# Zurich University of the Arts (since 2007)

Does disciplinary diversity produce interdisciplinarity?

## 3 Steps

- Merger of Schools (2007)
- A new building (2014)
- Study reform (2022)

**2007**: Merger of the two colleges for design / fine arts and for music / theater / dance

#### >ZURICH UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS – 5 Departements

- Design
- Theater, Film, Dance
- Fine Arts
- Cultural Analysis
- Music

"A Future for the Arts"

## I. Hopes and Dreams and Expectations...

- Structural reform
- New organisation
- new units / processes
- new financing
- 32 locations in two cities
- many interesting discussions
- few results



## II. Getting to know each other in daily life

- Personal encounters
- People get to know each other
- Curiosity arises
- Exchange of experiences and competences
- Joint use of infrastructure becomes possible
- Joint projects emerge such as...

I.A [space]

I.A [research]

I.A [education]

I.A [projects]

I.A [events]

I.A [videos]

I.A [info]

I.A [live]

#### **Immersive Arts Space**

The Immersive Arts Space is a university-wide art/tech lab that serves as a research, teaching and production platform. With innovative and multidisciplinary projects, the team of the IASpace conducts a technologically-supported artistic examination of digital immersion, mixed realities and the convergence of media-based and performative practices. The activities in the IASpace are oriented towards contemporary aesthetic and methodological directions in international design and art and are primarily based on artistic (practice-based) research.

The key areas of the Immersive Arts Space are motion capture, projection mapping, volumetric capture and spatial audio. The equipment is characterized by a juxtaposition of highly professional technology on the one hand and consumer products on the other. Open source software is an important aspect in the development of new projects.

#### IMMERSIVE ARTS AND DIGITAL DAYS



The ZHdK Talent Talk on **November 4th 2021,** in the context of <u>Swiss Digital Days</u> features two presentations by emerging talents Stella Speziali and Chris Elvis Leisi from the Immersive Arts Space [ <u>more</u> ].

COMING UP: REFRESH#4

## **Spatial Dis/Continuities in Telematic Performances**

**Unraveling distributed space through 3D-audio, embodiment and Spatial Augmented Reality** 

Institute for Computer Music and Sound Technology (ICST)



#### But still...

- Language and communication difficulties
- Different qualitative perceptions, ignorance of disciplinary conditions
- Everyone is busy
- Lack of pressure from one's own area
- Ideologisation of the interdisciplinary
- A certain weariness due to the constant demand: be interdisciplinary!

## III. Opening the Doors

- Removal of the fences
- Enabling permeability instead of forcing it

>>> Study reform!

## Majors and Minors

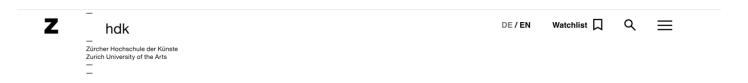
- disciplinary majors (150 ECTS BA / 30 ECTS MA)
- interdisciplinary choice of minors (15 / 30 ECTS)

In ten years from now, our alumni will be working in professional fields unknown today. The skills in demand in the future will be more diverse, more individual and more cross-disciplinary. To enable graduates to meet future professional requirements and ways of working, we have fundamentally reformed our programmes.

## leave it up to the students

- Deepening and Specialization
  Students can specialize within their subject area by studying one of its sub-areas in depth.
- Expansion and Supplementation
  Students can acquire knowledge, skills and competences in another field or a specific subject area.
- Individual Area of Study: In their individual area of study, students select individual modules. They focus on individual goals or on a project. Students may pursue an individual area of study instead of taking a minor.

## The study content becomes lush



### **All Major and Minors**

Find your individual favourite! Our configurator provides an overview of all Bachelor-level majors and minors. Filter by disciplines, interests and competences to find an individual selection of suitable programmes.

Master's programmes will be announced in autumn 2022.

Q Search				Filter	~
Bachelor	Master	Watchlist			

#### Some conclusions

- Interdisciplinarity is not an ideology, it is not "the future", but it contains the future, or its solutions to problems.
- Immersion is a key: an embodied way of understanding the world and removing the material / digital divide
- Critical approach to technology: it is not the content of the work, but a mediator of important questions (critical-technical practice)
- Quality is crucial: outcomes still have to meet disciplinary standards
- Interdisciplinarity does not arise by itself or at most on a small scale. It needs the organisational space for it and incentives.

## Implementation from 2022 – still Hopes and Dreams

