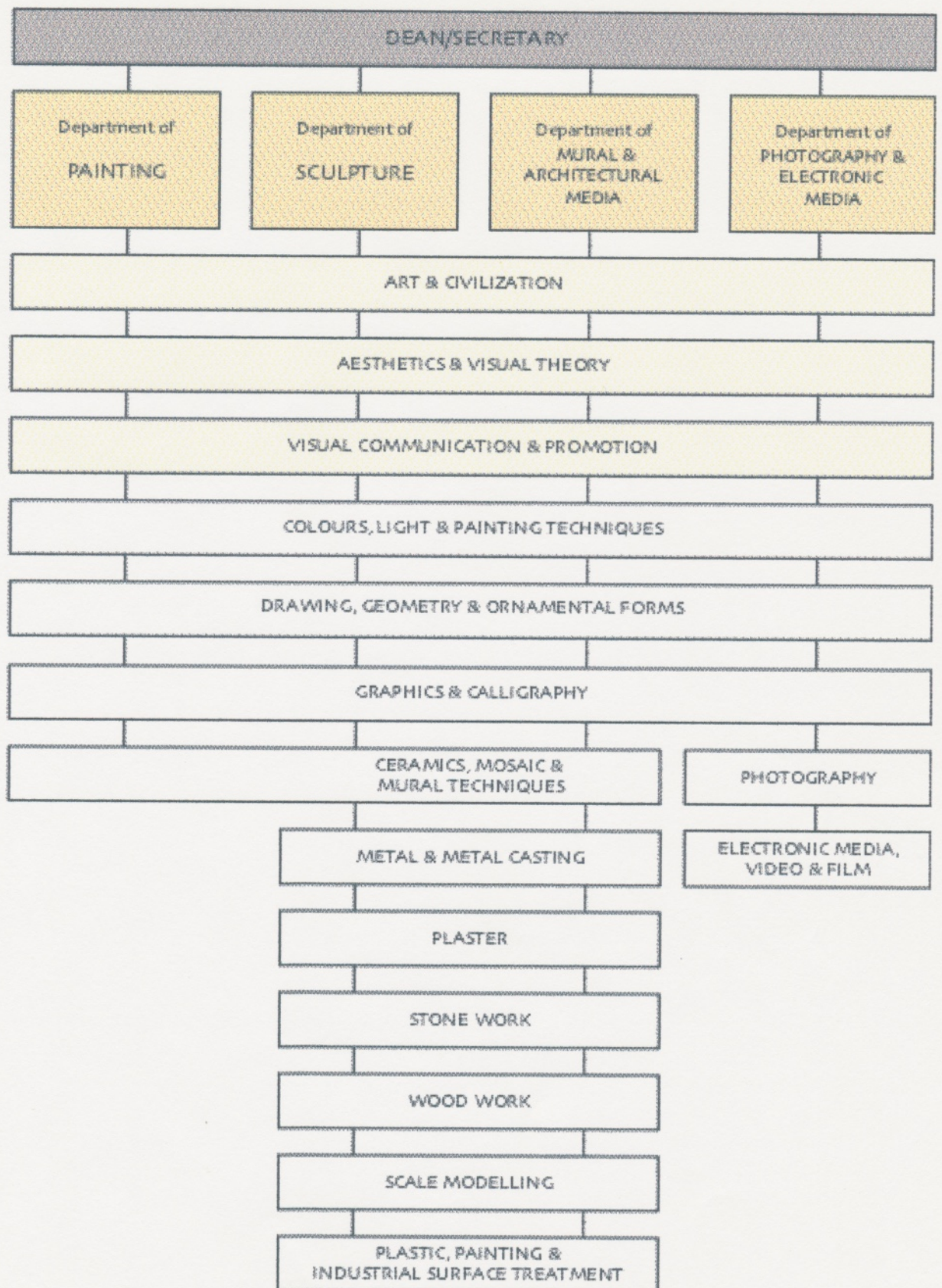
The workshop of Photography, Film and Electronic Media is to be divided into two sections, i.e. 1) Photography, 2) Electronic Media, Film and Video.

Moreover the Department for Theoretical and Historical Studies

will be divided into 3 sections for :

The History of Art and Civilization, Aesthetics and Visual Theory, and Visual Communication and Promotion.

For the latter there will be assigned a lecturer, a lecture room and a showroom. The study will focus on the art establishment, i.e. the role of Museums, Galleries, the Press, Critics, Curators and the art activities in general. These studies will be carried out through lectures, seminars and exhibitions.



◆ Directorate ◆ Departments ◆ Theoretical Departments ◆ Workshops

Acknowledgements

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