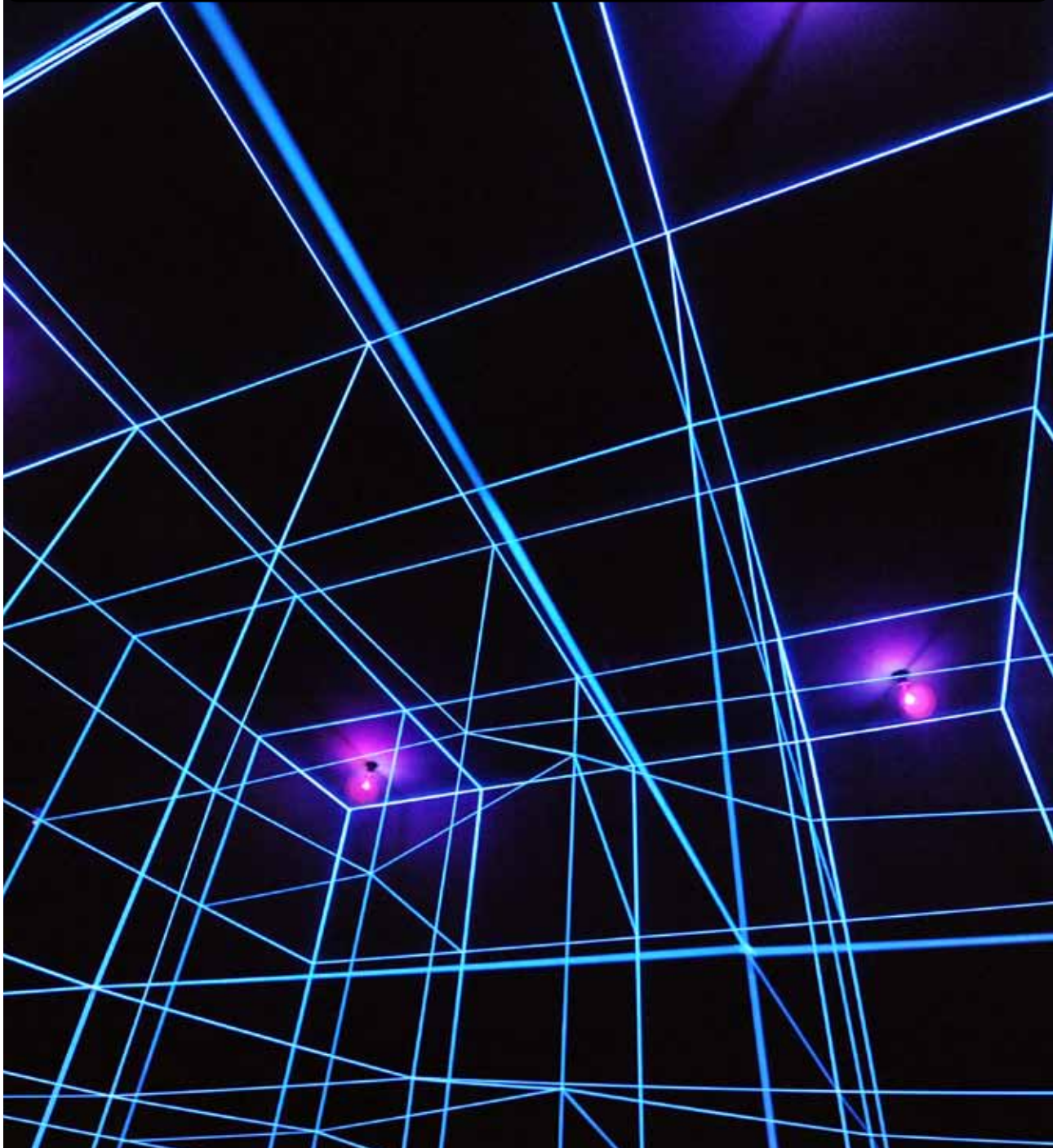


NABA

NUOVA ACCADEMIA DI BELLE ARTI MILANO



ELASTIC SPACE

International Competition

MA Degree in Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies

Introduction

In 1968 the Italian artist Gianni Colombo is awarded the Leone d'Oro (Golden Lion) at Venice Biennale with his work Spazio Elastico - Elastic Space (environment): a darkened cube with Wood's lamps and a geometric grid of elastic bands, the inner part of which is painted with fluorescent paint. Thanks to an electromechanical animation, the rubber bands move, and create different constellations. When finding themselves inside this environment, the visitors are physically involved in an explicit game, leading to a deep reflection on conventionality of perspective and more in general geometrical vision.

Gianni Colombo, NABA director from 1985 to 1993, focused almost all his artistic practice on the idea of overcoming the limit beyond which "the transformation of the largest amount of spectators into technicians" takes place. In 1965, on the occasion of his personal exhibition at the La Salita di Roma gallery, he writes: "While experiencing them [the environments], visitors will be helped to notice the components' interaction and, thus, the structural mechanics of the work; while shifting from a merely sensorial understanding to a logical one, they will move from vision to conception, and from spectators they'll turn into technicians." Gianni Colombo takes this "technician" concept from Bertold Brecht. He writes: "The fact that spectators turn into technicians does not mean that they have to become experts in materials and manufacturing processes of the artworks, nor experts in optical or psycho-physical phenomena used in some of them. Instead, it means that the spectators have to feel initiated to an intellectual understanding of the knowledge on which the artistic ideation is based, and the set of rules and methods at the basis of the ideation itself." From this point of view, it becomes crucial for this set of rules, called the *rules of the game* of the project, to always be present (readable) in the experience that the object creates at each level of its "consumption".

In the catalogue of his personal exhibition at Van Abbemuseum in 1981, Colombo explains to Antje von Graevenitz: "What I want is to enable a sort of self-examination, meaning an examination about oneself. This can give us an indication of the authority of architecture and spatial subdivision, which is not much more restricting in my work than elsewhere. In other instances, the *spectator* is a lot more *emancipated* in an internal or external environment! What is the consequence of this self-examination? A feeling of release, awareness, freedom? My route is nothing but a way to offer something more intense than the usual space. And I can obtain that "something" by shaking the rules that regulate existing relationships.

I start from the idea of a game: new rules, new conditions. The game is a sort of ritual that becomes fun while difficulties arise, and at the same time has an impact on the player."

Project briefing

Students are invited to present a proposal for an artwork-device (it may be an object, an environment, a video, or an exhibition) that highlights the limits and conditions characterizing the project itself, therefore enabling the spectator's emancipation.

The proposal has to be realized starting from the candidate's experience and personal style, so that his creative, artistic or curatorial skills clearly emerge from the project presented.

Deliverables

The proposal has to be presented through a text, explaining the concept (max 2 A4 sheets). Candidates may attach to the text a visual layout of the project such as a drawing, photo editing or other technique (max 4 A3 sheets), as well as extra materials on a digital support (CD, DVD, USB key with 3D renderings, photos, etc. in pdf format).

Jury

Luca Cerizza, independent curator

Céline Condorelli, artist and architect, lecturer at Goldsmiths University of London

Marco Scotini, curator, director of NABA Visual Arts Department

Bert Theis, artist

Nomeda and Gediminas Urbonas, artists, professors at Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Prizes

The authors of the two best projects delivered will be offered a partial scholarship covering the 50% of the tuition fee of the first year of the MA Degree in Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies, starting in January 2012.

The scholarship will be confirmed for the second year if the student will comply with specific academic requirements (average grade not less than 27/30 and at least 40 credits awarded within the end of the fall exam session).

Deadline and requirements

Projects and related attached documents have to be sent by post in closed envelope in order to reach NABA within July 15th 2011. The envelope has to be addressed to:
International Admissions Department
NABA Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti Milano
Via Darwin 20
20143 Milano
ITALY

Admission process

15th July 2011 - Materials have to reach NABA.
31st August 2011 - NABA will publish the scholarships awardees ranking and announce the winning project.
30th September 2011 - Winners have to enroll in the Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies MA Degree, or they will lose their rights on the scholarship.
30th November 2011 - All interested students have to enroll in the program.
13th January 2012 - Start of the courses.

General conditions

- When receiving the materials, NABA will send an email of confirmation to the participant. If one week after having sent the materials, or in any case within the 15th of July, no email has been yet received, we advice students to contact the International Admissions Department by phone (02973721) or email (int.info@naba.it).
- Materials can be sent via express courier or regular mail (not recommended). Materials received by NABA after July 15th will not be considered valid.
- All projects and other materials submitted will not be returned to the entrant.
- NABA reserves itself the right to award scholarships only if the level of received projects will be considered of an appropriate quality level, according to the unchallengeable judgment of NABA evaluating commission.
- Scholarships can not be accumulated with other special terms or discounts offered by NABA, but they might be accumulated with scholarships/contributions from other organizations.

MA Degree in Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies

The program focuses on the combination artistic and curatorial skills, starting from the creation of an exhibition space as a unique and shared field, where roles and attitudes of both players, artist and curator, are seen as open areas to be re-defined. A series of interdisciplinary activities is developed through lectures, workshops, seminars and exhibitions aimed at producing new operations and training models within the contemporary art field.

Through the study of visual culture and arts, exhibitions curatorship and design, the program is aimed at training artists, curators, exhibit designers and art magazines journalists or editors who are fully conscious of the contemporary art system dynamics.

Contacts

For further information please contact:
International Admissions Department
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Via Darwin 20
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