

Press information

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Presentation of the programme on 17 February at 5 pm
kura-t kunstraum traklhaus, Waagplatz 1a, 5020 Salzburg

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Salzburg, 17 February 2026

2026 course programme
20 July–29 August 2026

Common Ground

Common ground refers to areas where everyone is in agreement; boundaries are marked by a series of actions with which everyone can live.

The Summer Academy sees itself as a place of *common ground* and of togetherness – a counterposition to the conflicts raging in the world.

Common ground is created through a purposely shared culture of discussion, artistic work, eating and personal encounters. Every year, more than **300 students** from **50 different countries** gather in **Hohensalzburg Fortress** and the **Untersberg Quarry**. The diverse backgrounds and life-worlds of the individual participants come together for a brief period, enabling productive collaboration. The strength and the potential of the Summer Academy lies in this diversity, as well as in the age and education of the participants, leading to a unique exchange of ideas in which everyone benefits. The short duration of the courses makes for an intensity that gives students the impression of spending 24 hours a day together, so that the common ground acts as a bridge between their disparate backgrounds, some of which are fraught with crises – yet a common ground, a shared space, develops. The world's conflicts are not decreasing – rather the opposite; thus it is all the more important to see the Summer Academy as a place of community, to focus on and to strengthen this common ground.

This year, **21 courses** will be held in two locations: **Hohensalzburg Fortress** and the **Untersberg quarry**.

We already welcomed some of the teachers to the Fortress last year, but there are always newcomers, such as **Mafalda Rakoš** (photography) and **Mojé Assefjah** (painting). A further course in experimental jewellery is offered for the first time by **Stephie Morawetz**.

Former Summer Academy students **Christian Schwarzwald** (drawing) and **Peter Miller** (analogue film) now return as teachers, Schwarzwald also having worked as an assistant. **Mirela Baciak** took a similar path, now joining forces with **Denis Maksimov** to address the format of *Lecture Performance* and the possibilities of artistic knowledge transfer. She, too, was a student, then an assistant, and now returns as a teacher.

Native Salzburger **Heinz Riegler**, now resident in Australia, offers a course on Sound, and the architecture class directed by the Italian collective **Biennale Urbana** will focus on *Fading Grounds*, echoing our current motto.

In the Untersberg quarry, **Benjamin Hirte** holds a course exploring the possibilities and relevance of stone as a material.

In collaboration with **Christoph Schlingensiefel's Africa Opera Village**, a course devoted to performance, dance and theatre is offered for the first time, directed by **Taiwo Jacob Ojudun** and **Uche Emmanuel Enechukwu**.

The following teachers are invited:

Mojé Assefjah (painting), **Mirela Baciak / Denis Maksimov** (lecture performance), **Biennale Urbana** (architecture / urbanism), **Walter Bruno Brix*** (free sewing / stitching), **Rossen Daskalov*** (printmaking), **Louisa Elderton*** (art critique / writing), **Julie Hayward*** (sculpture / object / installation), **Benjamin Hirte** (sculpture), **Thalia Hoffman / Manar Zuabi*** (food art / performance / mixed media), **Christian Macketanz*** (painting), **Pablo Martínez-Zárata*** (film / video / sound / installation / interactive media), **Christian Kosmas Mayer*** (sculpture / installation / mixed media), **Peter Miller** (analogue film), **Stephie Morawetz** (art jewellery / performance), **Taiwo Jacob Ojudun / Uche Emmanuel Enechukwu** (performance / dance / theatre / mixed media), **Elizabeth Pich*** (comic / drawing), **Mafalda Rakoš** (photography), **Heinz Riegler** (sound / installation / video / mixed media), **Curtis Talwst Santiago*** (painting / sound), **Christian Schwarzwald** (drawing), **Hannah Tilson / Otis Blease*** (silk-screen printing).

*These teachers have returned.

Sustainability

In summer 2025, the Summer Academy was re-certified for the third time and has thus held the Austrian Eco-label for extracurricular educational institutions since 2013.

2026 programme of events and collaborations

Once again this year, there will be a wide range of collaborations with art institutions within the town.

Teachers **Christian Kosmas Mayer** and **Pablo Martínez-Zárata** will mount an exhibition in the **kura-t kunstraum traktlhaus**. Photographer and Summer Academy teacher **Mafalda Rakoš** will be represented with a solo exhibition in the **Fotohof**, and the **Zwergelgartenpavillon** of the **Stadtgalerien** hosts **Curtis Talwst Santiago**.

In collaboration with the **Salzburger Kunstverein**, two film screenings will be held, programmed by **Eythar Gubara** and **Peter Miller**. In addition, two **Lecture Performances** will take place in the **Salzburger Kunstverein**,

curated by **Mirela Baciak** and **Denis Maksimov**, who are also teaching a course this year.

Finally, jewellery artist **Stephie Morawetz** has been invited to participate in an evening event at the **Museum der Moderne**.

The course locations Hohensalzburg Fortress and Untersberg quarry will also be open to the public during the **Open Studios**, with the final exhibitions of the work in the courses.

Inclusion of the local club culture will continue with a music programme on three evenings, in collaboration with the **Salzburg Club Commission**.

The detailed programme of events will be announced in spring 2026.

Scholarships and applications

20 July–29 August 2026

Scholarships

Closing date for applications: 7 April 2026

The Summer Academy offers numerous scholarships, most of which cover the course fees, while a few include travel and accommodation costs.

Scholarships are awarded by an independent jury of experts.

- The **Society of Friends** awards scholarships for which anyone may apply. These cover the fees for one Summer Academy course.
- The **Cultural fund of the Town of Salzburg** awards scholarships for which anyone may apply. These cover the fees for one Summer Academy course.
- The **Federal Ministry of the Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport** awards scholarships for art students from the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Croatia, North Macedonia, Moldavia, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine. They include fees for one course, € 200 travel expenses and accommodation costs of € 190 per week.
- The **Province of Salzburg** awards "solidarity scholarships" for which refugees or asylum seekers may apply. They include fees for one course, travel and accommodation expenses and a daily allowance.

- The **zt: Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants** awards scholarships for the architecture course, covering the course fees.

Further awarding bodies (applications to be sent directly to the awarding body):

ERSTE Foundation

American Austrian Foundation

Vienna University of Applied Arts

Kingston School of Art, London

Münster Academy of Art

Zurich University of the Arts

Friends of the Leipzig Academy of Fine Arts

Free State of Bavaria / Munich and Nuremberg Academies of Art

Province of Vorarlberg

Dresden Academy of Fine Arts

University of Haifa

Regular application

Closing date: 1 May 2025

Application is open to all, since no qualifications are required. On the basis of work and documents submitted, each course director will decide on acceptance of applicants. All applications received by 1 May will be treated equally. Later applications will be accepted according to capacity, and processed in the order in which they are received.

Course fees

Two-week course: 670 Euro (reduced: 495 Euro)

Three-week course: 890 Euro (reduced: 635 Euro)

Reduced fees apply to students and members of the Society of Friends of the Summer Academy.

Patrons

Province of Salzburg, Town of Salzburg, Federal Ministry for Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport

Sponsors

Cultural fund of the Town of Salzburg; Society of Friends of the Salzburg Summer Academy of Fine Arts; ERSTE Foundation; American Austrian Foundation (AAF/Seebacher Prize for Fine Arts); zt: Federal *Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants*; Province of Vorarlberg;

Zurich University of the Arts; Vienna University of Applied Arts; Free State of Bavaria / Munich and Nuremberg Academies of Art; Münster Academy of Art; Kingston University, London; Friends of the Leipzig Academy of Fine Arts; Dresden Academy of Fine Arts; University of Haifa; Hohensalzburg Fortress; Marmor Kiefer

About us:

International Summer Academy of Fine Arts since 1953

The International Summer Academy of Fine Arts in Hohensalzburg Fortress, founded in 1953 by the renowned Austria artist **Oskar Kokoschka** (1886-1980) as a "School of Seeing", is the oldest of its kind in Europe. Currently, 21 courses are offered, attended by some 300 participants from around 50 countries, making the Academy an international place for a lively exchange of creative and artistic ideas.

The Academy offers:

- an open application procedure for anyone interested
 - no qualifications required
 - a unique opportunity to study with outstanding international artists, curators, collectives, art educators, researchers and writers
 - an extensive scholarship programme
 - room for students to devote themselves exclusively to the artistic process or the development of ideas, and at the same time to learn about and reflect on art and its discourses
 - courses based on both personal support and group discussion
 - a unique historical setting amid an Alpine landscape
 - a wide-ranging programme of events with cultural partners in Salzburg
 - access to art literature and journals
-

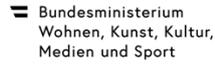
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