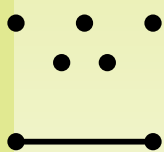


Master Photography & Society

Curriculum 2025-2026



**Royal
Academy of Art
The Hague**

www.kabk.nl

Course Descriptions KABK // MA Photography & Society (2023-2024)

Course title	Impact / Public Week
Course code	IPW
Year/semester/block	Photography & Society 1 & 2
Brief description	Impact and Public Week is the moment where both cohorts of students are introduced to the concept of what 'impact' means. This idea is fostered and set in the first year in a general introductory fashion, exploring different means and methods of how 'impact' can be created by engaging with various publics. For MAPS2, impact week is a moment where students take their Masters Project and begin the process of elaborating on their Plan of Circulation and developing ideas of working towards a public context with their work.
Learning objectives	What do we mean when we say impact? Why is it necessary to think of our work as public? How is it possible to activate your work into a public context, and how does this affect the work you make? Ultimately, a photograph is an assemblage in meaning; it takes many partners for a photograph to subsist and reside as a form of communication.
Teaching methods	One week of group discussions with the Impact mentor
Assessment methods	Assessed during the semester presentation
Grading Scale	Pass/ fail
Attendance requirments	80%
Main competencies	Personal Aims, Public Impact, Critical Reflection
Compensation	
Study Load (EC)	Contributes to the domains mentioned above
Contact hours	30
Independent study	26

HORUS	minutes
Duration of lesson	8 hours
# of lessons per week # of teaching weeks	#4 #1
For internal communication only Comments on HORUS input	

Course Descriptions KABK // MA Photography & Society (2023-2024)

Course title	Research Creation
Course code	RC
Year/semester/block	Photography & Society 1 / sem 2 / block 1 & 2
Brief description	This course is all about asking relevant questions, unpacking assumptions, and exploring the context and meanings related to the topic or situation with which you are engaging. Your research process can inform your photographic work in important ways, and it can even become part of the work itself. The process starts with an informed attempt to answer the following questions: What is this project about? (subject); Why am I doing it? (relevance); And how? (methodology). Research methods are intended to help structure the process of your work and allow your steps to be deeply informed by the context with which you are working. Moreover, methods allows you to disclose the process of your work to other photographers, students and teachers, turning it into a social practice.
Learning objectives	Throughout this course we explore different methods, including multimodal visual anthropology, artistic research, design research and inquiry-by-making. You are expected to build a Research Portfolio , consisting of a selection of readings, quotes, visual material, writings and notes in order for you to keep track of your development, build on your findings, and share the work-in-process.
Teaching methods	In this course, we will look at photographs, talk about photographs, and possibly even make photographs. The point of this course, is to be inundated with photos. Here, you are introduced to a wide array of photographic references so as to start accumulating a broad expanse of photographic inspiration. The course is organized around a series of short, one-hour lectures on specific photographic themes, such as Infrastructure and Labour; The Gaze and the Body; Memory and Trauma, and more. Additionally, students will be expected to engage in conversation, look at, move around, touch, reconfigure, assemble and bring in their own photographic sources for fellow classmates to engage with, and learn from.
Assessment methods	
Grading Scale	Pass/ fail
Attendance requirments	80%
Main competencies	Personal Aims, Research Abilities, Critical Reflection, Making, Public Impact
Compensation	
Study Load (EC)	
Contact hours	36
Independent study	68

HORUS	minutes
Duration of lesson	4 hours
# of lessons per week # of teaching weeks	# 1 # 9

For internal communication only Comments
on HORUS input

This is a theory course

Course Descriptions KABK // MA Photography & Society (2023-2024)

Course title	Studio I: Ways of seeing
Course code	ST1
Year/semester/block	Photography & Society 1 / sem 1 / block 1 & 2
Brief description	John Berger in his seminal book “Ways of seeing” wrote : “It is seeing which establishes our place in the surrounding world; we explain that world with words, but words can never undo the fact that we are surrounded by it. The relation between what we see and what we know is never settled.” In Studio I our goal will be trying to analyse and understand, exactly this ever-changing relation between seeing and being. During Studio I each week we will work with themes that are relevant for contemporary society. The themes are determined by carefully going through your portfolio, motivation letters and research questions. In this Studio we hope to provide an environment where you will be able to refine your ambitions and areas of interest while placing them among a wider discourse.
Learning objectives	You demonstrate the ability to initiate, develop, and evaluate the process of creating new work, with consideration towards contemporary issues in photography and society. You position your practice within the context of the expanding field of contemporary photography, demonstrating the ability to experiment with a broad range of tools, materials and technologies. You take time to play with materials, are willing to step out of your comfort zone and challenge routine aesthetic strategies. You experiment with how to bring work to completion, and cultivate a sense to know when work is done, as well as exploring the potential of ongoing work. You are driven by interests and passions, and are committed to dwelling in questions, giving yourself permission to overcome challenges and create work that engages with particular matters of concern. You do research in and through practice, exploring different methodologies with a focus on practice-based research and playing with materials. Determining, defining, finding which methods work for you. You are able to formulate questions and issues, and to debate and assess influence on currently relevant themes in photography and society. You experiment with and reflect on a wide variety of research tools and theories, demonstrating awareness of your work within the contemporary landscape of art, photography and society. You are able to propose an original line of argument that can be followed and has societal relevance. You reflect on responsibility in the professional environment, and cultivate an attitude of intellectual courage, perseverance and resilience.

	You reflect on your position and how this results in the positioning of photographic practices in society.
Teaching methods	Students will engage in a series of weekly assignments designed to allow the student to experiment with the photographic medium and challenge their preconceptions about the possibilities of photography
Assessment methods	Assessed during the semester presentation
Grading Scale	Pass/ fail
Attendance requirments	80%
Main competencies	Making, Research abilities, Critical Reflection
Compensation	
Study Load (EC)	Contributes to the domains mentioned above in the competencies.
Contact hours	56
Independent study	76

HORUS	minutes
Duration of lesson	8 hours
# of lessons per week # of teaching weeks	#1 # 7
For internal communication only Comments on HORUS input	

Course Descriptions KABK // MA Photography & Society (2023-2024)

Course title	Studio II: Photography as Social Practice
Course code	ST2
Year/semester/block	Photography & Society 1 / sem 1 / block 2
Brief description	In Studio II, the emphasis shifts from the exploration of what photography can be to the responsibilities and possibilities that come with picturing others and the impact this picturing has. The engagement with human actors, resulting in a mediation of this engagement in photographs, holds a central place. Our own positions, including the privileges and challenges resulting from (but not limited to) economical, cultural, and educational backgrounds, as well as nominators of identity, such as gender and skin colour, will be critically assessed with constant reference to the responsibilities that come with the depiction of others. Apart from producing photographs you will also write projections of and reflections on, your expectations and experiences and their relevance for potential audiences.
Learning objectives	Within this studio the emphasis lies on the learning outcomes related to Public impact and Critical reflection. More specifically the studio aims to contribute to the following (aspects of) learning outcomes: You demonstrate the ability to initiate, develop, and evaluate the process of creating new work, with consideration towards contemporary issues in photography and society. You do research in and through practice, exploring the potential of collaboration and multi-vocality. You are willing to listen and critically evaluate the responses of others to your work, especially those who are impacted by your involvement. You are willing to attach and commit yourself to certain communities, issues and/or matters of concern. You take responsibility within collaborations and between disciplines with distributed roles to various contributors. You reflect on your relations with others and cultivate a socially sensitive mode of conduct, articulating ethical considerations with awareness of your own position of power and complicity.
Teaching methods	Each student identifies someone, or a group of people, who they consider to be other in relation to themselves. This otherness - what it means to you, to your others and to viewers of the mediated outcome of your engagement - is explicitly explored through engaging <i>with</i> this individual or group of people.
Assessment methods	Assessed during semester presentation
Grading Scale	Pass/ fail
Attendance requirments	80%
Main competencies	Making, Public Impact, Critical Reflection
Compensation	
Study Load (EC)	Contributes to the domains mentioned above in the competences
Contact hours	56

Independent study	76
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HORUS	minutes
Duration of lesson	8 hours
# of lessons per week # of teaching weeks	# 1 # 7
For internal communication only Comments on HORUS input	

Course Descriptions KABK // MA Photography & Society (2023-2024)

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Assessment methods	Assessed during semester presentation
Grading Scale	Pass/ fail
Attendance requirments	80%
Main competencies	Making, Public Impact, Critical Reflection
Compensation	
Study Load (EC)	Contributes to the domains mentioned above in the competences
Contact hours	56

Independent study	76
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HORUS	minutes
Duration of lesson	
# of lessons per week # of teaching weeks	
For internal communication only Comments on HORUS input	

Course Descriptions KABK // MA Photography & Society (2023-2024)

Course title	Studio III: Platforms of Visual Resistance
Course code	ST3
Year/semester/block	Photography & Society 1 / sem 2 / block 1
Brief description	Studio III is rooted in the notion that collaboration is key in today's engaged photographic practice. Having divided into what photography is and what it does in Studio I and II, this studio focuses on 'how photography inquires', with the intention of using photography as a research tool, as well as reflect back on the research results from different external perspectives. This Studio involves two components: making, and distribution. The students will be working towards a group work around a set theme, which will be explained at the start of the program. In doing so, they'll be engaging with a partner organization and experts from different disciplines, challenging them to take a deep-dive into unknown territories. They will explore photography as a vehicle for dialogue, a place where your work enters public discourse and intervenes into societal debate. They'll conduct investigations into discovering, identifying and researching contextual concerns leading towards a significant visual approach. For the last weeks, the group, in close consultation with the other parties involved, will decide if and how the work will be shared with an audience, taking the various wishes and interests into account.
Learning objectives	In this studio the student creates a significant photographic project, of which the end result is part of public discourse and has a real impact. Students conduct investigations into discovering, identifying and researching contextual concerns leading towards a significant visual approach. Students will engage within a broad nexus of collaborations, from research partners, local assistance, experts from different disciplines and other relevant partnerships. In this Studio, we focus on their Personal Aims, Public Impact and Making. They will work towards taking steps related to what you bring to the collective and vice versa, including your relationship to audience & positioning.

Teaching methods	
Assessment methods	Assessed during the semester presentation
Grading Scale	Pass/ fail
Attendance requirments	80%
Main competencies	Making, Public Impact, Critical Reflection
Compensation	
Study Load (EC)	Contributes to the domains mentioned above
Contact hours	112
Independent study	144

HORUS	minutes
Duration of lesson	8 hours
# of lessons per week # of teaching weeks	#1 #9
For internal communication only Comments on HORUS input	

Course Descriptions KABK // MA Photography & Society (2023-2024)

Course title	Studio IV: Graduation Ecologies
Course code	ST4
Year/semester/block	Photography & Society 1 / sem 2 / block 2
Brief description	Photography is fundamentally about people, places and things: an 'ecology' of practice. In this course, students articulate a particular position within society and their visual understanding of the basic fundamentals. This position will be elaborated on by the formulation of a research proposal that will also form the starting point for the Second Year Graduation Project. During the course students will develop the proposal, formulate the aims of your research aims and the research question that will be central to your photographic practice.
Learning objectives	Students are expected to research, develop, process, refine and reflect upon a photographic project that they will eventually conduct over the course of the graduation year.
Teaching methods	One practice supervisor and one writing supervisor teaches the course
Assessment methods	Assessed during semester presentations
Grading Scale	Pass/ fail
Attendance requirments	80%
Main competencies	Personal Aims, Making, Public Impact
Compensation	
Study Load (EC)	Contributes to the domains mentioned above
Contact hours	40
Independent study	60

HORUS	minutes
Duration of lesson	8 hours
# of lessons per week # of teaching weeks	# 1 # 4
For internal communication only Comments on HORUS input	

Course Descriptions KABK // MA Photography & Society (2023-2024)

Course title	Thematic Seminar
Course code	TS
Year/semester/block	Photography & Society 1 & 2
Brief description	The Thematic Seminars address photography in relation to other disciplines such as anthropology, media studies, politics, and visual culture. Each seminar will explore ethical, technical, and political concerns while also working towards emancipatory modes of (photographic) escape. These seminars are envisioned to closely intertwine theory and practice and are offered four times a year, with each seminar consisting of an intense four-day period. Not only do the Thematic Seminars broaden your understanding of photography's intersection with other disciplines and relevant issues of our time, but they also pave the way for further independent research and artistic exploration in your own work. The seminars provide a space to experiment, explore, exchange, and discuss—a forum for visual empowerment. Throughout the seminars, you will engage in reading, discussing, debating, and, most importantly, creating visual work in response to the texts and artistic pieces shared within each session.
Learning objectives	The Thematic Seminars are introduced as a integrated way to bridge theory and practice, cultivating all five of the core learning aims for the Master Program: Personal aims: the seminars provide space for each student to experiment in ways that are relevant to their own practice. Making: Generating and experimenting by evaluating creative processes and seeking internal motivation to make work, cultivating a versatile visual vocabulary Research abilities: practicing different research methodologies, academic referencing, formulating questions, contextualizing and developing your practice within contemporary debates. Public Impact: by having a public event at the end of each seminar, by collaborating with external partners, by working on common themes instead of only individual projects. Critical reflection: interweaving personal and social responsibilities, articulating different approaches and arguments
Teaching methods	The structure of the seminar is flexible, and can vary for each seminar based on the following 3 basic elements EXPLORE THEORY Students are introduced to a particular research question,exploring relevant literature and visual references. We expect all students to come to the first session having read the texts and engaging with the visual materials provided.

	MAKE Respond to the theme by making visual responses to the topic. We do not expect finished work, but experiments, try-outs, sketches and attempts to apprehend and grasp the complexities of the issues discussed. The work produced in the Thematic Seminar can provide starting points for developing new projects, building a repertoire of visual strategies and finished bodies of work to be further developed within the Studios. (PUBLIC) PRESENTATION Based on the exploration of the topic and work generated, the final session unpacks the themes from different angles. This event provides a more fertile ground for public debate. We may invite external guests and a public audience. WRAP-UP At the end of each seminar, students are asked to update their research portfolio to include their visual experiments and research files from the seminars.
Assessment methods	Assessed during semester presentation
Grading Scale	Pass/ fail
Attendance requirments	50%
Main competencies	Personal Aims, Research Abilities, Public Impact, Critical Reflection
Compensation	
Study Load (EC)	
Contact hours	126
Independent study	40

HORUS	minutes
Duration of lesson	8 hours
# of lessons per week # of teaching weeks	#4#4
For internal communication only Comments on HORUS input	Mostly taught by guest teachers with a teacher facilitating the process

Course Descriptions KABK // MA Photography & Society (2023-2024)

Course title	Workshop Days
Course code	WD
Year/semester/block	Photography & Society 1 & 2 Block 2 and 4
Brief description	Workshop days are a series of encounters aimed at expanding personal horizons beyond photography as an art form through intellectual and experiential engagement. By exposing ourselves to a diversity of knowledge and engaging in practice-based experimentation, we aim to discover a common language that fosters understanding of dynamic developments within the realms of photography and society. Workshops have a transdisciplinary nature, integrating a wide array of knowledge and methods to create new pathways and collaborative frameworks for comprehending and addressing the complexities of contemporaneity. Sessions will be conducted in a collaborative and interactive setting, enabling you to actively explore introduced ideas, apply new findings, and seamlessly integrate them into your individual practice.
Learning objectives	Perspectival expansion Creative collaboration Experiential learning Participatory cross pollination Interactive engagement
Teaching methods	We extend a warm welcome to seven distinguished guests who will share their fields of expertise and encourage you to draw inspiration from their passions and fascinations, translating them into artistic methodologies.
Assessment methods	Assessed during the semester presentation
Grading Scale	Pass/ fail
Attendance requirments	80%
Main competencies	Personal Aims, Making and Critical Reflection
Compensation	
Study Load (EC)	Contribution to the competencies mentioned above
Contact hours	80
Independent study	40

HORUS	minutes
Duration of lesson	8 hours

# of lessons per week # of teaching weeks	#1 #7
For internal communication only Comments on HORUS input	Mostly taught by externals with a teacher facilitating the workshops

Course Descriptions KABK // MA Photography & Society (2023-2024)

Course title	Define your practice
Course code	PS
Year/semester/block	Photography & Society whole of year 2
Brief description	Core Issues adding value, audience, where do you stand and what do you stand for?, collaborations and friendship, impact, shifting perspective, networking, critical, positioning, professional, presenting, pitching, sharing knowledge, think tanks, intra-entrepreneurship, practical business aspects, new economy, sustainability, connecting, hybrid practices Overview In the first part of the course the focus is on intrapreneurship (who am I and what is my purpose, why do I do the things I do, and from there to know who you are as a professional and to act accordingly). The second part deals with the practical aspects of entrepreneurship (how do I set up and maintain my professional practice, how can I add value and impact with my work and how do I stay true to my inner core?). At the end of the course the student is able to clearly define his or her practice and act upon it.
Learning objectives	During the course students are working on the following competency: Professional Development (Lifelong Learning skills) Students gain skills in organizing his or her professional practice in such a way that s/he can relate his or her work to the outside world and thereby generate impact. Pinpointing a relevant platform, network, stakeholders and audience is key. An important part of this course is to make statements about what the added value of your work is and where it should then be addressed. The student will develop his or her financial- and business plan focused on the students Master Project and later on to their professional practice. Students not only consume knowledge, but also share their knowledge to other relevant people in their network. After working on this module the student is able to: - define their own practice - position themselves in a relevant, self-formulated context - become aware of their own (positioning) statement and can convey this convincingly - articulate the added value of their work and identify appropriate impact parties

	students becomes aware of how s/he can present in public in an impactful way present their work in a convincing way to a relevant platform and audience share knowledge with others, in such a way that it can generate impact and inspire others write a professional CV and positioning statement develop a professional and relevant network and know how to broaden and sustain this organize their professional practice in such a way that s/he can relate their work to the outside world have knowledge on practical business aspects such as negotiation and quotations, validating own assumptions, making a financial forecast, and can act on these principles.
Teaching methods	Weekly sessions
Assessment methods	Assessed during the semester presentation by a committee of teachers
Grading Scale	Pass/ fail
Attendance requirments	80%
Main competencies	Personal Aims, Research Abilities, Public Impact
Compensation	
Study Load (EC)	Contributes to the domains of personal aims, research abilities and public impact
Contact hours	32
Independent study	32

HORUS	minutes
Duration of lesson	4 hours
# of lessons per week # of teaching weeks	#1 #12
For internal communication only Comments on HORUS input	This is a theory class in principle so the prep time needs to be adjusted accordingly

Course Descriptions KABK // MA Photography & Society (2023-2024)

Course title	Studio V: Masters Project
Course code	ST5
Year/semester/block	Photography & Society 2
Brief description	The Masters Project is a body of work created over the course of the final two semesters of the graduation year, and comprises three parts. Each part is designed to enable the student to create knowledge and awareness to make critical decisions, and position themselves to reflect on their conditions of photographic production and engagement with the world. The Graduation Project comprises: 1. A <i>visual project</i> that uses photography as a key means of communication. The project will engage with a defined audience and situate itself within public discourse. 2. A <i>thesis</i>, a combination of visual and written elements, designed by the student to reflect on their practice and situate themselves in a particular discourse and conversation. 3. <i>Public/Impact</i> is where your practice, research and writing fuse together as an ensemble to generate meaningful knowledge. Ultimately, your work engages with, and through, photography.
Learning objectives	The Masters Project performs as a field of knowledge and practice for social engagement. Its overall purpose is to connect the student to broader ontologies and strategies in order to significantly enhance their photographic impact, while informing questions for a future photographic practice.
Teaching methods	One-on-one supervision with a primary practice supervisor, an impact supervisor and a writing supervisor. They also have support from skill supervisors and external supervisors of their choosing.
Assessment methods	Assessed during the semester presentations by a committee of teachers
Grading Scale	Pass/ fail
Attendance requirements	80%
Main competencies	Personal Aims, Making, Research Abilities, Public Impact, Critical Reflection
Compensation	
Study Load (EC)	Contribute to all domains
Contact hours	115
Independent study	744

HORUS	minutes
Duration of lesson	Please see below
# of lessons per week # of teaching weeks	Please see below

For internal communication only Comments on HORUS input	Each supervisor has 25 hours with each student. The meetings are organised according to the needs of the students.
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MAPS VT 2024-2025

Master Photography & Society				
Jaar	1		2	
Semester	1	2	3	4
Domain: Personal Aims	6	6	6	6
Domain: Making	6	6	6	6
Domain: Research Abilities	6	6	6	6
Domain: Public impact	6	6	6	6
Domain: Critical Reflection	6	6	6	6
	30	30	30	30

MAPS VT 2025-2026								
Master Photography & Society								
Jaar	1		2					
Semester	1	2	3	4				
Domain: Personal Aims	6	6	6	6				
Domain: Making	6	6	6	6				
Domain: Research Abilities	6	6	6	6				
Domain: Public impact	6	6	6	6				
Domain: Critical Reflection	6	6	6	6				
	30	30	30	30				

MAPS VT 2024-2025				
Master Photography & Society				
Jaar	1		2	
Semester	1	2	3	4
Domain: Personal Aims	6	6	6	6
Domain: Making	6	6	6	6
Domain: Research Abilities	6	6	6	6
Domain: Public impact	6	6	6	6
Domain: Critical Reflection	6	6	6	6
	30	30	30	30