

UAX List of Mentors for the Abakanowicz Fellowship – Mykhailo Boychuk Kyiv State Academy of Decorative and Applied Art and Design

Sister School: Vilnius Academy of Arts

1. Aistė Kisarauskienė



Born in 1967 in Vilnius in the family of famous artists Vincas Kisarauskas and Saulė Kisarauskienė. Artist, art critic and curator Aistė Kisarauskaitė graduated from Vilnius Academy of Arts in 1992 and has been actively participating in the contemporary art field ever since. From 2003, her essays and short stories have been widely published in the cultural press. She has published more than 100 articles, interviews and essays in the weekly magazines “7 days of art”, www.artnews.lt.

Kisarauskaitė was an active performance artist in the nineties. Her performances – seemingly built on a ‘soft’ framework, such as ‘fairy tales’, ‘little mice’, negligible ‘minutia’ – often gained a certain drastic guise in an uncommitted way, for example, by introducing self-harm on a basis of a ‘fairy tale’, etc. It could be said that both soft and drastic tactics of Kisarauskaitė’s performances are some of the first cases of the feminist aesthetics in Lithuanian performance art. Aistė Kisarauskaitė’s first book of short prose novels, *39 salto mortale*, was published in 2013. In the same year, the book was shortlisted for the Book of the Year award in Lithuania. In 2024 she was awarded Doctor of Fine Arts degree.

Learn more about the mentor’s work via the links:

<https://kolekcija.mo.lt/lt/Authors/43071>

<https://artnews.lt/aistes-kisarauskaites-pirmoji-paroda-niujorke-54466>

<https://artnews.lt/improvizacija-agrarines-kulturos-tema-aistes-kisarauskaites-paroda-solanum-tuberosum-sodu-4-erdveje-50923>

<https://echogonewrong.com/zygimantas-augustinas-according-to-henri-bergson/>

2. Vidas Poškus



In 1995-2001, he studied art history and theory at the Vilnius Academy of Arts. In 2007, defended his thesis in the field of humanities art history “The Problem of the Revival of Antiquity in the Renaissance Art of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania”. Immediately after his studies, he started working at the History Department of the National Museum of Lithuania (as a keeper of collections and exhibition curator), later – at the house-museum of the famous Lithuanian emigrant artist Kazys Varnelis (who was a representative of op art).

Finally, now, for almost ten years, he has been working at the Vilnius Academy of Arts. He is the head of the Academy’s Museum and exhibition halls “Titanikas”. Therefore, he works as an exhibition curator, art critic, and

has given lectures on art history (on the art of Antiquity, the Late Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Baroque) to students. He has written several books – about Vilnius and artist studies. He is also an artist. His artistic field includes painting and drawings. He pays particular attention to drawing as a direct means of capturing the environment and the internal states affected by it. He works as an independent art critic in the Lithuanian cultural press and writes fiction texts and essays.

3. Martynas Lapas



Associate Professor Martynas Lapas received a Master's degree in Visual Design in 2016 and has been working at the Klaipėda Faculty of the Vilnius Academy of Arts since 2017. In 2018, he started to work as the head of the Graphic Design study program in Klaipėda Faculty. He teaches graphic design, typography, printing technologies, publication layout, and the history of graphic design. Also, Martynas works as a designer in an advertising studio, actively curates and coordinates exhibitions. He has opened several of his

own photography exhibitions.

4. Rokas Dovydenas



Rokas Dovydenas is a Doctor of Arts, an interdisciplinary artist and curator. From 1994, he has been taking part in exhibitions in Lithuania and abroad, has held 13 solo exhibitions and curated nine exhibitions. Between 2014 and 2020, he taught art and design disciplines at the Lithuanian University of Educational

Sciences and Mykolas Romeris University. Since 2018, he is a lecturer at the Vilnius Academy of Arts. His works are held in the collections of the M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art in Kaunas, Grassi Museum in Leipzig, and private collectors.

Learn more about the mentor's work via the links:

<https://www.letmekoo.lt/artists/dovydenas-rokas/>

<https://www.7md.lt/autorius/896>

5. Vyngintas Orlovas



Dr. Vyngintas Orlovas is an artist-researcher whose primary fields of focus are sound and image relations, interactive art, vaporwave and site-specific art. Vyngintas often explores sound art and uses pure data (programming environment) and modular synthesizers as tools for creating systems and interactivity.

At Vilnius Academy of Arts Orlovas is the head of the Site-Specific Art and Scenography department and teaches a wide range of subjects such as site-specific art, academic and artistic research, multimedia design, sound and image relations and advises students on their diploma research. He also often hosts international workshops on topics of vaporwave, intersections of streaming and performance art, interactive art and the use of pure data.

His solo shows have been staged at AIAV (Japan), Artifex (Vilnius), and Titanic (VDA), and his sound works have been featured on Electron Emitter and Sunset Grid. He has given lectures at international conferences such as Open Fields (Latvia) and XV Color Conference (Italy). He is also a member of the Lumbung Radio working group and Twitch affiliate (V_of_Londor). He would be happy to consult and mentor, especially regarding contemporary art and interactive art projects.

Learn more about the mentor's work via the link:

<https://www.vygintasorlovas.com>

Video from some interactive works:

<https://youtu.be/GA3mYsOoSmM?si=waKZQbdfhk81Jbln>

Video from a student exhibition organized by Vygintas:

<https://youtu.be/pMAoHLLlpnA?si=i8dTOrVOIElicXsz>

6. Monika Žaltauskaitė Grašienė



Monika Žaltauskaitė Grašienė is a visual and textile artist and the Head of Textile Art and Media Master Program and Associate Professor of Textile Department, Kaunas Faculty, Vilnius Academy of Arts, Lithuania. Since 2013 she is a member of the organizational committee of the Kaunas Biennial. She has curated and managed a number of local, national and international exhibitions and projects, including a major Kaunas Biennial post-industrial project "Text[ile] routes" and many others. Her focus is on building international relations between artists, organisations and cultural operators through interdisciplinary art projects, artist promotion and networking. She was awarded several times and her works are in public and private collections. Artist has discovered unique ways to express her artistic flair from a technological point of view and her cross over on a number of conceptual planes. Monika Žaltauskaitė Grašienė weaves (using digital jacquard loom). Thus,

simplicity and surprise / technology is a playing field for the artist. However, this is only the tangible side of her works. The attractiveness of her creations lays in her ability to speak a controversial language and make unexpected juxtapositions between a photographic image, textile technology and everyday objects.

Learn more about the mentor's work via the links:

<https://www.lituanistika.lt/content/110620>

<https://artvilnius.com/artist/monika-zaltauskaite-grasiene-2023en/>

7. Ričardas Bartkevičius



Professor, Vice - Rector for Studies at Vilnius Academy of Arts (VDA). Painter, one of the most prominent representatives of neo-expressionism in Lithuania; an author of methodical aids and publications on painting, art education etc. He studied painting and graduated from the Painting Department of Vilnius Academy of Arts (diploma in 1986). He participated in more than 300 exhibitions (personal and group) in Lithuania and abroad (Canada, China, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italia, Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Turkey, USA etc.). He also delivers presentations at international

conferences and art projects. He is a Member of the Council of the Lithuanian Artists' Association.

Teaching thematics: Composition and its Teaching; Expression of Graphic Design; Expression of Media, Digital Photography; Expression of Mixed Techniques; Fine Arts Didactics; Fundamentals of Visual Expression; Fundamentals of Graphic expression; Painting and its Teaching.