

ArtEZ University of the Arts

Publication version development interview CROHO 49125 Master Performance Practices

The Master Performance Practices, Croho 49125, at ArtEZ was assessed by Aequi in February 2021. Following the visitation, the visitation report was drawn up with findings and recommendations.

The program wanted to specifically orient its development conversation on the organizational aspects of the changes it is currently making. It has invited the chairman of the Aequi-panel to this conversation. This report has been drawn up to conclude the process, and summarises the topics and developments that have been discussed.

Summary

The MPP program team looks back on a good visitation process and is particularly pleased with the highly appreciative report. The Panel formulates this in its report, i.a., with the following text:

“The interrelationship between theory and practice in the program is strong. Students are offered a solid and wide base of theoretical knowledge and perspectives and learn to link them to their research question and their artistic practice. The content of the specialization modules is adapted each year to the specific needs of a cohort, in a joint effort of students and teachers.”¹

The program feels strengthened in its vision and is happy to take the panel's recommendations as input for its further steps.

The MPP's training staff zooms in on the following subjects:

1. The density of the program - the dominant concepts and themes/learning outcomes
2. The professionalization of the teachers
3. The accommodation of the MPP

Ad 1.

“The Committee Considers that the Master Performance Practices is a very dense program, presenting the students with a lot of content: modules, topics, literature and skills.”²”The committee notes that the concepts of ‘body’ and ‘post humanism’ are a current focus in the documentation and in conversations and these terms themselves risk becoming part of dominant discourses”.

Directly after the visitation, the MPP staff examined with the students their perception of these points. The education team re-examined the modules to remove possible duplications or (too) strong accents from the program, so that the program is even more balanced and less dense without losing its body. This re-design will be implemented in the academic year 2022-2023. In the evaluation phase, the formulated learning outcomes will be re-examined. On the one hand, these learning outcomes offer students and lecturers good starting points, on the other hand, they could eventually be formulated more broadly.

Ad 2.

Professionalization of the teachers

¹ Master Performance Practices ArtEZ University of the Arts, Report of the extensive program assessment 9-10 February 2021, version march 2021 (hereafter referred to as “Aequi Feb. 2021”), page 4

² Aequi Feb. 2021, page 12&13

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As described in the report "... the teaching team of the Master Performance Practices (is) energetic and strong, with a good mix of skills and experience, and an international orientation."³

The recommendation "Stimulate and enable professionalization and formal representation for core team members"⁴ particularly relates to the professionalization requirement in terms of the assignment policy as designated assessor. All teachers working at MPP will be given the opportunity within the next six months to follow a professionalization training course in the field of assessment, so that at the start of the 2022-2023 academic year all the teachers will have obtained the required (Dutch) qualification.

Ad 3. Accommodation

"During the conversations with teaching team and the unit Master Courses, the committee learnt that the use of the wider ArtEZ studio facilities is not always easy because bachelor students have priority. More importantly, the program dreams of having a professional venue for themselves, for students to learn how to run a performance venue, and for showing their work to the local ecology in a more inviting environment. The unit Master Courses is currently looking at this, trying to find a space for performance and experimentation, in collaboration with partners in the wider community of Arnhem."⁵

The issue is broader than just the MPP. ArtEZ is working on a relocation plan in which the accommodation issues of all Masters are included. The aim is for the MPP to be located in the same building as the bachelor in order to promote mutual understanding. The relocation is planned for September 2022 .

³ Aequi Feb. 2021, page 16

⁴ Aequi Feb. 2021, page 17

⁵ Aequi Feb. 2021, page 18, note: The originally used term Graduate School has been replaced by the official term "the unit Master Courses"