Michel Verjux - Synoptique, 2007, public commission (8 Profile Spot Light; partial view: «Passage obligé»), Saline Royale by Claude Nicolas Ledoux, Arc et Senans, France; photo: André Morin
The Department of Visual Arts and Aesthetics was created in 1969 and developed along a triple reflection on the practice, analysis and interpretation of Art.

Its incorporation into Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University clearly inscribed it within the grand academic tradition of French university, and it now offers a wide range of courses in Visual Arts, Film and Audiovisual Studies, Aesthetics, Arts and Cultures, as well as Design, Media and Technologies, thus constituting a major artistic centre approaching arts and creation from the point of view of their relationships with creative processes, the works, the artists and society at large, embracing the major current problematics and summoning up the most recent technologies.

Located 47 rue des Bergers, at the heart of Paris’s 15th district, in a recently fully refurbished 7000 square metres building exclusively dedicated to its programmes and known as Le Centre Saint-Charles, the department teaches around 3000 students, including about 600 who follow a distance learning programme in Visual Arts and Film Studies, in close collaboration with the Centre national d’enseignement à distance (CNED).

The main originality of the training offered by the Department of Visual Arts and Aesthetics lies in its constant concern to link up practice and theory. From the BA to the PHD through the MA courses, the students are delivered a body of knowledge and skills whose prominent purpose is to maintain a dynamic and constructive balance between the creative, reflective and theoretical dimensions.
Agnès Foiret - Volumen, linseed oil on paper, variable dimensions, 2009-2010.

The Department of Visual Arts and Aesthetics was the very first academic institution to be dedicated to the teaching of visual arts in France, and remains one of the country’s major university departments in that field.

The 1968 university reform and the subsequent renovation of Paris’s university opened a space for a new academic sector dedicated to artistic training and research in aesthetics. The first national degree in Visual Arts was created in 1970, and its counterpart in Aesthetics in 1972. Further courses introduced later included Cultural Mediation and Performing Arts in 1984, then Applied Arts in 1985...

Over the years, and simultaneously with the evolution in visual arts, the range of trainings offered got more diverse. The Department of Visual Arts and Aesthetics can today boast a homogenous set of courses (in Visual Arts, Film and Audiovisual Studies, Aesthetics, Arts and Cultures, Design, Media and Technologies) which, from BAs to PhDs through both research and vocational MAs, as well as preparations to the competitive exams to become a secondary school teacher (CAPES and Agrégation in Visual Arts), share a common concern to be open to the world of art and culture and to equip the students with the required knowledge and skills to be able to fit into that world from the triple point of view of creation, interpretation and theoretical reflection.
Frédéric Sojcher - Regarde moi


Olga Kisseleva - Sur mesure, light nano-installation, 4th Moscow Biennale of contemporary art, 2011.
The Various Courses Offered

Within the broader sector of Arts, Letters, Languages and Humanities, the various courses offered by the Department of Visual Arts and Aesthetics is divided, from the 3 years of BA to Doctoral studies, into various ‘mentions’, ‘parcours’ and ‘spécialités’. Those courses prepare the students to the national degrees of Licence (BA), Master (MA) and Doctorat (PhD). In Visual Arts, the department also offers preparations to the French competitive exams of the CAPES (both ‘externe’ and ‘interne’) and the Agrégation, required to become secondary school teachers of Visual Arts.

The wide range of courses delivered fall into four ‘mentions’ in Licence (BA) and in Master (MA), all of which all of which provide access to a Doctorat (PhD) in Visual Arts and Aesthetics within the doctoral school Arts plastiques, Esthétique et Sciences de l’Art (APESA).

The Visual Arts ‘mention’
This ‘mention’, offered from the first year of BA on, provides an academic training which combines:

- A practice in visual arts and creation (in media such as drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, installation, performance…) in tune with the current practices in contemporary art.

- and a theoretical and critical reflection around the practice of art (aesthetics, art history, human sciences applied to art).

Students preparing a Master degree in Visual Arts (over the two years of M1 and M2) can access two ‘spécialités’, or approaches to research, covering all the fields of creation: Arts de l’image et du vivant (art of the image and the living) and Espaces, lieux, expositions, réseaux (spaces, places, exhibitions, networks) as well as a vocational course preparing to a teacher’s job in a secondary school (Métiers de l’enseignement et de la formation).

The Film and Audiovisual Studies’ mention’
This ‘mention’ (parcours Pratique et esthétique du cinéma or film practice and aesthetics) enable students to follow, from their very first year of BA on, a body of courses in film studies that combine a theoretical approach (analysis, history, theory and economics of the cinema) with a practical training to film making and audiovisual postproduction. After graduating, students may join a two-year Master Cinéma et audiovisuel (Film and Audiovisual Studies) offering, during the second year of Master studies, either a research approach called ‘spécialité recherche’ Esthétique, analyse, création or a vocational one called Scénario, réalisation, production (Scriptwriting, directing, producing).

Design, Media and Technologies ‘mention’
This ‘mention’ is offered from ‘Licence 3’ (third year of BA) on, as the ‘parcours’ Design et environnements which can be pursued over the two years of MA as Master Design, médias, technologies divided into two ‘spécialités’ covering research approaches Design et environnements and Arts et médias numériques (Digital arts and media), as well as the vocational course Multimédia interactif.

The Aesthetics, Art and Cultures ‘mention’
This ‘mention’ is offered from ‘Licence 3’ on, through two ‘parcours’, Esthétique (Aesthetics) and Métiers des Arts et de la Culture (Management of artistic and cultural projects), and can be pursued along either a two-year research ‘spécialité’ called Esthétique et Études culturelles (Aesthetics and Cultural Studies), or a selective vocational ‘parcours’ keeping its name of Métiers des Arts et de la Culture during the first year of MA, then divided into two highly selective vocational ‘spécialités’, Sciences & Techniques de l’Exposition (Curating Contemporary Art) and Projets Culturels dans l’Espace public (Cultural Projects in the Public Space).

Hervé Bacquet - *Colorimètre*, exhibited as part of the Science Week, Université de Picardie Jules Verne, 2009.
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

In coordination with Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne University’s Service des relations internationales (international relations service), the Department of Visual Arts and Aesthetics constantly devotes itself to valorising exchange programmes. Every year, it concludes new conventions in order to offer the students an ever wider choice of training opportunities abroad, in the whole range of subjects taught within the department.

From their third year of BA on, the students can benefit from these numerous exchange agreements which enable them to complete part of their degree by following a definite number of courses in one of Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne’s many partner universities worldwide.

These exchange programmes fall into three main categories:

• The Erasmus programme offering opportunities for exchanges with numerous European universities (in Germany, Italy, Spain, etc.)

• The CREPUQ programme offering opportunities for exchanges with Québec’s universities.

• The international programmes offering opportunities for exchanges with universities in the rest of the world, including the United States (New York University...), South America, Asia....

The Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne - NYU Steinhardt partnership

The current international exchange programme with prestigious New York University enables PHD students in Visual Arts at Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne University to spend a full academic year in New York, and to NYU Steinhardt students to follow the courses delivered by Paris 1’s Department of Visual Arts and Aesthetics.
RESEARCH AND THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL

The doctoral school

The ‘Arts Plastiques, Esthétique et Sciences de l’Art’ (APESA) doctoral school gathers and supports all doctoral students whose research are supervised by a professor belonging both to the doctoral school and to one of the three research teams associated to it.

The École doctorale’s prominent research fields focus on artistic creation, diffusion and reception, as well as the various theoretical approaches to art and culture. Most of the students’ doctoral research examine the articulations between creation, practice and the elaboration of a theoretical corpus.

A PhD in ‘Arts et Sciences de l’art’ can be carried on in one of the following fields: Arts plastiques (Visual Arts), Design et environnements (Design and Environments), Arts et Médias numériques (Arts and digital media), Esthétique (Aesthetics), Études culturelles (Cultural Studies), Cinéma & audiovisuel (Film and Audiovisual Studies). It must be completed within a period of three to five years according to the student’s professional status. The holder of a PhD is well equipped for a career as a researcher and teacher in higher education, as well as in the private sector.

The research teams

The Institut ACTE (Arts – Créations – Théories – Esthétiques) is an Unité mixte de recherche (UMR) gathering University professors with researcher status and researchers from the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) within ten disciplinary teams and five transdisciplinary ones. This UMR’s scientific programme focuses on four interdependent and connected dimensions: creation, conceptualisation, reception and diffusion.

The department’s other two research teams are both équipes d’accueil: the CERAP (Centre d’études et de recherches en arts plastiques, or ‘centre for studies and research in visual arts’) and the LETA (Laboratoire d’esthétique théorique et appliquée, or ‘laboratory of theoretical and applied aesthetics’).
Pascale Weber - REW, Immemorial work in progress (multimedia installation with visual and sound spatialisations), 1996-2012.
Through Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University’s Direction Partenariat Entreprises et Insertion Professionnelle (DPEIP), students at the department of Visual Arts and Aesthetics are offered facilities that can help them integrate into the world of work, whatever course they follow and level of studies they have reached.

They can for instance complete internships closely connected with their specific field of studies, within public institutions as well as private companies, either in France or abroad. According to the courses they follow, such work placements may meet a compulsory requirement or be an extra asset.

The students can meet careers advisers who will help them along various procedures (assessing their skills, applying for internships and jobs, writing a cv / résumé or a covering letter). They can also benefit from the information available on Paris 1’s website’s ‘espace professionnel’ and take part in the Forums Université-Entreprises organised by the DPEIP. The alumni associations gathering students, from the vocational MA courses in particular, also open invaluable vistas on the world of work.

The department’s policy of developing ever closer contacts with the professional artistic and cultural stage results in a growing number of partnerships entered into with major public cultural institutions and private companies active within the fields its students are training into.

Besides the preparation to the French competitive exams aiming at recruiting secondary school teachers of visual arts (CAPES and Agrégation) the department offers like all major French universities, it has also set up various vocational MA courses that provide their students with the knowledge and skills required to fulfil managerial positions in both private and public artistic and cultural institutions, centres and firms.
Ange Leccia, visual and video artist


Romain Bernini, visual artist

Studied Visual Arts at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University. A fellow in residence at the Villa Medici in Rome in 2010 and 2011, he is currently represented by Galerie Suzanne Tarasieve. His pictures revive the grand tradition of classical paintings while depicting a very personal universe more often than not inhabited by human figures.

François Ozon, film director

Completed both a BA and an MA in Film Studies at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University before joining the direction department of the FEMIS [Fondation Européenne pour les Métiers de l’Image et du Son, the French state film school formerly called IDHEC] in 1990. Shot several short movies in super 8, 16 and 35 mm formats that were often selected by international festivals: in 1996, Une robe d’été [A Summer Dress] was granted one of Locarno Festival’s Pardi di Domani [Leopards of Tomorrow]. In 1998, his first feature film, Sitcom, was part of the official selection of the Semaine Internationale de la critique at the Cannes Film Festival. He has so far shot thirteen feature films, including Sous le sable [Under the Sand, 2000], Swimming-Pool [2003], Le Temps qui reste [Time To Leave, 2005] and Potiche [2010].

Caption for page 14:
Antoine Perrot - Returning the reality of your life - nº5, 2010.

Caption for page 1:

Caption for page 16 (from top to bottom):
Miguel Egana - Pasiphaë, 24 x32, inks, early 21st century.
Pierre Juhasz - Palimpseste – Regard sur Titien version 3, installation, 150 x 80 x 100 cm, canvas, sail, skull, easel, slide projector, 2009.
Anna Guilló - Singapore, mouse drawing and felt on paper, 30 x 22 cm, 2011 (‘La Terre revue du ciel’ series).
Olivier Long - Screen Cream, 130x130 cm, oil on canvas, 2012.
Remerciements à Hugues Le Bailly, maître de conférences à l’université, pour la traduction.