

Routines for Graduation Exhibitions at Kungl. Konsthögskolan

Revised annually if there is a need after the graduation exhibitions.

Introduction

At Kungl. Konsthögskolan two exhibitions are organized annually within the framework of the programmes in fine art (the five-year programme and the master's programme) which can be regarded as graduation shows.

One of the exhibitions, the one in year 3 of the five-year programme, is carried out in the form of a separate course, "Independent work in fine art at bachelor's level" (15 credits) during the spring semester in ÅK3. This corresponds to the Higher Education Ordinance's requirement for independent work (degree work) of at least 15 higher education credits within the main area of the education (Higher Education Ordinance, Appendix 2) and entitles the student to a bachelor's degree in fine art.

The other exhibition, the one in year 5 of the five-year program and year 2 of the master's program, is carried out within the framework of the course "Individual artistic work" (30 credits) which runs during the autumn and spring semesters in ÅK5/MA2, and is aimed at the learning objective in the syllabus to "plan and collaborate within the framework of a group exhibition process".

The purpose of these exhibitions is to learn, produce and share knowledge, related to the exhibition as the occasion when the works are made public according to certain conventions and the institutional frameworks and structures that hold these conventions. The goal is not to take for granted the formats these conventions imply, but to learn what they are, how to act within them, and also how to critically assess them and eventually transform them.

The main purpose of the exhibitions is the educational function of learning experiences through the students participating in the process leading to the exhibition; production and logistics questions, curatorial questions, questions about the contextualization of the work and more.

The success of the graduation shows is measured not only by the quality of the works on display or the appropriateness of the exhibition as a whole, but by the way in which the result reflects the collective task of putting the exhibition together. The intention is to carry out a non-hierarchical group exhibition through collaboration between students and support teams.

The names of the exhibitions

GRADUATION SHOW (AVGÅNGSUTSTÄLLNING) is the generic name to be used in the communication of the exhibition in ÅK5/MA2. Older titles such as Master exhibition or Spring exhibition (Springshow) should not be used. The generic title should be applied exclusively, without giving the exhibition an alternative title, as it goes against the vision of the institutions to host the exhibition without a curatorial framework.

As students usually continue their studies at school after the exhibition in ÅK3, the generic name "Graduation Show" is not appropriate for their exhibition. Instead, the exhibition should be called BA SHOW (KANDIDATUSTÄLLNING).

Participant

For students in year 3 of the five-year program, it is mandatory to participate in the course "Independent work in fine art at bachelor's level" (15 credits), which includes work with the BA Show. Since the course corresponds to the Higher Education Ordinance's requirements for independent work, the exhibition is also their examination at bachelor's level.

All students in year 5 of the five-year program or year 2 of the master's program are required to participate in the Graduation Show for the fulfillment of the learning objective within the course "Individual artistic work".

Should a student ever feel that the format of the exhibition is inappropriate for their practice, they shall be invited to participate in the organization of the exhibition and be encouraged to suggest an alternative way of presenting their work that may create a conversation within the exhibition process.

Responsible

The Vice Chancellor's Management Council is responsible for deciding on a location for the graduation shows. It is then the head of administration who writes the decision on location and agreement with any external host institution, where the exhibition times are also determined. The head of administration also decides on the employment of other possible external collaboration partners, such as an external producer, editor, designer, as well as the communication budget for the exhibitions.

The prefect of the Department of programmes in fine art appoints responsible teachers and decides on the production budget, as well as who will manage and certify the production budget.

Support team

The support team for each exhibition includes two responsible teachers and a producer. In the support team for the BA SHOW, at least one of the responsible teachers must be a professor of art. In the support team for the GRADUATION SHOW, if possible, both responsible teachers should be professors of art. Alternatively, the team includes a professor and a senior lecturer.

Producer

The producer is either employed by the university or hired externally. If the producer is employed, it is appropriate that the person is responsible for both exhibitions. The producer is responsible for the coordination and communication between all participants and students. These include the various units within the college, such as communications, technical staff, etc., as well as external participants, such as an external host institution.

The producer draws up a schedule for the preparation of the exhibits and ensures that everyone is provided with it within a reasonable time. If the producer is employed by the university, the producer should manage and certify the production budget.

Mission of the support team

The support team (responsible teachers and the producer) is responsible for distributing the various tasks for the students and for their participation in the exhibition. The responsible teachers follow each group of students through the phases of the exhibition process, from autumn onwards. They ensure pedagogical guidance and support, as well as create the environment and encouragement for students to collectively reflect on their artistic practices and the exhibition.

Producing the exhibition: a learning process

The students will be asked to organize themselves in several different working groups, each in relation to a specific task. This is particularly important in relation to the achievement of the learning objectives set out in the syllabus, 'plan and collaborate within the framework of a group exhibition'.

The proposal is that these areas should be covered:

- Visualization group
- Communication group (form group)
- Installation group
- Technical/logistics group
- Feel good group
- Program group
- Restoration group

The group categories can be reformulated in discussions between the Support Team and the students. The support team for each exhibition will try to ensure that the work is distributed evenly and experiences are shared. Also, that there are periodic assessments and discussions about what has been done and what has been learned during the course of the work.

External critics

The responsible teachers are responsible for inviting the external critics to the exhibition. The external critics are advisory to the students' examiners. It is always the student's supervising professor who is the student's examiner. The external critics must be invited well in advance to allow time for proper preparation. The external critics should be provided with documents clearly describing the set-up and their mission should be made clear by the inviting teacher. The compensation to the external critics shall follow Kungl. Konsthögskolan's fee template.

At the BA SHOW, the review by the external critics is part of the students' examination at bachelor's level.

At the GRADUATION SHOW, the review by the external critics is more to support the student in placing their artistic practice in the group exhibition, with a particular focus on the transfer of the individual artistic work from the solo exhibition to the group exhibition.

In both cases, it is recommended that the entire student group participate in the respective critique days.

Logistics

The university's exhibition technicians will arrange for access and, as far as possible, the equipment needed for the exhibitions. Students are responsible for contacting the technician in time to request availability and the loan of materials.

Students are encouraged to install the works themselves; the exhibition technician assists with construction and provides guidance.

In consultation with those responsible for the rented exhibition spaces, the technicians provide the students with the necessary information.

Communication and press

The university's communicators determine the students' involvement in the work around the exhibition catalogue, the pictures for it and the communication around the exhibition, the program and its advertising.

It should be ensured that student involvement and the definition of the "communication team" are determined and revised well in advance, and a representative of the university's communicators should attend one of the first meetings to present the process to the students.

The university's communicators appoint editor and photographer for the catalog and exhibition images and ensure that an agreement is drawn up with external partners. They provide the Support Team with a timeline for the catalog as well as deadlines for distribution of the exhibit information. The producer can, if there is time, be part of the editorial team, as it facilitates exchange between all parties involved.

Any cooperation with external designers for visual identity, posters and catalog is carried out by the university's communicators. It is important that external collaborations such as photographers and designers are involved well in advance so that the deadlines in the producer's schedule can be adapted to their needs.

Prior to the work on the catalogue, the Text Area conducts a seminar with the students. The communicators are responsible for initiating that work annually.

Host institution for exhibition

In cases where one or both exhibitions are held outside the university's own premises, it is important that the respective institutions responsibilities are specified in the agreement.

Date

The opening of the GRADUATE SHOW and the BA SHOW must be on the last Thursday in May, if this does not fall on Ascension Day. These years, a suitable day is chosen in connection with the last Thursday in May. The exhibition will last for about 14 days.

Consideration may need to be given to holidays, as many holidays in May and June can mean that both opening hours and exhibition days can affect the exhibition time. The price of the

rented premises should also be changed if many exhibition days are adversely affected by holidays.

The university should rent the premises for a period not shorter than 10 days and not longer than 14 days before the opening of the exhibition and a further 2 days after the end of the exhibition period.

Time line

Timetable with dates for the current academic year is drawn up by the producer in September each year.

June:

- Evaluation of just concluded exhibitions. Participants: vice chancellor, prefect of the department of programmes in fine art, support team for just-concluded exhibitions (teachers and producers), technicians, communicators.

- Prefect of the department for programmes in fine art decides on teacher representatives in the Support Team for the next year's GRADUATION SHOW and BA SHOW. If the decision cannot be made in June, it should be made in September at the latest.

August:

- Preliminary meeting with the new Support Teams, vice chancellor and prefect to communicate budget, production and other details that can be conveyed to the students at the start-up meeting during Infart.

September:

- At the start of the year (in Infart) with ÅK3 and ÅK5/MA2, the respective Support Teams, location and introduction to the exhibition planning process are announced. Producer and representative of the communicators attend.

October:

– The ÅK5/MA2 students' first meeting with their Support Team. Discussion on common agreement regarding behavior and treatment in the work process (the group's common code of conduct), process discussion, definition of work groups and distribution of students in these groups. Outline work presentations by the students (not exhaustive) to anticipate the scope of the exhibition (larger works/installations, special technical requirements, etc.)

November:

- Publication form is set by the university's communicators and presented to the ÅK5/MA2 students, timeline and deadlines are agreed with the designer, text seminar leader and photographer.

December:

- A first meeting with students in ÅK3 and their support team should be held already in December to inform about the schedule for the spring, deadlines, publication form and other things.
- First visit to the exhibition space for the ÅK5/MA2 students, subsequent meeting with responsible persons at the respective institution.
- The invitation to external critics to the GRADUATION SHOW should go out before the end of the year.

January:

- Joint studio visits, for 2-3 days, for the ÅK5/MA2 students. The students also meet individually to discuss their work in smaller groups.
- The ÅK3 students' meeting with their Support Team. Discussion on common agreement regarding behavior and treatment in the work process (the group's common code of conduct), process discussion, definition of work groups and distribution of students in these groups. Outline work presentations by the students (not exhaustive) to anticipate the scope of the exhibition (larger works/installations, special technical requirements, etc.)

January / February:

- Joint studio visits, for 2-3 days, for the ÅK3 students. The students also meet individually to discuss their work in smaller groups.
- The invitation to external critics to the BA EXHIBITION should go out.
- Before work on the catalogue, text seminars are held with the students.

February:

- Starting in February, it is recommended that the entire respective support team and student group meet regularly for short meetings, so that consistent communication can be maintained, and potential challenges and issues can be resolved in a timely manner. For example, "lunch meetings" every Monday (or every other) for an hour have proven to be very effective.
- Working groups such as Visualization and Program produce proposals that represent the entire group's ideas, models of the exhibition premises are built, and possible program points for the presentation of the exhibition are discussed.

March:

- Presentation of the more precise works that the students will show in the exhibition, preparation of the works for the respective visualization group. Visual and textual material for the catalog and other communication tools such as posters must be submitted.

April:

- Two meetings for each student group at 7-10 day intervals to discuss the composition and placement of the works in the exhibition room.

May:

- Hanging of the GRADUATE SHOW and the BA SHOW, opening in week 3.

June:

– Examinations (BA SHOW) and critique days (GRADUATION SHOW) approx. 1 hour per student, usually spread over two days, with different arrangements for bachelor's and master's level.

- Dismantling of the exhibitions where all involved students participate.

– After dismantling: final meeting with all involved students and the respective support team for joint evaluation should be carried out if possible.

- Evaluation of completed exhibitions. Participants: vice chancellor, prefect of department for programmes in fine art, support team, technicians, communicators, and if possible representatives of the host institution (if the exhibition takes place in a place other than the university's own premises).

- Possible adjustment of the routines for the coming academic year.