



STUDIJŲ KOKYBĖS VERTINIMO CENTRAS

Vilniaus dailės akademijos (Vilniaus fakulteto)
STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS „TAPYBA“ (*valstybinis kodas - 621W10010*)
VERTINIMO IŠVADOS

EVALUATION REPORT
OF "PAINTING" (state code - 621W10010)
STUDY PROGRAMME
at Vilnius Art Academy (Vilnius Faculty)

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Išvados parengtos anglų kalba
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DUOMENYS APIE ĮVERTINTĄ PROGRAMĄ

Studijų programos pavadinimas	Tapyba
Valstybinis kodas	621W10010
Studijų sritis	Menai
Studijų kryptis	Dailė
Studijų programos rūšis	Universitetinės studijos
Studijų pakopa	Antroji
Studijų forma (trukmė metais)	Nuolatinė, 2 metai
Studijų programos apimtis kreditais	120 ECTS
Suteikiamas laipsnis ir (ar) profesinė kvalifikacija	Dailės magistras
Studijų programos įregistravimo data	1997 gegužės 19d., Įsak. Nr. 565

INFORMATION ON EVALUATED STUDY PROGRAMME

Title of the study programme	Painting
State code	621W10010
Study area	Art
Study field	Fine Arts
Type of the study programme	University studies
Study cycle	Second
Study mode (length in years)	Full-time (2 years)
Volume of the study programme in credits	120 ECTS
Degree and (or) professional qualifications awarded	Master of Fine Art
Date of registration of the study programme	1997 May 19 th Order No. 565

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The Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education

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I. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the evaluation process

The evaluation of on-going study programmes is based on the **Methodology for evaluation of Higher Education study programmes**, approved by Order No 1-01-162 of 20 December 2010 of the Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (hereafter – SKVC).

The evaluation is intended to help higher education institutions to constantly improve their study programmes and to inform the public about the quality of studies.

The evaluation process consists of the main following stages: 1) *self-evaluation and self-evaluation report prepared by Higher Education Institution (hereafter – HEI)*; 2) *visit of the review team at the higher education institution*; 3) *production of the evaluation report by the review team and its publication*; 4) *follow-up activities*.

On the basis of external evaluation report of the study programme SKVC takes a decision to accredit study programme either for 6 years or for 3 years. If the programme evaluation is negative such a programme is not accredited.

The programme is **accredited for 6 years** if all evaluation areas are evaluated as “very good” (4 points) or “good” (3 points).

The programme is **accredited for 3 years** if none of the areas was evaluated as “unsatisfactory” (1 point) and at least one evaluation area was evaluated as “satisfactory” (2 points).

The programme is **not accredited** if at least one of evaluation areas was evaluated as "unsatisfactory" (1 point).

1.2. General

The Application documentation submitted by the HEI follows the outline recommended by the SKVC. Along with the self-evaluation report and annexes, the following additional documents have been provided by the HEI before, during and/or after the site-visit:

No.	Name of the document
1.	• Strategic Plan
2.	• Diploma Supplement
3.	• Student Handbook
4.	• Organizational Charter
5.	• Minutes of the Study Programme Committee
6.	• Licence and Master Thesis

1.3. Background of the HEI/Faculty/Study field/ Additional information

Vilnius Academy of Arts (hereinafter – Academy. VAA) is a state institution of higher education of arts organising university first-cycle, master’s, special vocational, integrated, third-cycle, doctoral studies, performing research and developing high-level professional artistic activities. The Academy was established by the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania and is an

autonomous institution carrying out independent academic, administrative, economic and financial management activities based on the principle of self-government, academic freedom, and defined in the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law on Higher Education and the Statute of the Academy.

The Academy consists of the following structural departments: the Council of VAA, the Rector's Office, the Senate of the Academy (Senate), Faculty of Postgraduate Studies (FPS), Vilnius, Kaunas, Telšiai, Klaipėda Faculties, science and arts departments, administrative units, internship and recreational bases, cultural and sports centres, Open School of Arts, Design and Architecture (OSADA) of VAA, Design Innovation Centre, etc.

Vilnius Faculty is an integral structural part of Vilnius Academy of Arts, thus it uses the Academy's facilities and methodological resources on equal terms with other structural departments. The Vilnius Faculty implements university study programmes in arts: bachelor's and master's.

1.4. The Review Team

The review team was completed according *Description of experts' recruitment*, approved by order No. V-41 of Acting Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education. The Review Visit to HEI was conducted by the team on *24/April/2017*.

1. **Robert Baker (team leader)**, Limerick School of Art & Design, Head of Fine Art Ireland. (until 2009) Chair of the Board of EQ-Arts Quality Enhancement Agency, Amsterdam
2. **Prof. Radu Andrei Pulbere**, PhD. Professor in University of Art and Design in Cluj-Napoca, Coordinator of the Master specialization in Textile Design UAD Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
3. **Prof. Lylian Meister**, Freelance artist and designer, Board member of Tori, Jaam MTÜ (Non-profit organization), Estonia.
4. **Jeffrey Dennis**, Senior Lecturer (0.5) Fine Art Programme, Chelsea College of Arts, University of the Arts London, United Kingdom.
5. **Prof. Jelka Geršak**, Professor at University of Maribor, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Textile Materials and Design, Slovenia.
6. **Assoc. prof. dr. Rimantas Plungė** The Head of Contemporary Art Department Faculty of Arts at Vytautas Magnus university, Lithuania.
7. **Aneta Bačianskaitė**, student of the Šiauliai University study programme *Applied art and business, Lithuania*.

II. PROGRAMME ANALYSIS

2.1. Programme aims and learning outcomes

Generally, the need for the MA Painting study programme (state code 621W10010) is explained well. Plans for future development could be a little better described to add more focus on contemporary art. Particularly in directions that are engendered within a painting practice but extend beyond it. The main objective of the MA Painting study programme is quite broad and although currently satisfactory more contemporary focus and direction would make the programme more vital and add sense dynamism. The contemporary art market is demanding and requires a wide variety of multiple competences. The objectives of the MA programme are adequate and seem to meet the needs of the contemporary art market in Lithuania as it currently stands. The uniqueness of the MA Painting study programme could be more precisely explained: it would help for the VAA to define development perspectives of the study programme. The intended learning outcomes are well-structured (development of research, special, social, personal competences are listed) and clear. Summing up it is possible to state that programme aims and learning outcomes are well described and explained (intended learning outcomes description page 7, Subject and intended learning outcomes matrix, page 8 of SER).

Objectives of the study programme are publicly announced in various sources (description of the program, materials and publications of VAA, web page: www.vda.lt and others).

In the SER (p. 6) it is mentioned that the MA Painting study programme is the only one in Lithuania, but developers of the programme would be advised not concentrate on the local cultural market and instead consider the whole of the EU and global cultural fields. The correspondence with Lithuanian market needs is positive, but targeting just the Lithuanian labour market is a limited view. Two examples of foreign student graduation appear to be a random thing.

Programme objectives and intended learning outcomes are linked to academic and professional requirements (p.8 “Submitted and intended learning outcomes matrix”), and correspond to the legal requirements of Lithuanian cultural policy (the Seimas Resolution on Lithuanian cultural policy guidelines for the approval of changes, 2010 06 30 No XI-977). MA Painting programme is organised according to documents and legal requirements of the Republic of Lithuania (Law on Higher Education and Research, Description of General Requirements for Master’s Study Programmes, Descriptor of Study Cycles, Description of the Lithuanian Qualifications Framework, etc.), the Descriptor of the Study Field of Fine Arts (2013) and the requirements of the Study Regulations of VAA. The title of the study programme (MA Painting) reveals the intended learning outcomes, the content of the programme and the qualification to be obtained.

2.2. Curriculum design

The programme's structure meets with the legislative requirements that are compulsory for MA programme studies. The scope of the programme is 120 ECTS credits. The structure corresponds to the requirements for the program parts: mandatory subjects of the study field are 96 ECTS (requirements for legislation no less than 60), elective theoretical subjects are 24 (requirements for legislation no more than 30) and preparation of Final Work is 39 ECTS (requirements for legislation no less than 30). The number of credits that are being studied and examined for over a single semester is 30 (as required: no more 30). Duration of continuous full-time studies: two years. The general scope of the programme is enough to achieve the learning outcomes and to get the proper skills within the two years. The study program meets with the legal acts of the Republic Lithuania (Law on Higher Education and Research, Description of General Requirements for Master's Study Programmes, Descriptor of Study Cycles, Description of the Lithuanian Qualifications Framework, etc.), the Descriptor of the Study Field of Fine Arts (2013) and the requirements of the Study Regulations of VAA.

The concept of the study programme is clear. The study programme has enough logical steps for achieving the learning outcomes and is sufficient to acquire the due competencies. The sequence and linear order of the subjects (they become more complex) in the semesters are based on the objectives and intended outcomes of the Master's study programme. The compulsory subjects of programme (Creative project 1, 2, 3, Creative practice in public space, Master's thesis and Final Work) is based on this principle and is closely related with the research paper (Research Methods and Final Master's thesis 1, 2, 3). Students can flexibly construct personalised study programme because they can choose up to 20% of the subjects. Important to mention that study programme is written sequentially mostly subjects or topics are not repeated.

In terms of structure, the programme meets the formal requirements for the university second-cycle study programmes. Lectures, practice sessions and independent work take about 8 hours per day and respectively 40 hours per week. The ratio of the contact work and independent work in the study plan corresponds to the provisions of the Study Regulations of Vilnius Academy of Arts as well as other relevant documents: 38 (20-55) % of the scope of the study programme is dedicated to the contact - classroom work (theory, seminars, practice sessions and individual consultations), and 62 (45-80) % – to the independent work and studies (at least 50% of the scope of each subject is dedicated to independent work of the students).

The study programme is oriented to artistic research, so it means that proper methods shall be used. The variety of study methods are used, the students are provided with sufficiently favourable conditions to achieve the learning outcomes; various study methods corresponding to the

specific characteristics of individual subjects are used and adjusted to the individual needs of the Master's students. The study programmes are mainly focused on individual work of the students, such forms of studying as problem-based learning, problem-based discussion depending on the situation, case studies and problem-based exercises are developed. Constant contact and consultations are provided for each study subject; one of the purposes of such consultations is to better understand and meet personal needs of the students. The problematic side of such a working model is that communication usually with one professor and student's performance is dependent on the personal attitude of the staff member. During the meetings with students, graduates and social partners the need of subjects connected with self-management, positioning and marketing were expressed, it is important to state that it could be barrier to the achievement of the learning outcomes.

The scope of the Master's study programme as well as the scope and proportions of its subjects, contact hours and independent work, and types of examinations are in accordance with the requirements of the legal acts and documents on studies of the Republic of Lithuania. The number of subjects studied over a semester is proper and does not exceed five. The order of study subjects is understandable, reflect logical order, the scope of all study programme is sufficient. According to documentation of the study programme (description of the study program Painting (state code 621W10010) and SER) the learning outcomes are achievable.

According to documentation (description of the study program Painting (state code 621W10010) and SER) of the study programme, and the description of subjects it can be seen that there is a possibility to achieve correspondence to the latest academic, artistic or technological achievements, but during the site visit and in the show of graduation work it was evident that works are oriented to traditional painting and even to the traditional school of Lithuanian painting. Newest artistic and technological achievements are used very fragmentally, there were few examples presented of painting and modern technologies integrated into one piece.

2.3. Teaching staff

The teaching staff of study programme consists of 3 professors, 3 associate professors, 1 lecturer (1 doctor of science). The theoretical part of the final thesis and project is curated by 2 PhD degree holding theory specialists. The composition of the staff corresponds to the legal requirements: at least half of the scope of the study field subjects must be taught by the scientists or established artists. The academic staff in VAA are hired through open competition in accordance with the prescribed legal requirements and the order of minister of Education and Science " For MA study programme general requirements for the approval of the description" and Description of

Qualification Requirements for the Positions of Teaching Scientists and Artists and the Procedure of Organising the Certification and Competitions to Hold the Positions as well as the Procedure of Awarding Pedagogical Titles at Vilnius Academy of Arts. 26 staff members of the Vilnius Art Academy are teaching the study subjects.

42% of the teaching staff are established artists (18% have PhD), 58% of lecturers have academic degrees. 50% of the subject field teachers' area of expertise matches their taught study field subjects. The staff of the Painting Department comprises teachers who have long pedagogical and professional experience. Most of the lecturers have more than 20 years of pedagogical and practical-professional experience and their artistic activities and scientific area matches their taught field of study subjects. During the hiring process qualifications of the applicants are required to meet the following criteria: professional competence, concept and vision of the subject to be taught and active artistic (scientific) activity. An open competition method is used to hire academic staff members for a period of 5 years. Individual lecturers are also hired by signing fixed-term employment contracts for a period of one year with a possibility to extend the contract. The hiring procedures and staff quality monitoring system creates conditions to ensure proper staff qualifications. It is important to mention that most of the teachers within MA Painting programme are active practitioners: established artists, painters, recognised in Lithuania and internationally. The lecturers have the status of an Art Creator (awarded by the Ministry of Culture) and are members of various national professional associations: Lithuanian Artists' Association, Interdisciplinary Art Creators Association etc., and members of various international educational and professional networks (e.g. AICA). The most problematic situation is with the staff's pedagogical experience: despite the fact that the teachers are professional in their field of research and/or artistic activities; they do not seem to have the latest psychological and pedagogical knowledge of working with students.

The number of the teaching staff is adequate to ensure the learning outcomes (26 staff members are teaching in the study programme). The Painting department can use the resources of qualified staff of the whole academy. Students are able to use the support of the academic staff from other departments within VAA, Vilnius University, Music and Theatre Academy. Visits of international teachers are organised, but all of them are theoreticians not always directly connected with MA Painting studies, no painting workshops were organised during the last years with international visitors.

The structure of the staff of Painting department has been changing for the last few years (the imbalance of the gender of the professors which was mentioned in the last SER is no longer relevant), but some problems are apparent: the biggest part of the teaching staff are graduates of the VAA (including all painting specialists), none of the professors are from abroad (or teachers with

long and/or continues teaching experience at Universities abroad), the department is missing teachers with different backgrounds (multimedia art, ID design, communication, anthropology or even environment psychology would be relevant). This problem reflects on the MA Painting study programme's proper development and the works of the students. Due to poor knowledge of foreign languages only a part of the programme lecturers are ready to work with international students' the international experience and international teaching mobility of the lecturers is very limited. MA Painting cannot succeed in progressing without solving these problems. Such a situation in the teaching staff turnover is not able to ensure an adequate provision of the programme in the future.

Teaching staff are active in different artistic-creative and scientific-academic activities. They take part in academic conferences, traineeships, initiate and develop art projects, organise and participate in international and national exhibitions (over 2011–2015, within the Painting Master's programme lecturers participated in 119 art events (exhibitions, projects, symposiums and residencies), of which 96 were in Lithuania and 23 abroad, for the last five years at least three albums and monographs about professors were published). This allows the academic staff to improve their knowledge and competence of their subjects. VAA has recognised the need to develop various skills of the teaching staff (the mapping of personal initiatives and competences, a teachers' club is also being developed), organised professional study trips, but they are only for professional subject knowledge development. The pedagogical side of teaching staff development is very limited (the last courses for the staff were provided in 2011) and this requires immediate action. Lack of such training creates a negative influence and the students communicated a negative reaction during the site visit to some of the teaching methods.

2.4. Facilities and learning resources

Premises used for the MA Painting programme are located in the old town of Vilnius; they are comfortable for the students and staff. Most of the galleries and art organizations are in walking distance, the buildings and laboratories of VAA are close to each other. The premises of VAA and the equipment are divided in accordance with functional needs: classrooms for theoretical lectures, self-education, studios for practical-individual work and workshops to execute specialized tasks. The studios and classrooms are accessible from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on week days; students can use the premises for practical-individual work any time convenient for them. The spaces of Painting department can be used not only for the achievement of programme objectives but also for presentation of practical works too. Students are allowed to use all suitable VAA spaces to publicly present their works. Computers with internet connection would be useful in the painting studios.

MA Painting students are provided with individual, personal painting studios spaces in the VAA building in J. Jasinskio street. The given studio is used during the whole MA study

programme years. There are 10 studios and it makes up a total area more than 200 m². MA Painting students can use other premises and laboratories (9) at VAA (management of the equipment and laboratories is centralised):

Design laboratory and Press centre, Maironio g. 3, 501, 31 m².

Photography and Media laboratory, Maironio g. 3, 335, 46 m².

Monumental painting and Scenography laboratory, Maironio g. 6 ir J. Jasinskio g. 16, 333, 63 m².

Restoration laboratory, Maironio g. 6, 120, 50 m².

Ceramics laboratory, Maironio g. 6, 407, 72 m².

Metal laboratory, Maironio g. 3, 107, 18 m².

Textile laboratory, Malūnų g. 5, 349, 36 m².

Graphic art laboratory, Malūnų g. 5, 433, 10 m².

Costume design laboratory, Maironio g. 3, 97, 41 m².

The conditions of the classrooms are suitable for studies, most are equipped with proper lighting, heating and ventilation systems in compliance with sanitation and hygiene requirements. Premises are renewed and renovated periodically. MA Painting studios for individual work can be described as appropriate.

VAA has adequate arrangements and premises for students' workshops/practices in Mizaru Village, Druskininkai district, Paris, France (studio) and Nida Art Colony (1,600 m² building in Nida, Taikos 43). Nida Art Colony accommodates 5 residency studios for artists, general art workshop (80 m²), and student dormitory with two-bed, three-bed and four-bed rooms (60 spaces), canteen (40 m²), the exposition space (200 m²), video and conference hall (80 m²). From June to August, the students' summer practice takes place at the Nida Art Colony. Master's final projects defence and the expositions of the best works are held in VAA museum and exhibition halls, Titanikas' (Maironio str. 3; total area 701 m²), VAA galleries 'Akademija' (Pilies str. 44/2, Vilnius), textile gallery-workshops, Artifex' (Gaono str. 1, Vilnius artifex@vda.lt), Jonas Mekas Visual Art Center, Vilnius Contemporary Art Centre, National Art gallery, other galleries. In case of finding appropriate places for practices the Painting Department works closely with social partners. Therefore, VAA has adequate arrangements for students' practice.

Methodical and teaching materials are good and accessible for the staff and students. VAA VF library, reading-rooms and rare books reading-room have a proper collection of literature, provides access to electronic data bases, methodical materials and modern standards of equipment. The literature indicated in the programme description is available in the VAA library, reading-rooms and methodology library of the Painting Department. Every year the library orders new

publications. Students can use the electronic directory of the academy that is freely accessible online. The Academy community in a remote way has access to 19.006 e-journals. VAA library subscribes to 19 electronic scientific data bases. A big number of Painting topics are reflected in subscribed and received free of charge journals (18 items). The Department (all teaching staff) collects student's theses (in CD format), teachers collect publications connected with contemporary painting, materials about teacher's creative activities and student's exhibitions. The department collects DVDs about outstanding artists, trends and different art phenomena for theoretical studies and educational films.

2.5. Study process and student's performance assessment

Applicant with professional Bachelor's qualification, who has completed a professional study programme in the study field of art, can be accepted for Painting MA studies. Admissions are considered by the special commission of the Faculty of Postgraduate Studies approved by the Rector. It is composed of 1–2 lecturers from each department of VAA involved in the MA studies in the art study field. The most motivated applicants who presented the most comprehensive portfolios are admitted to the studies by joint decision of the commission. Admission to the MA studies of VAA is performed by way of competition, by summing up the admission criteria: Bd1 – the grade of the final Bachelor's thesis; Dv2 – weighted average grade of 4- year Bachelor's studies (the final work excluded); Kd – review grade of the applicant's portfolio (applicants with the grade below five on a 10-point grading scale) are eliminated from the competition); Etp – the grade for the admission interview and short theses on MA studies. Formula for the calculation grade is as follows:

$$Bd + Dv + Kd + Etp$$

From the meetings with students and graduates is clear that the students find the entrance requirements clear, well-founded, consistent and transparent.

Study time is organised according to legal requirements¹. The academic year consists of two semesters: autumn and spring. Every study semester lasts 20 weeks. The month of September is for students' practical training (MA students carry it out individually – organize an exhibition, do internship). VAA MA studies are organised in two main modes of study organization: work in

¹ The Republic of Lithuania Law on Higher Education and Research (approved by Resolution No XI-242 of 30 April 2009 of the Seimas) and the Law Amending the Republic of Lithuania Law on Higher Education and Research No XI-242 (No XII-2534, 29 June 2016), the Order No 1652 of 24 July 2009 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania Regarding Approval of External Evaluation and Accreditation Procedure of Study Programmes.

auditoriums and independent work. Time table is flexible and organised without prejudice to the interests of students (most of them are working). The MA Painting studies are organised on purpose to balance theoretical studies, practical work, number of lectures (30-50%) and independent work (50-70%). The time table of the midterm and end-of-term reviews are well organized; student's assessments are always public, with all MA students, academic advisers and students of other courses participating. Organisation of the study process ensures proper implementation of the programme and achievement of the intended learning outcomes.

The main purpose of the MA Painting study programme is described as “artistic research” (like all VAA MA study programmes), so teachers encourage students to make scientific, interdisciplinary (or artistic) phenomena and research of a chosen topic. The students take part in joint activities, artistic events² (for example exhibition in the gallery “Art Form”) in many cases together with teachers. During the studies students develop a close interconnection between final practical project and theoretical thesis. Theoretical aspects are strongly related to individual artistic expression. In some case, well-known specialists, researchers of specific areas are invited to provide consultations for students specialised research topics. In summary, it can be stated that students are encouraged to take part in scientific, artistic or applied science activities.

Students are provided with the conditions to take part in mobility programmes: possibilities for studies in foreign universities, etc. are announced on the notice board, presented during meetings with students and special events in the Faculty, also online (www.vda.lt) and through social networks (Facebook, etc.). The Academy is an active member of academic networks (KUNO, Cirrus, ELIA, Cumulus), it participates in international study exchange programmes (ERASMUS+, Nordplus), has cooperation agreements with partners all over the world, mediates in submitting applications for scholarships from the Education Exchanges Support Foundation. Despite listed information (SER, p. 26) it is important to note that a small numbers of students are using these possibilities to take part in the mobility programmes (2014/15 – one, 2015-2016 – two, 2016-2017 – two). Most of the MA students at VAA are working to support themselves; possibilities can be dependent on marital status, so that students do not always have a lot of possibilities to leave the country for mobility visits. VAA could strive to develop student's participation in academic exchange and mobility programmes.

VAA provides proper academic support: in the beginning of an academic year, every MA student discusses the programme, plans assignments and consultations with an academic adviser. When the individual study plan is approved, attention is paid to terms and deadlines and subject layout. Students have a permanent possibility to meet and consult with academic staff and staff of the department, the faculty and various departments. The students informed the Review Team that

² <http://m.klaipeda.diena.lt/naujienos/kaunas/menas-ir-pramogos/destytojai-ir-studentai-susivienijo-parodai-810208>

the management system of the VAA is rather horizontal, so students do not have difficulties in gaining support from any part of the institution. The system of social support is regulated by the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Lithuania and the rules of VAA. Students can apply for scholarship in VAA, the best students learning ones, who are noted for their creative activity and are from socially supported families, can also apply for financial support to social funds outside Academy. In 2016 *Vilnius Academy of Arts mental health improvement programme* was confirmed and started to be implemented (students can ask for qualified psychological help). Students can ask for financial support at VAA in case of unusual accidents in their lives. Students from other towns in Lithuania or foreign countries can apply for dormitory accommodation.

Assessment of students' knowledge and skills in all programme subjects is carried out in a ten-grade criterion-based assessment system (the basis for this system is founded on suggestions by the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Lithuania and VAA Regulations of Studies). The MA Painting programme complies with Fine art study field descriptor (levels of achieved learning outcomes of the second cycle of studies (MA studies), which even more specifies the evaluation system: excellent achievement, typical achievement, threshold achievement levels. Assessment criteria are public, presented in the study programme, online resources and usually presented in oral form. Students are acquainted with the assessment system, criteria and conditions at the beginning of semester, also often when assigned each task. The system of assessing student achievements is clear enough, public and appropriate to assess the learning outcomes. There is a concern about assessment feedback, as it is in oral form and students do not get feedback in written form.

The professional activities of the majority of programme graduates correspond to the expectations of programme operators and employers most of the time: some students are very active in the art life of Lithuania, they also exhibit their creative products abroad; a large number of students working in the field of applied production (publishing houses, theatres, advertising agencies) and in various formal and informal educational establishments. Such a situation shows that graduates are able to find a personal career pathway, but it is also clear that a number of graduates find working possibilities outside the area of the study field.

MA Painting is important in the cultural context and corresponds to the economic, social and cultural fields of Lithuania, but the study programme should also strive to relate to the European and global context.

A good and modern learning environment is ensured. Students know about opportunities to make complaints and lodge appeals (first in oral form during discussions with teaching staff), but during the meeting students declared that they were not sure where to find detailed information, how to do it in written form and what procedures can be used.

2.6. Programme management

Responsibilities for decision making and monitoring of the implementation of the programme are allocated: the activities of the Faculty of VAA higher studies are organized by the Faculty Council, the Dean and Dean's office, for the monitoring and development of MA Painting the Study Programme Committee is responsible. In the Study Programme Committee department teachers, teachers from other programmes, social partners, graduates and students are all involved. Their responsibilities are shared and described (information submitted by the head of the Painting Department Assoc. prof. J. Vaitekūnas during the staff meeting). The Study Programme Committee initiates and takes care that quality monitoring of the programme content (aims, outcomes, subjects, methods of evaluating students' achievements), self-evaluation and its improvement are consistently carried out. Meetings of those implementing the programme meet on average no less than twice a semester.

The Department collects all documents related to the process of programme implementation. The minutes of Painting Department and MA Painting Study Programme Committee meetings, day to day information, problems and achievements, agreements of cooperation with social partners are collected and kept in the department. All collected data, qualitative and quantitative information is analysed periodically (meetings of programme implementers on average take place no less than twice a semester), but some programme committee members mentioned that they seldom attend meetings and do not always have a possibility to review documents concerning MA Painting Study Programme.

The Study Programme Committee is responsible for monitoring the quality of the MA study programme, subject teaching, study process and resources. Student opinion about the study programme, subjects and competences of the professors are used to make conclusions about the quality of the study programme. Generally, it can be said that the outcomes of internal and external evaluations of the programme are used for the improvement of the programme.

The evaluation and improvement processes involve stakeholders. Stakeholders are involved in the Study Programme Committee, in the future relations could be developed to ensure even closer cooperation.

Most of the internal quality assurance measures are effective and efficient; they are used to ensure the study programme development. There is a common policy of VAA quality assurance (Committee activity and structure is regulated by '*Study Programme Committee regulations*') and this supports proper programme management.

The information about the study programme is public, relevant and easily accessible online, and in the publications of VAA, AIKOS system.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The programme strategy of Vilnius Art Academy should be developed to aim to become the regional (not only Lithuanian) leading art education provider particularly at MA level. The Painting Department should produce a strategy and plan of implementation to develop its study programmes.
2. Additional research about attracting international students to its MA programmes is required from various sources and the feedback should be analysed to support the development of the Academy's and MA Programmes strategic plans.
3. New members of the teaching staff with a wider variety of educational backgrounds and experiences need be attracted and appointed to increase the discourse and intellectual rigour and capacity of the MA programme to evolve and to prepare for working conditions in the new international environment.
4. A permanent, sustained, a full-funded programme of staff development should be established to enhance programme development skills and pedagogical skills.
5. The new subjects of self-management and marketing should be strengthened. The study process and students' performance assessment should further aligned and developed. Possibilities for students to take part in mobility programmes should be improved.
6. Further work, and a systematic approach to strengthen communication (not only informal, but also formal) with social partners and other stakeholders should be continued.

IV. SUMMARY

The progress of the MA Painting study programme in the last years is clear, but Vilnius Art Academy needs to rethink its institutional strategy to meet its potential. A dynamic situation in the field of cultural creative industries is rapidly developing and the institution should prepare for a new role of regional leader. In a new ambitious Academy environment the MA Painting study programme will also need to develop a new mission. Most of the strategic documents are written on the level of the whole academy, no strategy documents of the Painting Department exist: this creates an unfavourable situation when the department does not have a strategy for future development and cannot prepare itself for future challenges.

The programme aims are quite broad, but although it is still possible to achieve. Would be recommended the reconsider programme aims, re-clarify and the content of study programme re-aligned to ensure achievement of study aims and indented learning outcomes to change the concentration from Lithuanian to an international market. Precise data about graduates' career paths needs to be collected reviewed, analysed and used for the improvement of the study programme.

The structure of the teaching staff should be corrected to prepare for modernization of the MA Painting study programme and its future development. It is very noticeable that a large majority of the teaching staff are graduates of Vilnius Art Academy (all the painting teachers), the department is missing professors with diverse educational backgrounds, the department does not have foreign professors or professors with continuous teaching experience abroad. The professionalism of the teaching staff in the artistic field is beyond doubt, but all academic staff in every institution need continuing support and the development of skills in communication psychology, pedagogy and subject pedagogy (the lack of this continuing development is noticeable and creates negative responses from students).

Facilities and learning resources are mostly fit for the purpose. Students are allocated personal studios, support of the technical staff is very satisfactory. The possibility to use various laboratories is provided, but renovation and reconstruction processes must keep going in order to gain competitiveness in the international market.

Study process and students' performance assessment is developing in the right direction, academic, social support is granted, but some areas should be further enhanced: the organization of students' assessment should be enhanced to provide written feedback for students; the possibility of consultations with professors according to a planned time table would be good practice; and students must be enabled and encouraged to take active part in mobility programmes.

Programme management processes have been reformed during the last few years and the results are positive, but more close work and a systematic approach is required to strengthen communication (not only informal, but preferably in a formal way) with social partners and other stakeholders.

V. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

The study programme *Painting* (state code – 621W10010) at Vilnius Art Academy is given **positive** evaluation.

Study programme assessment in points by evaluation areas.

No.	Evaluation Area	Evaluation of an area in points*
1.	Programme aims and learning outcomes	3
2.	Curriculum design	3
3.	Teaching staff	3
4.	Facilities and learning resources	4
5.	Study process and students' performance assessment	3
6.	Programme management	3
	Total:	19

*1 (unsatisfactory) - there are essential shortcomings that must be eliminated;

2 (satisfactory) - meets the established minimum requirements, needs improvement;

3 (good) - the field develops systematically, has distinctive features;

4 (very good) - the field is exceptionally good.

Grupės vadovas: Team leader:	Robert Baker
Grupės nariai: Team members:	Radu Andrei Pulbere
	Lylian Meister
	Jeffrey Dennis
	Jelka Geršak
	Rimantas Plungė
	Aneta Bačianskaitė

**VILNIAUS DAILĖS AKADEMIJOS, VILNIAUS FAKULTETO ANTROSIOS PAKOPOS
STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS TAPYBA (VALSTYBINIS KODAS – 621W10010) 2017-09-12
EKSPERTINIO VERTINIMO IŠVADŲ NR. SV4-189 IŠRAŠAS**

<...>

V. APIBENDRINAMASIS ĮVERTINIMAS

Vilniaus dailės akademijos (Vilniaus fakulteto) studijų programa *Tapyba* (valstybinis kodas – 621W10010) vertinama **teigiamai**.

Eil. Nr.	Vertinimo sritis	Srities įvertinimas, balais*
1.	Programos tikslai ir numatomi studijų rezultatai	3
2.	Programos sandara	3
3.	Personalas	3
4.	Materialieji ištekliai	4
5.	Studijų eiga ir jos vertinimas	3
6.	Programos vadyba	3
	Iš viso:	19

* 1 – Nepatenkinamai (yra esminių trūkumų, kuriuos būtina pašalinti)

2 – Patenkinamai (tenkina minimalius reikalavimus, reikia tobulinti)

3 – Gerai (sistemiškai plėtojama sritis, turi savitų bruožų)

4 – Labai gerai (sritis yra išskirtinė)

<...>

IV. SANTRAUKA

Tapybos magistro studijų programos pažanga pastaraisiais metais yra akivaizdi, tačiau Vilniaus dailės akademijai vertėtų iš naujo apsvarstyti savo institucinę strategiją, kad būtų išnaudojamas jos potencialas. Situacija kultūros ir kūrybos srityje greitai keičiasi, todėl institucija turi pasirengti naujam regioninio lyderio vaidmeniui. Naujoje ambicingoje akademijos aplinkoje tapybos magistro studijų programai taip pat reikės sukurti naują misiją. Dauguma strateginių dokumentų sukurti visos akademijos lygmeniu, nėra sudaryta jokių Tapybos katedros strateginių dokumentų, todėl susidaro nepalanki situacija, nes katedra neturi būsimos vystymo strategijos ir negali pasirengti būsimiems iššūkiams.

Programos tikslai yra gana platūs, tačiau juos visgi galima įgyvendinti. Rekomenduojama iš naujo apsvarstyti programos tikslus, iš naujo suderinti studijų programos turinį, kad būtų užtikrintai įgyvendinami studijų tikslai, o numatomi studijų rezultatai būtų susieti ne su Lietuvos, bet su

tarptautine rinka. Reikia surinkti, peržiūrėti bei išanalizuoti tikslius duomenis apie absolventų karjerą ir juos panaudoti studijų programai tobulinti.

Dėstytojų personalo struktūrą reikėtų keisti taip, kad ji būtų parengta tapybos magistro studijų programai modernizuoti ir jai tobulinti ateityje. Akivaizdu, kad didžioji dalis dėstytojų yra Vilniaus dailės akademijos absolventai (visi tapybos dėstytojai), katedrai trūksta įvairesnės kompetencijos turinčių dėstytojų. Katedroje nedirba nė vieno dėstytojo iš užsienio ar dėstytojas, kuris turėtų nuolatinės dėstymo užsienyje patirties. Dėstytojų profesionalumas meno srityje yra neginčijamas, tačiau kiekvienos aukštosios mokyklos akademiniam personalui reikia teikti nuolatinę paramą ir tobulinti įgūdžius komunikacijos psichologijos, pedagogikos ir dalykų pedagogikos srityse (tokio nuolatinio tobulinimosi trūkumas yra pastebimas bei sulaukia neigiamų atsiliepimų iš studentų).

Materialieji ištekliai daugiausiai tinkami programos dėstymo tikslui pasiekti. Studentams paskiriamos asmeninės studijos, techninio personalo pagalba yra pakankama. Suteikiama galimybė naudotis skirtingomis laboratorijomis, tačiau verta tęsti renovacijos ir atstatymo procesus tam, kad būtų įgytas konkurencinis pranašumas tarptautinėje rinkoje.

Studijų procesas ir studentų darbo vertinimas yra tobulinamas tinkama linkme, suteikiama akademinė, socialinė pagalba, tačiau reikia toliau tobulinti šias sritis: studentų vertinimo organizavimą, kad jie gautų rašytinį grįžtamąjį ryšį; galimybę pasikonsultuoti su dėstytojais pagal numatytą tvarkaraštį (tai būtų gera praktika); studentams reikėtų suteikti galimybę ir paskatinti juos aktyviai dalyvauti judumo programose.

Programos vadybos procesai per paskutinius kelerius metus buvo pertvarkyti, ir rezultatai yra teigiami, tačiau reikėtų intensyviau dirbti ir taikyti sisteminių požiūrį, kad būtų sustiprintas ryšys (ne tik neformalus, bet, pageidautina, ir oficialus) su socialiniais partneriais bei kitais socialiniais dalininkais.

<...>

III. REKOMENDACIJOS

1. Vilniaus dailės akademijos programos strategiją reikia tobulinti. Akademija turėtų siekti tapti pirmaujančia dailės aukštojo mokslo institucija ne tik Lietuvoje, bet ir visame regione, ypač suteikiančia magistro laipsnį. Tapybos katedra turėtų sudaryti strategiją ir įgyvendinimo planą, kaip tobulintų savo studijų programas.
2. Reikia atlikti papildomą skirtingų šaltinių tyrimą, kaip į magistro studijų programas pritraukti studentų iš užsienio ir išanalizuoti grįžtamąjį ryšį tam, kad jis padėtų tobulinti akademijos bei magistro studijų programų strateginius planus.

3. Reikėtų pritraukti ir įdarbinti naujus dėstytojus, kurie turėtų daugiau kompetencijos bei patirties ir padidintų magistro programos diskursą, intelektualų tikslumą bei našumą, kad programa tobulėtų bei parengtų absolventus darbo sąlygoms naujoje tarptautinėje aplinkoje.
4. Reikėtų parengti nuolatinę, ilgalaikę ir visiškai finansuojamą personalo tobulinimosi programą, kad būtų gerinami programos tobulinimo įgūdžiai ir pedagoginiai gebėjimai.
5. Reikėtų stiprinti naujus vadybos ir rinkodaros dalykus. Vertėtų toliau derinti bei tobulinti studijų procesą ir studentų darbo vertinimą. Rekomenduojama didinti galimybes studentams dalyvauti judumo programose.
6. Reikėtų tęsti darbą ir sistemiškai stiprinti ryšį (ne tik neformalų, bet ir oficialų) su socialiniais partneriais ir kitais socialiniais dalininkais.

<...>

Paslaugos teikėjas patvirtina, jog yra susipažinęs su Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso 235 straipsnio, numatančio atsakomybę už melagingą ar žinomai neteisingai atliktą vertimą, reikalavimais.

Vertėjos rekvizitai (vardas, pavardė, parašas)