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# Annual Performance Report

## 2023

Faculty of Art and Design at Jan  
Evangelista Purkyně University  
in Ústí nad Labem

## Content

A. MAIN SECTION .....	4
1. INTRODUCTION .....	4
2. FULFILMENT OF THE UPDATE OF THE FACULTY'S LONG-TERM INTENT FOR THE YEAR 2023 ....	6
B.1 APPENDIX 1 – TEXT SECTION.....	8
1. BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE FACULTY .....	8
a. NAME OF THE FACULTY, ADDRESS.....	8
b. ORGANISATIONAL CHART.....	8
c. FACULTY BODIES.....	8
d. REPRESENTATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION REPRESENTATION .....	13
e. CHANGES IN INTERNAL REGULATIONS.....	13
2. STUDY PROGRAMMES, ORGANISATION OF STUDIES AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.....	14
a. TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCREDITED STUDY PROGRAMMES .....	14
b. THE ROLE OF THE APPLIED FIELD IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STUDY PROGRAMMES .....	15
c. OTHER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES .....	16
3. STUDENTS.....	17
a. MEASURES TO REDUCE ACADEMIC FAILURE .....	17
b. FINAL DECISIONS ON THE INVALIDATION OF STATE EXAMINATION RESULTS .....	17
c. MEASURES TO LIMIT THE PROLONGATION OF STUDIES.....	18
d. IMPLEMENTATION OF OWN / SPECIFIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES .....	18
e. COUNSELLING SERVICES.....	19
f. STUDENTS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS .....	20
g. EXCEPTIONALLY GIFTED STUDENTS .....	20
h. STUDENTS WITH SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGES.....	23
i. SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS - PARENTS .....	24
4. ALUMNI .....	24
a. CONTACT AND COOPERATION WITH GRADUATES .....	24
b. EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY OF GRADUATES .....	25
c. COLLABORATION WITH FUTURE EMPLOYERS.....	26
5. INTEREST IN STUDIES.....	26
a. ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS.....	26
b. COLLABORATION WITH COLLEGES.....	27
6. EMPLOYEES.....	28

a.	CAREER REGULATIONS, MOTIVATIONAL TOOLS FOR EMPLOYEE REMUNERATION .....	28
b.	DEVELOPMENT OF PEDAGOGICAL SKILLS OF ACADEMIC STAFF.....	28
c.	GENDER EQUALITY PLAN.....	29
d.	ISSUES OF SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED HARASSMENT .....	30
7.	INTERNATIONALISATION .....	31
a.	SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS IN INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY PROGRAMMES .....	31
b.	SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY OF ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC STAFF 32	
c.	INTEGRATION OF FOREIGN MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY .....	32
d.	ACTIVITIES STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONALISATION.....	33
8.	RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, ARTISTIC AND OTHER CREATIVE ACTIVITIES.....	34
a.	CONNECTION OF CREATIVE AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.....	34
b.	STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN CREATIVE ACTIVITIES .....	34
c.	PURPOSE-SPECIFIC FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION .....	36
d.	SUPPORT FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS AND STAFF IN POSTDOCTORAL POSITIONS .....	36
e.	INVOLVEMENT OF THE APPLIED SECTOR IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STUDY PROGRAMMES.....	37
f.	SUPPORT FOR HORIZONTAL MOBILITY OF STUDENTS AND ACADEMIC STAFF AND THEIR EDUCATION .....	38
9.	QUALITY ASSURANCE AND EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES .....	39
10.	NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE .....	39
a.	INTERNATIONAL AND MAJOR NATIONAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES, INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE INTO INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS, AND THE FACULTY'S PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL AND ARTISTIC NETWORKS .....	39
b.	NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AWARDS OF THE FACULTY.....	41
c.	INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION OF THE FACULTY, INCLUDING FOREIGN .....	42
11.	THIRD ROLE OF THE FACULTY.....	42
a.	ACTIVITY IN THE TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE TO PRACTICE .....	42
b.	REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT.....	43
c.	REGIONAL AND SUPRAREGIONAL IMPACT AND SIGNIFICANCE.....	44
B.2	APPENDIX 2 – TABLE SECTION.....	46

## A. MAIN SECTION

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In the field of development, FUD focused on preparing investments in IT infrastructure, modernising studio and workshop equipment as part of the upcoming Just Transition Operational Programme and the digital laboratories project for doctoral studies under OP JAK RODOS, including two specialised facilities – one for photography and new media, the other for 3D technologies in design. At the same time, it participated in preparations for the TAH (Technologies – Arts – Humanities): Creative and Innovation Centre initiative, which interconnects the interests and focus areas of selected technical, artistic, and humanities faculties and universities. The faculty also declared its interest in participating in the NPO 7.4 project Support for Green Skills and Sustainability in Higher Education, by innovating courses based on student needs and their expectations for education oriented towards sustainability and eco-design, across all levels of study.

Last but not least, during 2023, FUD prepared the accreditation of its first professional Bachelor's programme Production for Cultural and Creative Industries, as part of the NPO project Transformation of the Form and Content of Education at UJEP.

FUD places strong emphasis on internationalising its internal environment and developing students' language competencies. This focus is also reflected in the portfolio of courses taught in English at the Bachelor's, follow-up Master's, and doctoral levels. Teaching is significantly supported by a foreign core lecturer of the Department of History and Theory of Arts, visiting international lecturers, other colleagues, and internal doctoral students. In 2023, FUD obtained grants from the Ministry of Culture's NPO Artist Status programme Hosting Foreign Lecturers for Art and Creative Higher Education Institutions for hosting foreign lecturers Marcus Neustetter and Peter Puklus. As part of the Gardening of Soul project, FUD arranged two creative residencies for its own core teaching staff at Skafffell Art Center in Iceland. Since 2008, FUD has continuously offered a foreign-language follow-up Master's programme Fine Arts. Based on long-term partnerships, the Dean in 2023 transformed the Dean's Award for graduates of Bachelor's and Master's studies into residencies at respected international art institutions – Museum of Modern Art in Split, Croatia (BcA. Václav Mach) and Europäisches Kunstforum Oberbayern Schafhof Freising, Germany (MgA. Petr Kubáč). Within UJEP, FUD ranks among the leading faculties in terms of international mobility of students and staff. In proportion to the number of students (graduates) and realised ERASMUS+ mobilities – particularly outgoing ones – it is the most successful faculty at the entire university.

FUD is aware of its limitations, which it also perceives as important stimuli for further institutional development. Among the risk factors, it is necessary to mention the outdated technological infrastructure, which the faculty intends to replace or supplement through investments under the Jan Amos Komenský and Just Transition Operational Programmes and

the National Recovery Plan; also the limitations in support for creative activity, which is incompatible with the support for R&D outputs; low salaries, which it plans to gradually balance in line with UJEP's salary cohesion policy; overemployment of key academic and administrative staff; and limited contractual hours for technical staff, making it impossible to provide adequate pay – which FUD aims to gradually optimise in connection with the roll-out of the aforementioned development projects.

For all of the above reasons, the new position of Independent Doctoral Studies Secretary (Ing. Markéta Chalupová) was established.

The ongoing generational shift at FUD is accompanied by incentives to initiate and successfully complete habilitation and professorship appointment procedures. In this respect, it is necessary to mention the initiation of one habilitation and one appointment procedure in 2023 (MgA. Lada Semecká, Assoc. Prof. Mgr. David Kořínek), as well as the preparatory phase of additional upcoming procedures. In 2023, FUD also prepared the reaccreditation of the habilitation and appointment procedures in the field of Visual Communication. The accreditation file was submitted to the National Accreditation Authority at the end of the calendar year 2023.

In the field of creative activity, FUD focused both on the production of excellent outputs in visual arts, graphic design, design, and curating, and on supporting projects and outputs that non-hierarchically develop the faculty's internal creative potential and activate as many members of the academic community as possible. It implemented a year-long programme of the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts, which included the pilot edition of the Design Ústí showcase, the student-curated group exhibition Caught by Words, and a rich programme for the Gardening of Soul project supported by the Norway and EEA Grants, including two international group exhibitions and a series of residencies by foreign artists. It also realised two separate curatorial lines, Gallery 2 and Gallery 3. Both teaching staff and students participated in numerous national and international design showcases, where they received important and prestigious awards (Designblok, National Award for Student Design, Czech Design Week, Milano Design Week). Among the most significant group exhibitions of Czech design in 2023 was Made by Fire, in which several respected FUD lecturers participated (Prof. ak. soch. Jiří Pelcl, Assoc. Prof. MgA. Antonín Tomášek, MgA. Marcel Mochal, MgA. Lada Semecká).

High-quality artistic achievements were recognised by the Rector's Award for an Outstanding Artistic Act by an Employee under 35 for MgA. Jiří Pitrmuc and by the Rector's Award for Students for Outstanding Results in Creative Activity in the Fields of Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts for BcA. Filip Trubač, a student of the follow-up Master's programme in Fine Arts.

FUD fulfilled the so-called third role of the university through student work presentations – e.g. the diploma exhibition at the House of Culture in Ústí nad Labem – as well as through guided tours, open days, courses, and workshops for the public. In this regard, specific

studios or individuals collaborated with a wide range of local and regional institutions (e.g. Museum of the City of Ústí nad Labem, Zubrnice Open-Air Museum, Veřejný sál Hraníčář, but also the Emergency Medical Services of the Ústí Region, the City Architect's Office in Ústí nad Labem, People in Need Předlice, Alzheimer Centre Domov Velké Březno, Volunteer Centre Ústí nad Labem, and others). The emphasis on the professional cultivation of the urban environment through creative projects in design and graphic design was reflected at the end of the year in the awarding of the Mayor's and District Mayors' Prizes of the City of Ústí nad Labem. The Mayor's Scholarship of the City of Ústí nad Labem was awarded to BcA. Štěpán Flekna, a student of the follow-up Master's programme in Design; the Statutory City of Teplice Scholarship was awarded to MgA. Hana Sedláčková, a graduate of the follow-up Master's programme in Fine Arts, and BcA. Natálie Švehlová, a student of the follow-up Master's programme in Design. The District Mayor's Scholarship of Ústí n. L. – Město was awarded to Bc. Kristýna Mouchová, a student of the follow-up Master's programme in Fine Arts; the District Scholarship of Ústí n. L. – Střekov to MgA. Lenka Herbová, a graduate of the follow-up Master's programme in Design.

## 2. FULFILMENT OF THE UPDATE OF THE FACULTY'S LONG-TERM INTENT FOR THE YEAR 2023

FUD UJEP fulfilled all the principal objectives set out in the 2023 Update of the Strategic Intent:

- Implemented a change in FUD UJEP leadership and ensured continuity of development
- Updated the organisational structures of FUD UJEP
- Specified managerial and work competences of academic and administrative staff, revised their job descriptions, and systematised the functioning of individual departments
- Continuously evaluated the implementation of newly accredited study programmes across all levels of education
- Analysed the faculty's study environment, particularly regarding prospective student interest, (un)successful study completion rates, and personnel development in studio leadership
- Evaluated the teaching competences of FUD UJEP academic staff and began to develop their career development plans
- Prepared and implemented creative, academic, and infrastructural projects for the new programming period (OP JAK, Just Transition Operational Programme, NPO, EEA and Norway Grants)

- Submitted an application for new accreditation of habilitation and professorship appointment procedures in the field of Visual Communication
- Prepared an accreditation intent for a new professional Bachelor’s study programme Production for Cultural and Creative Industries (NPO) and began drafting the corresponding accreditation file
- Implemented institutional stimulation and financial support for excellent creative activity, as well as comprehensive support for the creative activities of students, including their presentation in regional, national, and international contexts
- Internationalised the internal environment of FUD UJEP
- Carried out the reconstruction of the FUD UJEP building
- Consistently fulfilled the “third role” of FUD UJEP

## **B. APPENDIX SECTION**

### **B.1 APPENDIX 1 – TEXT SECTION**

### **B.2 APPENDIX 2 – TABLE SECTION**

## B.1 APPENDIX 1 – TEXT SECTION

### 1. BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE FACULTY

#### a. NAME OF THE FACULTY, ADDRESS

Name: Faculty of Art and Design, Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem

Abbreviation: FUD UJEP, or FUD

Address: Pasteurova 1500/9, 400 96 Ústí nad Labem

Website: [www.fud.ujep.cz](http://www.fud.ujep.cz)

Phone: +420 475 285 111

#### b. ORGANISATIONAL CHART

Refer to the [Excel table](#).

#### c. FACULTY BODIES

##### **THE FACULTY'S MANAGEMENT TEAM (until 19/02/2023)**

**Dean** - Assoc. Prof. Mgr. A. Pavel Mrkus

**Vice-Dean for Study** - Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Michaela Thelenová

**Vice-Dean for Development** - MgA. Marcel Mochal

**Vice-Dean for Public Relations** - PhDr. Jaroslav Polanecký, Ph.D.

**Vice-Dean for Creative Work** - Prof. Mgr. Zdena Kolečková, Ph.D.

**Faculty Secretary** - Mgr. Miroslav Matoušek

##### **THE FACULTY'S MANAGEMENT TEAM (since 20/02/2023)**

**Dean** - Prof. Mgr. Zdena Kolečková, Ph.D.

**Vice-Dean for Study** - Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Michaela Thelenová

**Vice-Dean for Development** - MgA. Aleš Loziak

**Vice-Dean for Public Relations and Internationalisation** – Assoc. Prof. Mgr. David Kořínek

**Vice-Dean for Science, Research and Creative Work** – prof. Mgr. Michal Koleček, Ph.D.

**Faculty Secretary** - Mgr. Miroslav Matoušek

## **ARTISTIC COUNCIL (until 19/02/2023)**

### External Members

Prof. akad. mal. Jiří Černický  
Assoc. Prof. akad. soch. Anna Daučíková  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Richard Fajnor  
Mgr. Milan Hlaveš, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Prof. MgA. Milan Houser  
Assoc. Prof. akad. mal. Otakar Karlas  
Assoc. Prof. Marie Klimešová, Ph.D.  
Prof. PhDr. Zdeno Kolesár, PhD.  
Prof. Mgr. Karel Míšek, Ph.D. (from 2/2022)  
Jan Mlčoch, Dr.h.c.  
Mgr. Michal Novotný  
Assoc. Prof. M.A. Jan Stolín

### Internal Members

Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Martin Balej, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Prof. akad. mal. Ilja Bílek  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Kateřina Dytrtová, Ph.D.  
Prof. akad. arch. Jan Fišer  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. A. Daniel Hanzlík  
PhDr. Ludvík Hlaváček  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Michal Koleček, Ph.D.  
Prof. Mgr. Zdena Kolečková, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Prof. Jiří Kovanda  
Prof. Mgr. Miloš Michálek  
MgA. Marcel Mochal  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. A. Pavel Mrkus  
PhDr. Jaroslav Polanecký, Ph.D.  
Prof. akad. mal. Jaroslav Prášil  
Assoc. Prof. akad. mal. Vladimír Švec  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Michaela Thelenová  
Assoc. Prof. MgA. Robert Vlasák

## **ARTISTIC COUNCIL (since 20/02/2023)**

### External Members

Prof. Mgr. A. Petr Babák  
Prof. akad. mal. Jiří Černický  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Richard Fajnor  
Prof. Mgr. A. Lenka Klodová, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Bohunka Koklesová, PhD.  
Prof. PhDr. Zdeno Kolesár, PhD.  
Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Pavlína Morganová, PhD.  
Mgr. Michal Novotný  
Prof. akad. arch. Jiří Pelcl  
Prof. MgA. Petr Stanický, M.F.A.  
Assoc. Prof. M.A. Jan Stolín

#### Internal Members

Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Kateřina Dytrtová, Ph.D.  
Prof. akad. arch. Jan Fišer  
Prof. Mgr. Michal Koleček, Ph.D.  
Prof. Mgr. Zdena Kolečková, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Jaroslav Koutský, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. David Kořínek  
Assoc. Prof. Jiří Kovanda  
MgA. Michaela Labudová, Ph.D.  
MgA. Jan C. Löbl, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. A. Pavel Mrkus  
Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Tomáš Pavlíček, Ph.D.  
Prof. akad. mal. Jaroslav Prášil  
Assoc. Prof. akad. mal. Michal Slejška  
MgA. Zdeněk Svejkovský, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Michaela Thelenová  
Assoc. Prof. MgA. Antonín Tomášek  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Anna Vartecká, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Prof. MgA. Robert Vlasák

#### **ACADEMIC SENATE**

##### **Chamber of Lecturers**

- MgA. Adéla Machová, Ph.D. (Chair)
- MgA. Radek Jandera, Ph.D.
- Mgr. MgA. Jan Krtička, Ph.D.
- MgA. Jan C. Löbl, Ph.D.

- Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Lenka Sýkorová, Ph.D.
- Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Tomáš Pavlíček, Ph.D.

### **Chamber of Students**

- MgA. Martin Krupa (Vice-Chair)
- MgA. Kristýna Hájková
- Václav Mach
- Martin Pecha
- Kristýna Prachařová

### **SUBJECT-AREA BOARD – Visual Arts Programme – Visual Communication Field (expiring accreditation)**

#### Internal Members

Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Kateřina Dytrtová, Ph.D.  
 Prof. akad. arch. Jan Fišer  
 Assoc. Prof. Mgr. A. Daniel Hanzlík  
 Prof. Mgr. Michal Koleček, Ph.D.  
 Prof. Mgr. Zdena Kolečková, Ph.D.  
 Assoc. Prof. Mgr. A. Pavel Kopřiva, Ph.D.  
 Prof. Mgr. Miloš Michálek  
 Assoc. Prof. Mgr. A. Pavel Mrkus  
 Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Tomáš Pavlíček, Ph.D.  
 Prof. akad. mal. Jaroslav Prášil  
 Assoc. Prof. akad. mal. Michal Slejška  
 Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Michaela Thelenová  
 Assoc. Prof. MgA. Robert Vlasák

#### External Members

Assoc. Prof. akad. soch. Alexius Appl  
 Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Richard Fajnor  
 Prof. PhDr. Zdeno Kolesár, Ph.D.  
 Assoc. Prof. Mgr. A. Pavel Noga, ArtD.  
 Assoc. Prof. MgA. Alexandra Vajd

### **SUBJECT-AREA BOARD – Visual Communication Programme (new accreditation)**

## Internal Members

Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Kateřina Dytrtová, Ph.D.  
Prof. akad. arch. Jan Fišer  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. A. Daniel Hanzlík  
Prof. Mgr. Zdena Kolečková, Ph.D.  
Prof. Mgr. Michal Koleček, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. David Kořínek  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. A. Pavel Kopřiva, Ph.D.  
Prof. Mgr. Miloš Michálek  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. A. Pavel Mrkus  
Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Tomáš Pavlíček, Ph.D.  
Prof. akad. mal. Jaroslav Prášil  
Assoc. Prof. akad. mal. Michal Slejška  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Michaela Thelenová  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Anna Vartecká, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Prof. MgA. Robert Vlasák

## External Members

Assoc. Prof. akad. soch. Alexius Appl  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Richard Fajnor  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. A. Pavel Noga, ArtD.  
Assoc. Prof. MgA. Alexandra Vajd  
Assoc. Prof. MgA. Jan Zálešák, Ph.D.

## **EDITORIAL COMMITTEE (until 19/02/2023)**

### **Chairman**

Prof. Mgr. Zdena Kolečková, Ph.D.

### **Members**

Mgr. Martin Kolář, Ph.D.  
Mgr. MgA. Jan Krtilka, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Tomáš Pavlíček, Ph.D.  
PhDr. Jaroslav Polanecký, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Prof. ak. mal. Michal Slejška  
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Michaela Thelenová  
Assoc. Prof. MgA. Antonín Tomášek

## **EDITORIAL COMMITTEE (since 20/02/2023)**

### **Chairman**

Prof. Mgr. Michal Koleček, Ph.D.

### **Members**

MgA. Jan C. Löbl, Ph.D.

MgA. Zdeněk Svejkský, Ph.D.

MgA. Michaela Labudová, Ph.D.

MgA. Adéla Machová, Ph.D.

MgA. Lenka Kahuda Klokočková, MA, Ph.D.

## **DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

### **Chairman**

MgA. Silvie Milková, Ph.D.

### **Members**

Mgr. Martin Kolář, Ph.D.

MgA. Aleš Loziak

## d. REPRESENTATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION REPRESENTATION

### **Council of Higher Education Institutions**

Prof. Mgr. Zdena Kolečková, Ph.D.

Member of the Assembly, Member of the Committee of Art Schools and Faculties

### **Association of Art Faculties**

Faculty of Art and Design, UJEP

Assoc. Prof. Mgr. A. Pavel Mrkus – Chairman (until 31/08/2023)

## e. CHANGES IN INTERNAL REGULATIONS

- Rules of Procedure of the Academic Senate of FUD UJEP (valid from 22 March 2023; effective from 22 March 2023)

- Dean’s Directive No. 1/2023 – Specific Conditions for Admission to Studies at FUD UJEP (valid from 16 November 2023; effective from 22 March 2023)
- Dean’s Order No. 1/2023 – Employment Rules for Academic Staff (valid from 1 February 2023; effective from 22 March 2023)
- Dean’s Order No. 1/2023 – Rules for the Evaluation of Academic Staff at FUD (valid from 1 January 2024)

## 2. STUDY PROGRAMMES, ORGANISATION OF STUDIES AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### a. TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCREDITED STUDY PROGRAMMES

#### **Study Programmes Accredited by the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports (MŠMT)**

FUD UJEP offers:

- 1 Bachelor’s study programme in Fine Arts B8206 (full-time study)
- 1 Follow-up Master’s study programme in Fine Arts N8206 (full-time study)
- 1 Follow-up Master’s study programme in English, Fine Art N8206 (full-time study)
- 1 Doctoral study programme in Fine Arts P8206 (full-time and combined study modes)

These degree programmes will expire on 31 December 2024 and are therefore referred to as so-called outgoing (or phasing-out) degree programmes.

#### **Study Programmes Accredited by the National Accreditation Authority**

FUD UJEP offers:

- 2 bachelor’s degree programmes: Design (with specialisations in Design and Graphic Design) B0212A310007 and Fine Arts B0213A310012 (full-time mode of study)
- 3 follow-up master’s degree programmes: Design N0212A310004 and Fine Arts N0213A310001 (full-time mode of study) and Curatorial Studies N0213A310017 (full-time mode of study)
- 1 follow-up master’s degree programme in English: Fine Art N0213A310002 (full-time mode of study)
- 1 doctoral degree programme: Visual Arts P0213D310001 (full-time and part-time mode of study)

These study programmes were accredited after the amendment to the Higher Education Act.

In 2023, there was a change in the guarantor of the Bachelor's and follow-up Master's study programmes in Design. The new guarantor of both study programmes became Assoc. Prof. MgA. Antonín Tomášek.

In 2023, there was also a change in the guarantor of the Bachelor's study programme Fine Arts. The new guarantor of the programme became Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Michaela Thelenová.

#### b. THE ROLE OF THE APPLIED FIELD IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STUDY PROGRAMMES

FUD UJEP collaborates with both Czech and international exhibition institutions for the presentation of study-related outputs (semester projects, annual exhibition of students of Curatorial Studies, diploma theses, and dissertations) – for example, the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts, Emil Filla Gallery Ústí nad Labem, Billboard Gallery Ústí nad Labem, Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, Galerie Mimochodem Prague, Altán Klamovka Prague, Pragovka Gallery Prague, Hybernská Campus Prague, and others.

In the case of the Fine Arts and Fine Art study programmes, cooperation primarily takes the form of partnerships with public exhibition institutions that play an irreplaceable role in enabling students to present their works in a professional environment of the art scene and the creative industries more broadly.

In the field of design, FUD UJEP cooperates with a wide range of manufacturing companies and firms. This cooperation most often takes the form of semester design assignments that respond to specific issues or project briefs. For the realisation of annual and final projects, FUD UJEP collaborates, for example, with Český porcelán a. s. Dubí, the porcelain manufactory Rudolf Kämpf in Loučky, or G. Benedikt in Karlovy Vary.

FUD UJEP seeks to provide and facilitate internships in companies that help students deepen their competences while simultaneously updating the graduate profile requirements. These experiences are then directly reflected in the work of entire studios or in the innovation of theoretical subjects.

FUD UJEP has also been developing long-term supra-regional cooperation with companies such as Preciosa and Moser. The positive impact of this collaboration is reflected, among other things, in the repeated success of FUD students and graduates in competitions such as the Master of Crystal Award (organised by Preciosa) and the Ludwig Moser Award (organised by Moser).

FUD UJEP also actively collaborates with local cultural institutions on the production and realisation of public programmes, exhibitions, and performances – for example, with Činoherní Studio Ústí nad Labem, the Museum of the City of Ústí nad Labem, Veřejný sál Hraničář, and others.

### c. OTHER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

In addition to its accredited study programmes, FUD offered further professionally oriented educational activities for students (selected examples):

For the second year in a row, FUD offered the Visiting Foreign Lecturer Course, intended for students in the second and third year of the Bachelor's programme, delivered as an elective course concluded with an individual presentation of completed works. In 2023, the foreign lecturer was visual artist Marcus Neustetter, active in both South Africa and Austria. A one-semester course was also taught at FUD by international artist Peter Puklus. Both artists' involvement resulted from the NPO project.

Beyond accredited programmes, FUD also organised additional professionally focused educational activities, such as workshops by international and Czech experts, professionals from the field, and specialists from related disciplines, predominantly in the humanities and social sciences.

Throughout 2023, FUD continued to run the Facing Art lecture series – public lectures by invited international and Czech artists, designers, curators, and theorists. This lecture series has been held since 2016 and will continue in the coming years.

In 2023, the following guests gave lectures as part of the series:

Marcus Neustetter, the international visiting lecturer, delivered a series of seven lectures titled *Agenda of Vulnerability – Urgency and Art in the Contemporary Metacrisis*.

Alice Máselníková, a Czech painter and curator based in Stockholm, also gave a lecture. She is one of the three directors of the *Supermarket – Stockholm Independent Art Fair*, founder of the independent gallery *Flat Octopus*, and lead of the European project *Artist-Run Network Europe*.

Dita Lamačová, a graduate of the Institute of Creative Photography at the Silesian University in Opava, focused on artistic and socio-cultural activities, gave a lecture as well. She is the founder of the association *bubahof.com*.

Tomáš Dvořák, assistant professor at the Department of Photography at FAMU in Prague and researcher at the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences, also presented. His research focuses on the philosophy and history of media and science, and their mutual relations – particularly the media archaeology of science and knowledge.

This lecture series was supported by the NPO.

Bachelor's and follow-up Master's students could also attend lectures given by second-year doctoral students and workshops held by third-year doctoral students of FUD.

A workshop for students of the Curatorial Studies programme took place at the Gallery of the Central Bohemian Region in Kutná Hora.

At the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts, lectures, guided tours, discussions, gallery animations, workshops, and other events were organised as part of the accompanying programmes to individual exhibitions. Particularly valuable in this regard were, for example, lectures, workshops, and meetings with artists accompanying the exhibition *The Garden of Virtues and Vices – Design Festival Ústí nad Labem* held at the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts.

In addition, studio excursions were held throughout the year as part of the various study programmes, according to their focus (galleries, studios, workshops, companies, etc.). For example, some students of the Design programme participated in an excursion to Milan Design Week, and students of the Curatorial Studies programme visited various exhibition institutions (e.g. Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Hamburger Bahnhof Berlin).

### 3. STUDENTS

#### a. MEASURES TO REDUCE ACADEMIC FAILURE

- Development of counselling services for prospective students – providing consultations regarding the choice of study programme before the admission procedure
- Maintaining high standards for applicants during talent-based or written entrance examinations, including the evaluation of motivation essays and general study aptitude tests
- Introduction of motivational interviews as part of the admission process
- Ensuring the offer of supplementary or extended educational activities in addition to the courses within the study plan
- Allowing students in art-based programmes to transfer to a different studio or even study programme more aligned with their talents
- Development of e-learning, creation of study materials, and modernisation of teaching methods; participation in the Blended Learning project; ongoing analysis of the relevance of implemented procedures and evaluation of feedback collected through this tool
- Ensuring feedback from semester-based teaching quality evaluations – presentation of results at the Dean's College, discussion with lecturers, and implementation of specific targeted measures in case of identified shortcomings

#### b. FINAL DECISIONS ON THE INVALIDATION OF STATE EXAMINATION RESULTS

In 2023, no final and binding decisions came into effect regarding the invalidation of a state examination or its component, or the defence of a dissertation pursuant to Sections 47c, 47f, and 47g, or the appointment as Associate Professor pursuant to Sections 74a, 74d, and 74e of Act No. 111/1998 Coll.

#### c. MEASURES TO LIMIT THE PROLONGATION OF STUDIES

FUD UJEP also continued to strictly observe – and slightly tighten – the measures from previous years aimed at limiting prolonged study periods. In the Bachelor's and, to some extent, also in the Master's programme, it more precisely defined the limit of credits that may be transferred upon request for an exemption in cases of failure to meet the study obligations of the current or previous academic year(s), in accordance with the UJEP Study and Examination Regulations.

A particularly pressing issue remains the extension of doctoral studies, often up to the maximum allowed duration, whether due to the exclusion of so-called disrupted study periods or extensions related to childcare responsibilities. In this regard, FUD calls for greater cooperation between supervisors and doctoral students, the maximisation of individual approaches, continuous fulfilment of study obligations, and their distribution in a manageable way over time.

Nevertheless, despite recommendations from the Subject-Area Board, some doctoral students continue to submit their dissertations at the very last possible deadline, without the option to further revise their work in case of an unsuccessful defence. FUD UJEP pays continuous and increased attention to the issue of doctoral graduation rates.

Key support tools aimed at reducing excessive prolongation of studies include:

- Supporting the possibility for students to transfer to a different studio or study programme within the faculty, better aligned with their talents and orientation – also in cases of insufficient communication with the leadership of the original studio
- Motivating students through prospects of future employability via well-organised internships (FUD offers internships in cooperation with external partners such as Veřejný sál Hraničář in Ústí nad Labem, Emil Filla Gallery in Ústí nad Labem, the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts, Zahálka Teplice z.s., and others)
- Motivating students through the success stories of FUD graduates
- Great flexibility in recognising results from international mobilities within the Erasmus+ programme
- Strictly communicating information regarding tuition fees

#### d. IMPLEMENTATION OF OWN / SPECIFIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES

FUD UJEP focuses its support on exceptionally talented and active students in the field of creative activity, while also targeting financial support towards students who actively contribute to the internal environment of FUD through broader team projects.

This includes in particular:

- Internal grant competitions – scholarships awarded to support students' creative activity
- Support scholarship programmes for doctoral students – scholarships granted to support their publishing and presentation activities
- FUD UJEP announces calls for internal grants twice a year in accordance with Dean's Directive No. 2/2010 on Supporting Creative and Teaching Activities of Members of the Academic Community of FUD UJEP
- FUD UJEP supports publishing activities of its lecturers and students through editorial grants
- Each year, FUD UJEP awards Dean's Awards, Graduate Awards for Bachelor's and follow-up Master's studies, the KDTU Award, and Studio Awards
- In 2023, two Graduate Awards were granted, each linked to a graduation residency funded by the faculty: Václav Mach (Museum of Modern Art Split) and Petr Kubáč (Schafhof – Europäisches Kunstforum Oberbayern Freising)
- FUD UJEP participated within UJEP in the Educational Policy Fund project supporting the studies of Ukrainian students in 2023. As part of short-term study stays, two Ukrainian students studied at the faculty and received scholarships totalling CZK 96,000. For regular study, scholarships were awarded to five students in the total amount of CZK 192,000.

#### e. COUNSELLING SERVICES

Development of counselling services for prospective Bachelor's and follow-up Master's students, including portfolio reviewing. Heads and assistant lecturers of studios offer consultations to support the optimal choice of study specialisation even before the admission procedure. Consultations can be arranged individually or during the FUD or UJEP Open Day.

Development of counselling services for prospective doctoral students. Relevant doctoral supervisors offer consultations to help applicants choose a suitable dissertation topic prior to the admission procedure. Applicants may also consult the guarantor of the study programme.

Study-related counselling is offered through the Study Office.

Counselling on international mobility (study and internship placements) is provided by the External Relations Office.

#### f. STUDENTS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

Since October 2008, the Faculty has been based in a building located on the university campus. The building has barrier-free access, and the Faculty thus currently provides study opportunities for students with physical disabilities.

The Faculty follows the methodology of UJEP.

The Faculty consistently provides information about the activities of the University Support Centre for Students with Special Needs, which was established at UJEP in 2015 and operates in accordance with Rector's Directive No. 1/2015 – Methodology for Supporting and Equalising Conditions for Applicants and Students with Special Needs at UJEP.

FUD is highly aware of the need to approach each student with extraordinary sensitivity. The lingering effects of social exclusion during pandemic-related restrictions, and the continuation and escalation of armed conflicts involving the families of some students, have brought unexpected challenges – including how to address students' loss of motivation, fragmented attention or even inability to concentrate, and serious mental health issues.

A paralysing moment that triggered a further wave of fear, anxiety, and uncertainty was the attack on the Faculty of Arts of Charles University (FF UK) at the end of 2023. To this trend must also be added other factors affecting the fragile mental health of some students, particularly in connection with the search for their own identity and sexual orientation. However, this situation also gave rise to self-defining strategies and activities within the LGBTQ community of FUD students.

In addition to the need to respond with changes in teaching methods and the enhancement of individual communication tools, student representatives could reach out to the university counsellor, and from the turn of 2023/2024 also to the UJEP ombudsperson, Mgr. Lucie Tesařová. Contact details are published on the FUD UJEP website.

#### g. EXCEPTIONALLY GIFTED STUDENTS

Exceptionally gifted students of FUD UJEP are encouraged to submit their own projects through faculty grant schemes. Student grant activities are typically linked to a specific nomination or anticipated award in various student professional competitions, or to opportunities for subsequent presentation of their work (following the receipt of an award) at national and international exhibitions of contemporary art and design.

Exceptionally talented doctoral students often become active members of the national or international scene. This is reflected in the prestigious institutional context in which they operate, or in national and international awards for their dissertation projects (not in

student categories, but in professional ones), or in the registration of utility models, respectively the implementation of outputs from their doctoral studies into production.

FUD UJEP supports gifted students in various ways, for example:

- Awarding the Dean's Awards, Graduate Awards, the KDTU Award, and Studio Awards
- Granting merit and extraordinary scholarships to the faculty's best students
- Allocating internal grants according to Dean's Directive No. 1/2022 on Supporting Creative and Teaching Activities of Members of the Academic Community of FUD UJEP
- Facilitating international internships
- Publishing selected final theses of students
- Organising exhibitions and presentations of the highest-quality student works
- Supporting students in participating in Designblok and nominating them for the Czech Grand Design Awards and the National Award for Student Design

### **Outstanding Achievements of FUD Students in 2023**

#### **Participation in International Competitions and Awards**

- Filip Krampla – National Design Award, Slovakia (Winner, Home and Public Space – Furniture category – Bolt chair) / Doctoral studies in Visual Communication
- Filip Krampla – German Design Awards, Germany (Winner, Excellent Product Design – Furniture – Bolt chair) / Doctoral studies in Visual Communication

#### **Participation in National Competitions**

- Markéta Masnicová – National Award for Student Design (Award for Excellent Student Design + Dean's Award of the Faculty of Design and Art of the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen) / Bachelor's studies (Product Design)
- Petra Kmošťáková – National Award for Student Design (Award for Good Student Design + Award for Ergonomics of the Czech Ergonomic Society) / Master's studies (Product Design)
- Anastasia Mazur – National Award for Student Design (Award for Good Student Design) / Bachelor's studies (Product Design)
- Jakub Knápek – Czech Design Week Award / Bachelor's studies (Glass)
- Alžběta Dvořáková – Book in Progress (2nd place) / Master's studies (Visual Design)
- Nikola Iljučoková – Graphics of the Year 2022 / Bachelor's studies (Graphic Design II)

- Věra Vystrčilová-Kunhartová – Created in Zlín Award / Doctoral studies in Visual Communication
- Studio of Fashion and Textile Design – Rooms 2023 – Showcase of Young Art (1st place)  
→ The jury awarded 1st place to a project by students of the Studio of Fashion and Textile Design at the Rooms 2023 student exhibition.

### **FUD Graduates and Students Awarded Internally in 2023**

#### Graduate Award

- Petr Kubáč / Master's studies (Digital Media)
- Václav Mach / Bachelor's studies (Natural Materials)

#### **Department of Fine Arts Award**

- Polina Khatsenka / Master's studies (Time-Based Media)
- Filip Trubač / Bachelor's studies (Applied Photography)

#### **Department of Visual Communication Award**

- Valentýna Kociánová / Master's studies (Visual Design)
- Luboš Syrovátka / Bachelor's studies (Graphic Design II)

#### **Department of Design Award**

- Ilona Dragoeva / Master's studies (Glass)
- Valeriia Shveikina / Bachelor's studies (Product Design)

#### **Department of History and Theory of Arts Award**

- Nela Kuhnová / Master's studies (Curatorial Studies)

#### **Best Thesis Text Award**

- Tereza Häckelová / Master's studies (Curatorial Studies)

→ Additionally, 16 Studio Awards were granted.

### **FUD Graduates and Students Awarded External Scholarships in 2023**

Mayor of Ústí nad Labem Scholarship

- Štěpán Flekna / Master's studies (Graphic Design II)

### **District Mayors of Ústí nad Labem Scholarship**

- Kristýna Mouchová / Master's studies (Curatorial Studies)

### **Střekov District Scholarship**

- Lenka Herbová / Master's studies (Interior Design)

### **Statutory City of Teplice Scholarship**

- Natálie Švehlová / Master's studies (Visual Design)
- Hana Sedláčková / Master's studies (Curatorial Studies)

## **h. STUDENTS WITH SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGES**

Socially disadvantaged students at FUD UJEP are encouraged to contact the UJEP Counselling Centre. Given the highly individualised nature of education at art faculties, their difficult social situation may also be taken into account within studio practice. These students are further encouraged to participate in the production of public presentations (exhibitions, showcases, accompanying programmes) or their documentation. Their involvement is supported by extraordinary scholarships. In this way, students who may be at risk of losing motivation due to the seeming hopelessness of their personal circumstances are encouraged to deepen their professional skills and seek further opportunities for personal development.

Socially disadvantaged students are supported through social scholarships awarded in accordance with Section 91(3) of the Act, as well as through extraordinary social scholarships granted under Section 91(2)(b) of the Act. Difficult social situations are also taken into consideration when assessing appeals against the Dean's decision to impose fees for extended study duration.

A particularly specific socio-economic situation concerned Ukrainian students. FUD UJEP participated, within UJEP, in the Educational Policy Fund project to support the studies of Ukrainian students in 2023. During short-term study stays, 2 Ukrainian students studied at the faculty and received scholarships totalling CZK 96,000. In the framework of regular studies, scholarships were awarded to 5 students, amounting to a total of CZK 192,000.

#### i. SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS - PARENTS

FUD UJEP is fully aware of the challenges students face when balancing early parenting responsibilities with their studies, and therefore offers them the highest possible level of support. Students are encouraged to continue their studies and are advised—through individual consultations with studio heads or the Study Office—on how to distribute their academic workload in a manageable and effective way.

In justified cases, the Faculty also enables online communication with lecturers or the implementation of hybrid teaching modules and study materials. In line with institutional support for student-parents, FUD participates in key university measures adopted in recent years.

FUD supports student-parents in various ways, including:

- The option to extend the duration of a study year
- The possibility of individual communication with lecturers
- The opportunity for individual consultations and the assignment of individual tasks
- Extension of deadlines for fulfilling study obligations in accordance with Section 54a of the Higher Education Act, including the possibility for students to interrupt their studies at any time during the recognised parenting period—even repeatedly
- The recognised parenting period is deducted from the total period of study relevant for the calculation of the fee for extended study duration
- The waiver of fees for extended study duration in cases where the fee obligation arises

## 4. ALUMNI

### a. CONTACT AND COOPERATION WITH GRADUATES

FUD UJEP carried out the following activities to collaborate with and maintain contact with its graduates:

- Continuously reached out to graduates with invitations to participate in professional conferences, seminars, and workshops
- Included graduates in exhibitions organised by the Faculty
- Cooperated with graduates of the Graphic Design programme in the realisation of PR campaigns, promotional items, and faculty publications
- Collaborated with graduates of Curatorial Studies as well as with students and other alumni in the curatorial conception of exhibitions
- Ensured graduate participation in assessment committees for semester and final projects
- Presented successful graduates on its website
- In 2023, several FUD graduates were appointed as academic staff members
- Graduates are regularly invited to deliver guest lectures on their design or artistic practice following graduation

Contact with alumni is maintained both at the level of the Faculty management and through individual departments, which monitor graduates' professional activities and career paths.

#### b. EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY OF GRADUATES

The unemployment rate among graduates of the Faculty has long been very low. The University monitors graduate unemployment through the portal of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, which publishes unemployment statistics based on the Labour Office register as of 30 April and 30 September. FUD accesses this information through the University. In addition, the Faculty conducts its own surveys based on personal contacts maintained by department and studio heads with their graduates.

FUD UJEP maintains close cooperation with specific galleries and museum institutions, photographic and graphic studios, design studios, companies, and public administration, which enables students to establish important professional contacts already during their studies.

The Faculty also supports the competitiveness of its graduates through internships and placements in both domestic and international institutions.

Within the newly accredited Bachelor's study programme, FUD UJEP emphasised the importance of the subjects Field-Specific Software and Field-Specific Technologies from the first to the third year of study. These subjects are designed to provide professional competencies and specialised skills, further enhancing graduate employability.

Data on graduate unemployment are regularly discussed at Faculty management level, within the Dean's College, and also within individual departments. For prospective students, the employability of graduates is a topic addressed primarily during Open Days and admission consultations. For current students, it is discussed mainly within individual studios and departments.

#### c. COLLABORATION WITH FUTURE EMPLOYERS

FUD UJEP cooperated with a wide range of local, regional, and national cultural institutions, informed its graduates about available job opportunities, created internship placements, and introduced future employers to students through excursions and outdoor workshops.

In the field of the so-called creative industries, the Faculty also collaborates with the Innovation Centre of the Ústí Region.

### 5. INTEREST IN STUDIES

#### a. ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

Entrance examinations at FUD are conducted using the Faculty's own resources (without external contractors) and take the form of talent-based assessments, written tests, motivation essays, and interviews. Talent assessments and interviews are held within individual studios and departments, while written tests are administered by the Department of History and Theory of Arts.

In response to the increasing diversification of secondary education and Bachelor's study programmes across various types of higher education institutions, the nature of written tests is continuously adapted, evaluated year-on-year, and transformed into semi-structured formats.

Entrance examinations for the Bachelor's programme consist of two rounds and take place over two days.

Entrance examinations for the follow-up Master's and doctoral programmes are single-round and last one day.

The course and organisation of the admissions process are governed in detail by the Conditions of Admission, which are published on the Faculty website:

<http://fud.ujep.cz/studium/prijimaci-rizeni/>

The entrance examinations assess the applicant's talent and knowledge in the relevant field and reflect the specific nature of art study programmes as well as the focus and concept of individual studios.

Each year, the Faculty evaluates data on the number of applicants, admission success rates, and the ratio of admitted to enrolled students. These evaluations are conducted not only at the level of study programmes, but also at the level of individual studios, and are discussed by the Faculty leadership, within the Dean's College, and at the departmental level.

FUD organises its Open Day earlier than UJEP's general Open Day, as admissions for Bachelor's programmes take place several months earlier due to the talent assessments. In 2023, FUD held its Open Day twice, in both summer and autumn terms.

#### b. COLLABORATION WITH COLLEGES

FUD UJEP participates in joint promotional formats organised by UJEP (such as the Gaudeamus Higher Education Fair, print advertising, Science and Art Days, etc.). It also uses the university's promotional website: [www.myjsmeujep.cz](http://www.myjsmeujep.cz).

FUD UJEP organises its own Open Day and also takes part in the UJEP Open Day. These events are well attended by prospective applicants from colleges. As part of these activities, FUD UJEP organised bus trips in 2023 for students from selected colleges to visit the Faculty and the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts.

The Faculty sends information about the admissions process and Open Days to arts-focused colleges and grammar schools, and annually evaluates which specific institutions its applicants come from.

FUD UJEP has identified:

- the colleges from which the largest number of applicants are recruited,
- other prestigious, subject-related schools where it aims to increase applicant numbers, and
- both local grammar schools, which are also targeted in its outreach activities.

Promotion is tailored accordingly, either through personal presentations at selected colleges, or through organised guided tours of FUD UJEP, including exhibition visits at the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts and other local cultural institutions. Guided tours and other PR events are primarily linked to exhibitions of semester, Bachelor's, and Master's final projects, and to Open Day events.

In 2023, FUD UJEP also actively worked through its PR department to effectively communicate the achievements of its students and lecturers, the activities of individual studios, the work of students in Curatorial Studies and Doctoral Studies, and of course, all updates related to admissions.

The FASTFUD podcast platform, which introduces the public to the Faculty's broad range of activities and individual studios, continued in 2023. Students of FUD UJEP are significantly involved in its production.

Pre-admission consultations with FUD UJEP lecturers are offered to prospective applicants.

FUD UJEP regularly invites colleges to attend exhibitions of semester, Bachelor's, and diploma projects and actively promotes events it organises or co-organises.

FUD UJEP participates in major art and design showcases and organises exhibitions that serve to promote the Faculty across the Czech Republic.

The Faculty and its staff are also involved in organising competitions for art schools, including colleges—especially the National Award for Student Design.

## 6. EMPLOYEES

### a. CAREER REGULATIONS, MOTIVATIONAL TOOLS FOR EMPLOYEE REMUNERATION

In 2023, in accordance with UJEP regulations, FUD UJEP applied its own directive Rules for the Evaluation of Academic Staff at FUD UJEP, based on UJEP Rector's Directive No. 10/2016 – Career Regulations for Academic Staff. In line with these internal regulations and in response to the amendment of the Labour Code, a comprehensive revision and update of the career development plans of individual academic staff members took place in 2023. Additionally, the Faculty's Human Resources Development Plan for the 2022–2026 period was updated.

FUD UJEP employs several other motivational tools, as defined in Dean's Directive No. 2/2010 – On Supporting Creative and Teaching Activities of Members of the Academic Community of FUD UJEP. These include:

- an internal grant scheme to support creative activity,
- additional rewards for involvement in doctoral studies,
- and recognition for the successful completion of habilitation and professorship procedures.

The Faculty also implements a support programme for editorial and publishing activities, defined in Dean's Directive No. 1/2017 – Editorial Activity at FUD UJEP.

In 2023, the Faculty updated its salary tables to allow for better remuneration of employees who work with high quality and intensity.

FUD UJEP further motivates its staff to take advantage of university grant schemes for specific activities, especially in the fields of excellent creative practice, internationalisation, and mobility, and to participate in Operational Programmes.

### b. DEVELOPMENT OF PEDAGOGICAL SKILLS OF ACADEMIC STAFF

The development of teaching competencies at FUD UJEP is subject to ongoing evaluation, coordinated with other higher art education institutions, and reflects the evolution of field-specific needs and the necessity to apply innovated methodologies in art-based pedagogical

practice. The nature of artistic creation is changing, and so are generational preferences and the motivations and expectations of applicants and students.

The internal environment at FUD UJEP responds sensitively to these changes, as well as to the growing number of students with special needs, anxiety-related conditions, and a lower level of adaptability to new environments and stimuli. The Faculty is also addressing new challenges in the area of equal access, particularly with regard to nationality and gender-related issues.

The general uncertainty within the cultural and artistic scene during the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing war in Ukraine (with a high proportion of students coming from post-Soviet backgrounds) has deeply affected both the structure and content of teaching. It has triggered the need to seek new motivation for artistic practice and to re-evaluate relationships to institutions and the authorities representing them.

Lecturers at FUD UJEP are responding to these challenges through new tools, including those developed as part of the Blended Learning project.

### c. GENDER EQUALITY PLAN

FUD UJEP adheres to social values such as a safe creative, study, and working environment, gender-sensitive communication, gender equality, and, last but not least, generally respectful and dignified communication. It does so in connection with the UJEP Gender Equality Plan and, in particular, through its own initiative SAFE ENVIRONMENT AT FUD, taking into account the specifics of the field and the particular nature of studio-based teaching.

In terms of addressing gender inequality, the internal environment of FUD UJEP still has significant room for improvement. The fields of fine arts and design are specific in that they are dynamically transforming from originally strongly (even exclusively) masculinised fields into strongly feminised ones. The long-term field-based stereotyping can be illustrated by the total number of ALL women who have attained the title of Professor in the field of fine arts across Czechoslovakia. As of 2023, throughout the history of higher art education in Czechoslovakia, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia, only 7 women have achieved the title of Professor.

In the current situation, the long-standing trend of gradual change is reflected in the opposite gender ratio of teachers in practical subjects (majority men) and students (majority women), within which we are currently witnessing the gradual loosening and rewriting of the rules of what used to be a dominantly male domain – art and applied arts (design, with the exception of textile and fashion design). This is turning into a more gender-balanced professional framework, though not yet equal, with a prediction of a strongly feminised field in the future.

Reconciliation of family and professional life is possible for members of the academic community through offered part-time contracts, flexible working hours, extended leave, and other employee benefits, including sick days.

In September 2023, FUD UJEP conducted a questionnaire survey aimed at identifying comfort/discomfort in the area of gender stereotyping in the workplace and the occurrence of socially inappropriate or pathological behaviours, with respondents being students of FUD. Based on the results of the survey, further steps are being taken as part of the SAFE ENVIRONMENT AT FUD initiative (see below).

Leadership positions and nominations to representative bodies in previous years were not proportionally filled by women, but in 2023, further gradual balancing occurred. In 2023, the core leadership of FUD UJEP consisted of 2 women (Dean, Vice-Dean, 3 male Vice-Deans); the heads of departments included 3 women and 2 men; however, the leadership of individual studios remained gender-unequal (13 male heads, 4 female heads, of which 3 officially appointed + 1 temporarily authorised by the Dean), with only 2 women leading a studio independently and 2 others in shared leadership with a male colleague. In contrast, the Department of History and Theory of Arts and the Department of Art Practice appeared to be more gender-balanced. For each open selection procedure, FUD UJEP follows HR Award standards and composes selection committees in a way that ensures gender impartiality in their decisions.

In 2023, FUD UJEP placed strong emphasis on equal, quality-based career advancement for male and female leading lecturers and thus on support for female members of the academic community, whether in their postdoctoral activities (Michaela Labudová, Adéla Machová, Lenka Kahuda Klokočková) or in habilitation procedures (Lada Semecká).

#### d. ISSUES OF SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED HARASSMENT

On the FUD UJEP website, in the minutes of the Dean's College meetings, as well as during meetings of the academic community and on discussion forums via social media, the issue of sexual and gender-based harassment was repeatedly discussed preventively. Subsequently, the Dean approached the FUD UJEP PR officer, Mgr. Tomáš Suk, with a request to develop a concept for the SAFE ENVIRONMENT AT FUD initiative, to prepare a comprehensive questionnaire survey, to distribute it via the website and social media, and then to evaluate it and develop a methodology on how to prevent potential socially pathological behaviours, or how to address them should they occur.

Survey results are available here:

<https://fud.ujep.cz/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/vyhodnoceni-bezpecne-protredi-fud.pdf>

Information about the initiative is available here:

<https://fud.ujep.cz/fakulta/bezpecne-prostredi-fud/>

A methodology has been created for students and staff of the Faculty on how to proceed in cases where the above-mentioned values are violated. In line with this initiative, two routes are presented:

- an official, addressed report followed by resolution in cooperation with studio leadership, department leadership, the Dean, and the Academic Senate of FUD, or
- the possibility of resolving the matter outside the organisational structure of the Faculty, while maintaining maximum anonymity, through the coordinators of the SAFE ENVIRONMENT AT FUD initiative: Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Anna Vartecká, Ph.D. and Mgr. Tomáš Suk. The coordinators are bound by confidentiality in such cases.

In 2023, no case of proven sexual or gender-based violence or harassment was recorded at FUD UJEP. However, various forms of socially inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour were reported and individually addressed with the Faculty leadership, department heads, specific staff members, the ombudsperson, and the Faculty coordinators.

## 7. INTERNATIONALISATION

### a. SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS IN INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY PROGRAMMES

International mobility is one of the Faculty's priorities, and FUD UJEP has achieved very good results in this area. In 2023, the number of student mobilities stabilised following the restrictions imposed by the Covid pandemic.

In 2023, FUD UJEP had 60 Erasmus+ agreements in place with universities from 17 EU countries (Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, France, Croatia, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Austria, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden), as well as with institutions in Serbia and Turkey.

In the second half of 2023, the transition of the Erasmus+ programme to the Erasmus without Papers platform was gradually implemented.

At FUD UJEP, the strategy of offering a wide range of partner institutions across the EU (i.e. programme and partner countries) has long proven effective. In terms of credit and course recognition, FUD UJEP continued in 2023 with its policy of maximum flexibility.

In addition to study mobility, students are also encouraged to engage in shadowing in international institutions or to present their creative work abroad through short-term

internships, trips, excursions, and other project-based activities, supported by internal grant schemes of FUD and the Institutional Plan of UJEP – aimed at supporting international mobility of students and academic staff.

Among the priorities in international cooperation in the field of creative activities is the implementation of long-term and medium-term international research and exhibition projects, such as EEA and Norway Grants, HORIZON 2020, Czech-German Future Fund (ČNFB), ZIEL3, VISEGRAD, and international internships supported by the NPO of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.

#### b. SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY OF ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC STAFF

FUD UJEP regards international mobility of staff as one of its developmental priorities and as a key means of enhancing both the creative and teaching quality of its environment.

FUD UJEP makes use of all available tools to support international mobility of its academic and non-academic staff, in particular the Erasmus+ programme, funding from the UJEP Internationalisation Stimulation scheme, internal grants of FUD UJEP, and other external international cooperation programmes. According to the rules for awarding internal grants at FUD UJEP, international mobility or the implementation of a presentation or project is one of the most important evaluation criteria.

A significant impact on the development of international mobility was made by the Gardening of Soul project, supported by the EEA & Norway Grants and launched in 2022. The project brought about an unprecedented frequency and qualitative shift in both incoming and outgoing mobility of international academics and members of the academic community. As part of this project, FUD UJEP academic staff secured scholarship residencies at Skaftfell Center for Visual Art in Seyðisfjörður, Iceland (Michaela Labudová, Jan Krtička). At the same time, six residencies of prominent international artists were hosted at the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts in 2023.

At the end of 2023, the international exhibition Gardening of Soul was held at the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts, showcasing the results of the aforementioned residencies (Barbara Herold, Florian Huth, Olia Fedorova, Won Wo Bik, Andrea Resner, Finnbogi Pétursson).

In 2023, FUD UJEP was also a successful recipient of two NPO projects, within which international lecturers Peter Puklus and Markus Neustetter were active at the Faculty.

#### c. INTEGRATION OF FOREIGN MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

The hiring of an administrative staff member for the study agenda related to the increasing number of international students proved fully effective at FUD UJEP in 2023. The measure focused on the coordination of the Study Department and the Department of External Relations turned out to be exceptionally forward-looking. There is a continuing strong interest from international students in studying at the Faculty. A separate aspect of steps aimed at the integration of international students is the administrative assistance provided in arranging or extending visas.

FUD UJEP pays close attention to preventing the stereotyping of students from different cultural backgrounds. In the event of a potentially confrontational situation, conflict may be addressed with the Ombudsperson or representatives of the SAFE ENVIRONMENT AT FUD platform. However, the emphasis in this regard is placed on prevention, so that such situations do not occur at all. It is important to ensure cooperation among the aforementioned actors, studio heads, and incoming international students immediately upon their arrival in the Czech Republic and their enrolment at FUD UJEP.

In 2023, FUD UJEP implemented the follow-up Master's degree programme Fine Arts. Courses in English are also available to students coming for Erasmus+ mobility. Teaching is provided by core staff – both Czech and international, as well as internal doctoral students, again both Czech and international. In 2023, the full-time Master's programme included students from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Korea, Kazakhstan, Turkey, India, Slovakia, and Iran.

A large number of international students also study in Czech-language study programmes at all levels at FUD UJEP, including the doctoral programme in Visual Communication.

International members of the academic community have the opportunity to participate in all professional and social activities. International lecturers and students are regularly involved in the academic life of FUD UJEP through exhibitions, workshops, publications, excursions, and competitions. FUD UJEP organises a lecture series led by international lecturers, attended by both Czech and international students, which significantly contributes to the integration of both groups.

Social events organised by the Faculty management, individual departments, and students (e.g. exhibition openings, film screenings, and musical or audiovisual performances) are also part of the integration process. Integration is further enhanced by cooperation with cultural institutions in Ústí nad Labem, such as the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts, Emil Filla Gallery, and Hraničář.

#### d. ACTIVITIES STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONALISATION

FUD continued the implementation of the EEA & Norway Funds project Gardening of Soul, including the organisation of an international exhibition and the realisation of artistic residencies.

The lecture series by international lecturers continued as part of the Facing Art project.

As part of its own publishing series, FUD UJEP published a book by Salvadoran student Dani Vigil titled *Retratos de Ausencia. Portraits of Absence / Portréty Absence*. The publication is part of a doctoral thesis in the Visual Communication study programme.

In 2023, the semester-long course Atelier of a Guest International Lecturer continued as an elective course for the Design (Design specialisation) and Fine Arts study programmes. The lecturer was internationally recognised artist Marcus Neustetter.

## 8. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, ARTISTIC AND OTHER CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

### a. CONNECTION OF CREATIVE AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Creative activity at FUD UJEP includes excellent practice in design, art, and curating, as well as artistic, curatorial, and partly art-theoretical research.

A consistently significant role in the creative and educational activity at FUD UJEP is also played by a high-quality publishing programme. In 2023, publications were presented at important specialised book design fairs, prestigious competitions, and distributed by both general and specialised art booksellers such as Kosmas, Artmap, and gallery shops.

Among the most notable titles produced with the contribution of FUD UJEP is the representative collective monograph on Rafani:

ONDRÍK, J.; RAFANI; ČERNÁ, L.; ŠTROBLOVÁ, K. *Rafani*. Praha: NAMU 2023; Brno: VUTIUM and Praha: Untitled, 2023, ISBN 978-80-7331-670-9.

### b. STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

Students are encouraged to create artworks and design projects and to present them publicly in regional, national, and international contexts.

Students of the Curatorial Studies programme prepare an extensive thematic group exhibition every year (in 2023 presented at the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts under the title *Caught by Words*, which also included participation by recent FUD graduate Petr Kubáč), including the preparation of a catalogue. They also manage and run the Rampa Gallery in the faculty building, the Foyer Gallery of the Činoherní Studio in Ústí nad Labem, the Billboard Gallery in public space, and in Prague also Gallery *Mimochodem*.

The exhibition of diploma and bachelor's theses in 2022 took place in the faculty building and at the House of Culture in Ústí nad Labem.

Students at all levels of study, with greater participation by Master's and doctoral students, take part in competitions in fine art and design. The greatest success is achieved in the fields of design and graphic design, in festivals and exhibitions such as Czech Grand Design, National Award for Student Design, Designblok, Grafika roku, Book in Progress, BookVision Ostrava, XVII Triennale of Czech Ex Libris 2023, and others.

Student Lucia Kulčárová received the Award of the Association of Collectors and Friends of Ex Libris in the latter; student Barbora Tomová received Honourable Mention; student Jakub Klimeš was nominated for the Triennale Award.

In 2023, FUD UJEP carried out activities within the project Gardening of Soul: In Five Chapters, supported by the EEA and Norway Grants, thematically exploring the metaphor of gardening as cultivation (of nature and society) and connecting the academic environment of the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts with institutions such as Alzheimer Centre Krásné Březno, Volunteer Centre Ústí nad Labem, People in Need – Ústí nad Labem branch, Primary Art School Most, within the framework of artistic research, cross-sectoral cooperation, and international residency practice (Skaftfell Art Centre, Seydisfjordur, Iceland).

Students participated as creators, co-organisers, and producers of individual project outcomes. The project also supported international mobility and internships of FUD UJEP academic staff, aiming to enhance professional, creative, and academic growth.

FUD UJEP students also participated in the Prague showcase Pokoje, Brno Art Week, UFF Festival in Uničov, 8th Performance Festival in Náchod, SIGNÁL Festival in Prague, and REVÍR 01 at the Emil Filla Gallery in Ústí nad Labem.

David Stejskal and Anna Vašíčková created the visual identity for FAMUfest Prague 2023.

Students of the Photography Studio presented a group exhibition titled KILAN / NA STOLE at the Emil Filla Gallery in Ústí nad Labem.

Students actively engaged in various roles during the organisation of conferences, exhibitions, audiovisual presentations, and workshops (e.g. Screen-printing workshop U Pavouka for the public, FÍK Festival at Hraničář, and accompanying programmes at the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts).

An excellent publication resulting from a diploma project was published by FUD UJEP:

BAREK, D. Náklon písma v typografii a jeho autorské zpracování. Ústí nad Labem: FUD UJEP, 2023. ISBN 978-80-7561-443-8.

Students of the Curatorial Studies programme published the catalogue of their 2022 group exhibition in the form of an e-book:

KLINGEROVÁ, E., SEDLÁČKOVÁ, H. (eds.) Hladce obrace: Od sebe sama, kolem prázdná a skrze něj. Ústí nad Labem: FUD UJEP, 2023. ISBN 978-80-7561-428-5.

c. PURPOSE-SPECIFIC FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION

The Faculty develops its own instruments for distributing targeted funding for research, development, and innovation, primarily intended for artistic and design creation, its public presentation, and theoretical reflection. These instruments are accessible to all members of its academic community. FUD also provides both students and academic staff with administrative support in the preparation and implementation of grant applications and projects, as well as ongoing project support services.

The activities of both students and academic staff — in theoretical and artistic creative work — are supported through a two-round internal grant system (so-called FUD UJEP internal grants), which focus on presenting the outcomes of artistic and creative work through exhibitions, festivals, workshops, authorial books, showcases, or participation in competitions, as well as through small and large publishing grants.

d. SUPPORT FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS AND STAFF IN POSTDOCTORAL POSITIONS

As part of the university-wide distribution of targeted financial resources, FUD UJEP supports doctoral students through SGS grants and the Doctoral School. Postdoctoral colleagues are encouraged to make use of standard faculty support tools – internal and publishing grants. A bonus feature of these tools is the criterion "career development of the applicant", which enables the grant to be tailored towards supporting young researchers.

Doctoral student projects are given space in the exhibition programme of Gallery 2 at the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts, curated by postdoctoral fellow Adéla Machová. Doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers are encouraged to undertake short-, medium-, and long-term international placements. International doctoral students are also motivated to contribute to the internationalisation of the Faculty's internal environment (through teaching activities and interdisciplinary teams).

Creating intergenerational and interdisciplinary teams, sharing experience, and engaging doctoral students and postdocs in teaching, research, and especially in artistic, design, and curatorial activities are among the Faculty's key priorities.

Examples of supported doctoral creative activity:

Exhibition:

2023 TRANZIT ZONE – exhibition by doctoral student Polina Khatsenka, Gallery 3, Ústí nad Labem House of Arts – solo exhibition curated by Adéla Machová.

Awards:

2023 National Award for Design, Slovakia – Filip Krampla, winner in the category Home and Public Space – Furniture for Bolt Chair

2023 German Design Awards, Germany – Filip Krampla, winner in the category Excellent Product Design – Furniture for Bolt Chair

2023 Festival of Illustration and Comics – Adéla Bierbaumer and team, recipient of the Muriel Award for Contribution to Czech Comics 2023

Publications:

PISKÁČKOVÁ, Š. Na pomezí umění a přírodních věd / On the Borders of Art and the Natural Sciences. Ústí nad Labem: FUD UJEP, 2023. ISBN 978-80-7561-449-0.

VIGIL, D. Retratos de Ausencia. Portraits of Absence / Portréty Absence. Ústí nad Labem: FUD UJEP, 2023. ISBN 978-80-7561-420-9.

#### e. INVOLVEMENT OF THE APPLIED SECTOR IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STUDY PROGRAMMES

FUD UJEP cooperates with a wide range of manufacturing companies and businesses.

This is not a classic form of applied research but rather a more open, mutually beneficial and enriching collaboration based on knowledge and experience transfer. FUD UJEP aims to secure and facilitate internships in companies that deepen students' competencies and bring innovation into production, services, etc. However, it is relatively difficult to find suitable partners within the Ústí Region. Despite this, FUD UJEP strives to actively participate in the national discussion on the importance and benefits of cultural and creative industries (CCI) and their impact on structurally affected regions, including the Ústí Region.

FUD UJEP builds close connections with specific cultural, creative, and cultural-creative entities in the field of CCI (design studios, cultural centres, art museums, and others), not only for professional internships but also for broader inter-institutional cooperation in the form of specialised cultural and socio-cultural activities. These opportunities allow students to establish important professional contacts during their studies. Practical experience in producing cultural and creative outcomes is also tied to the Faculty's activities in the third role and supports interdisciplinary and interfaculty collaboration in creative projects or applied research projects.

Key stakeholders with whom FUD UJEP communicates, coordinates, and publicises professional practical activities include the Innovation Centre of the Ústí Region (ICUK), the Kreativní.uk creative network, CzechInvest, and the TAH – Technology, Art, Humanities and Innovation Centre.

Through teamwork, members of the academic community help to build a Faculty that contributes to changing perspectives on the importance of art and culture as drivers of societal development, moderates both expert and public discourse on the current forms of visual art, design, graphic design, curatorial practice, and creative industries, and also plays an active role in cultivating the local environment.

In 2023, active collaboration was also carried out with local cultural institutions and public authorities, such as the Municipal Authority of the City of Ústí nad Labem, the House of Culture, Činoherní Studio Ústí nad Labem, Hraničář Public Hall, the National Museum of Rural Life in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, and others, including the Emergency Medical Services of the Ústí Region.

#### f. SUPPORT FOR HORIZONTAL MOBILITY OF STUDENTS AND ACADEMIC STAFF AND THEIR EDUCATION

Cross-sectoral mobility and cooperation typically take place along the axis of FUD UJEP and galleries, art museums, or design companies and fairs. Model examples of such processes, demonstrating collaboration within horizontally structured teams, realised in 2023, include the following:

Mobility, realisation of a bachelor thesis, and subsequent award of student/graduate Jakub Knápek at Czech Design Week – Discovery of the Year.

Preparation and realisation of the group project Backstage Entrance by the Glass Studio during the Meat Design Festival in Ostrava.

Residency, creative projects, and workshops as part of the 12th edition of the symposium In the Gardens, Löblhof Staňkovic.

Guided tours, lectures, workshops, and a design shop at the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts as part of the Design Ústí exhibition.

Stonework course led by MgA. Lada Semecká and MgA. Miroslav Lörincz in the U svatého Josefa quarry in Hořice.

## 9. QUALITY ASSURANCE AND EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

In 2022, the National Accreditation Authority and its evaluation panel conducted an external review of UJEP's activities, the outcome of which was the External Evaluation Report of UJEP, adopted in 2023.

In the conclusions—applicable to UJEP as a whole, as well as to FUD UJEP as its integral part—the evaluation panel stated that the academic institution has a clearly defined mission, vision, and strategic goals. Its Strategic Plan 2021+ is well-structured, with basic priorities and objectives that are specific and realistically achievable. The university provides adequate facilities for its educational and creative activities, which have been significantly improved in recent years.

The administrative support for study at FUD UJEP was assessed as being at a good level. The STAG database links information across different areas of study. UJEP has implemented a support system for students with specific needs, and also focuses on senior students, devoting considerable attention to doctoral students.

However, the report noted that more attention should be paid to first-year students and that in general, there is a need to increase student awareness, not only through digital tools but also via personal communication.

The leadership of FUD UJEP systematically cultivates an academic culture, aiming to establish and continuously improve standard functional mechanisms for internal communication and critical reflection, and actively uses them to address shortcomings.

## 10. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- a. INTERNATIONAL AND MAJOR NATIONAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES, INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE INTO INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS, AND THE FACULTY'S PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL AND ARTISTIC NETWORKS

FUD UJEP's involvement in international networks takes place through long-standing partnerships with specific institutions as well as through current grant-funded projects. The synergy of both approaches creates above-standard conditions for the realisation of excellent international exhibitions, workshops, and creative residencies.

**Long-term institutional cooperation (selection):**

- **DOWD Gallery, SUNY Cortland, USA**
- **European Center for Art Upper Bavaria Freising, Germany**
- **Kharkiv Municipal Gallery, Ukraine**
- **Kunst Meran / Merano Arte, Italy**
- **Motorenhalle Gallery Dresden, Germany**
- **Riesa Efau Dresden, Germany**
- **<rotor> association for contemporary art Graz, Austria**
- **Skaftfell Center for Visual Art Seyðisfjörður, Iceland**
- **The Museum of Fine Arts Split, Croatia**
- **The Trinity Session Johannesburg, South Africa**
- **Università degli Studi di Macerata, Italy**
- **Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava, Slovakia**

The most significant advancement in international excellence for FUD UJEP in 2023 was the implementation of the project Gardening of Soul, supported by the EEA & Norway Grants. Within this framework, two international group exhibitions were held during the year, artworks in public space were prepared in collaboration with partner organisations, and residencies for participating artists were realised both at the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts (Finnbogi Pétursson, Andreja Rösner, Markus Neustetter, Florian Huth, Barbara Herold, Won Wo Bik) and in Iceland (Michaela Labudová, Jan Krtička, Adéla Machová).

A key event in 2023 was also the participation of current members of FUD UJEP's academic community and its alumni in the Made by Fire exhibition project, which took place in Milan and at the Museum of Decorative Arts in Brno, and was held under the auspices of:

- the President of the Czech Republic, Gen. ret. Ing. Petr Pavel, M.A.
- the Prime Minister, Prof. PhDr. Petr Fiala, Ph.D., LL.M.
- the Minister of Culture, Mgr. Martin Baxa
- the Minister of Industry and Trade, Ing. Jozef Síkela
- the Governor of the South Moravian Region, Mgr. Jan Grolich
- the Mayor of the City of Brno, JUDr. Markéta Vaňková
- the Mayor of Brno-Centre, Ing. arch. Vojtěch Mencl

The Made by Fire exhibition was an official part of the 150th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Museum of Decorative Arts in Brno.

### **Selected Significant International and Foreign Creative Activities:**

2023 – SYMBIOSIS 2.0, Hong Kong Arts Center, Hong Kong – Solo exhibition by Václav Kopecký and Jiří Thýn

2023 – Searching for Lost Worlds, Durden and Ray Gallery, Los Angeles, USA – International group exhibition curated by Lenka Sýkorová

2023 – Thinking Through Drawing, TRYST Alternative Art Fair, Torrance Art Museum, Los Angeles, California – Group exhibition curated by Lenka Sýkorová

2023 – Gardening of Soul, Ústí nad Labem House of Arts – International group exhibition curated by Michal Koleček

2023 – Collective Exhibition for a Single Body, The National Museum of Art of Romania, Bucharest, Romania – Participation of Jiří Kovanda in an international exhibition

2023 – Rift Zone (nula.cc), Gallery 3, Ústí nad Labem House of Arts – Solo exhibition by Lloyd Dunn curated by Adéla Machová

2022–2023 – Gardening of Soul: Introduction, Ústí nad Labem House of Arts – International group exhibition curated by Michal Koleček

2023 – Made by Fire, Milano Design Week, Italy; Museum of Decorative Arts in Brno – Participation of Marcel Mochal, Jiří Pelcl, Lada Semecká, and Antonín Tomášek in an international design showcase

2023 – Robinsonski efekt, Galerija Flora Dubrovnik, Croatia – International group exhibition featuring Jiří Kovanda, Lukáš Jasanský and Martin Polák, Michaela Thelenová, and Zdena Kolečková, curated by Michal Koleček

2023 – Make Long Dream Last Longer Than the Night, Musée Départemental d'Art Contemporain, Chateau de Rochechouart, France – Participation of Jiří Kovanda in an international exhibition

2023 – Niekoľko zelených záznamov nadrozmernej čiernej skrinky, Spiš Artists' Gallery, Spišská Nová Ves, Slovakia – Participation of Zdena Kolečková in an international exhibition

### **b. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AWARDS OF THE FACULTY**

FUD UJEP has not yet received institutional awards at either the national or international level. However, many members of its academic community have been honoured with numerous prestigious individual awards.

The Symbol glass collection by LLEV (Eva Mochalová and Marcel Mochal, Head of the Glass Studio) for Lasvit won the EDIDA 2023 award in the Sustainable Design category. In addition to LLEV and LASVIT, the development and production of moulds from waste sawdust and mycelium were significantly supported by the company Mykilio, a partner of the Progresus Group. Eva and Marcel Mochal also received the Best Home Accessories award for their PSYCHEE vases and the new design of the INNATURA glass.

Additionally, the following examples of national excellence in the field of fine arts should be mentioned:

2023 – 1939–2021: The End of the Black-and-White Era, National Gallery in Prague – Participation of Michaela Thelenová, Jiří Kovanda, and David Kořínek

2023 – ART, LIFE. Art for Life, Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague – Participation of Jiří Thýn

2023 – SIGNÁL Festival Prague – NEON Award for Karim Tarakji

#### c. INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION OF THE FACULTY, INCLUDING FOREIGN ACCREDITATIONS

Since 2019, FUD UJEP has been a member of **ELIA – The European League of Institutes of the Arts**. ELIA represents a globally interconnected network that provides a dynamic platform for professional engagement, experience exchange, and the development of higher arts education institutions. The organisation initiates new opportunities for its members and advocates for the exchange of so-called best practices on the international stage in the sphere of higher education.

## 11. THIRD ROLE OF THE FACULTY

### a. ACTIVITY IN THE TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE TO PRACTICE

FUD UJEP fulfils the university's third role through presentation and exhibition activities, as well as through accompanying programmes intended for both professional and general audiences. These activities are subject to evaluation by professional critics, the public, the media, and public authorities. The resulting complex feedback is then reflected in the assessment of grant applications. In this respect, increasing interest from the Ústí Region in FUD UJEP's activities focused on regional development has been observed, alongside positive responses to the engagement of members of the academic community in regional discussion platforms addressing the development of the creative industries.

One of FUD UJEP's key long-term development projects is the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts. This institution represents a crucial potential for knowledge transfer into practice. It creates employment opportunities for graduates of the faculty and provides a platform for student internships. It is also a site of informal creative encounters between European art figures and the academic community of UJEP.

The Ústí nad Labem House of Arts significantly strengthens opportunities for collaboration in the fields of fine arts, design, graphic design, and curatorial studies. It is a modern gallery of contemporary art and design, offering nearly 700 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space. The institution expands the facilities of the home university, encompassing contemporary artistic creation, design, educational, research, and socially engaged activities. It features studios, workshops, and a multifunctional hall accommodating 80 attendees. In support of the faculty's study programmes, two multifunctional floors have been established here and were fully utilised in 2023 for lectures, performances, concerts, exhibitions, and cultural activities ranging from small-scale theatre and music productions to creative workshops and summer day camps. In 2023, the House of Arts continued to fulfil its mission of shaping and cultivating the local community through artistic events and encounters. The venue also hosted the Visiting Lecturer Course. This institution significantly enriches the cultural and social life of the regional capital and has steadily expanded its base of regular visitors. Its activities in 2023 were partially funded on the basis of a Memorandum of Cooperation between UJEP and the Statutory City of Ústí nad Labem.

FUD also fulfilled the university's third role through public presentations of student work — for example, the exhibition of final theses at the House of Culture in Ústí nad Labem — as well as by organising guided tours, open days, courses, and workshops for the public.

## b. REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

FUD UJEP is developing its role as an initiator of positive social processes in the region with due attention and with the intention of helping to harmonise the still unsettled social microclimate of the area. FUD UJEP operates in the north-western part of Bohemia not only with the aim of contributing to the cultural development of local society, where it perceives a number of relatively underappreciated qualities, but also with an awareness of its duty to

draw attention — through artistic means — to current local and global issues. A good example of such activities is Billboart Gallery Europe, a public space gallery focused on the presentation of contemporary visual art. The gallery operates on the basis of public art projects carried out within the Curatorial Studies programme at FUD UJEP. The exhibition concept of Billboart Gallery is designed to be accessible to a broad audience.

FUD UJEP has also co-organised activities in the field of visual art presentation in partnership institutions — such as the Emil Filla Gallery and Hraničář Public Hall, both in Ústí nad Labem. The role of FUD UJEP consists both in presenting outcomes of teaching activities (for example, specific assignments in collaboration with the City Council of Ústí nad Labem, especially in the field of visual communication), and in the realisation of independent creative work by students, lecturers, and graduates, as well as in project-based activities.

Student exhibitions in informal exhibition spaces also had a visible impact on cultural life in local towns — for instance, the Inventorium series curated by Lenka Kahuda Klokočková at the Inventář Café in Ústí nad Labem, or a group exhibition by the Graphic Design I studio held at the Gothic Twin in Litoměřice as part of the ART DISTRICT LITOMĚŘICE showcase.

### c. REGIONAL AND SUPRAREGIONAL IMPACT AND SIGNIFICANCE

In terms of fulfilling the university's third role through supra-regional engagement and relevance, FUD UJEP occupies an important position in institutional support for the development of both contemporary art and, in particular, the broader spectrum of activities linked to the field of cultural and creative industries and their impact on societal development and quality of life.

In the field of public presentation of visual arts, FUD UJEP's academic staff and students participated in or co-organised a number of solo and group exhibitions in the Czech Republic and abroad. Noteworthy examples include Jiří Kovanda exhibiting at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA; and Václav Kopecký and Jiří Thýn, who presented their work at the Hong Kong Arts Center in Hong Kong.

Two male and one female lecturer from FUD UJEP were included in the newly conceived permanent exhibition of the Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art at the National Gallery in Prague, entitled 1939–2021: The End of the Black-and-White Era. The exhibition features works by Michaela Thelenová, David Kořínek, and Jiří Kovanda.

In the field of design, FUD UJEP actively participated in Designblok Prague 2023, an annual incubator of talent not only in product design but also a major Central European showcase of successful design studios and individual designers. At Designblok, FUD UJEP presented several exhibitions: Speculare by Filip Trubač, Míra použitelnosti by Nela Krulišová, Glass Kids on the Block by the Glass Studio, and Tour de Plate: Ze sypké hmoty odolný talíř, a ceramic design project in collaboration with the Qubus design studio.

In the field of graphic design, academics and students of FUD UJEP were involved in projects for national and international institutions, public administration, non-profit organisations, and private clients. Notable outcomes include: the visual identity of the International Festival Regiony in Hradec Králové 2023 by Přemysl Zajíček; visual identity and campaign for Deník Alarm by Juliana Chomová; and the visual style of the exhibition and monograph Alžběta Jungrová: Já věřím by Adam Uchytíl.

A total of four sound works — gin&PLATonic: sineraw, Costa: Spectral, Tranzit Zone, and Tomáš Roček – Nejisté kartografie — were created by student Polina Khatsenka for institutions such as PLATO Ostrava, Gallery of the City of Pardubice, the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts, and Gallery Vltavská / GHMP.

A specific and impactful outcome is the team podcast project FAST FUD, carried out by a research team led by Marcel Mochal.

FUD UJEP holds a firm place on the map of high-quality art schools in Central Europe and, through its educational, exhibition and design productivity, contributes to the contemporary European cultural context while also enhancing the standing of its home city in the Ústí Region.

Due to its geographical location, FUD UJEP is naturally oriented towards frequent collaboration with institutions in neighbouring Saxony, yet the reach of its activities extends across the global art and design community.

## B.2 APPENDIX 2 – TABLE SECTION

Tab. 2.1 Accredited Study Programmes (number)

Tab. 2.2 Study Programmes in Foreign Languages (number)

Tab. 2.3 Joint/Double/Multiple Degree Study Programmes Implemented in Cooperation with Foreign Higher Education Institutions

Tab. 2.4 Accredited Study Programmes Implemented Jointly with Another Higher Education Institution or a Public Research Institution Based in the Czech Republic

Tab. 2.5 Accredited Study Programmes Implemented Jointly with a College

Tab. 2.6 Lifelong Learning Courses at the Higher Education Institution (number of courses)

Tab. 2.7 Lifelong Learning Courses at the Higher Education Institution (number of participants)

Tab. 3.1 Students in Accredited Study Programmes (number of studies)

Tab. 3.2 Self-Funded Students (number of studies)

Tab. 3.3 First-Year Dropout Rate (in %)

Tab. 3.4 Student Scholarships by Purpose (number of individuals)

Tab. 4.1 Graduates of Accredited Study Programmes (number of completed studies)

Tab. 5.1 Interest in Studying at the Higher Education Institution

Tab. 6.1 Academic, Research and Other Staff in Total (full-time equivalent)

Tab. 6.2 Age Structure of Academic, Research and Other Staff (number of individuals)

Tab. 6.3 Academic and Research Staff by Extent of Workload and Highest Qualification Achieved (number of individuals)

Tab. 6.4 Senior Staff (number of individuals)

Tab. 6.5 Academic and Research Staff with Foreign Citizenship (number of individuals)

Tab. 6.6 Newly Appointed Associate Professors and Professors (number)

Tab. 7.1 Participation of the Higher Education Institution in International Cooperation Programmes (regardless of source of funding)

Tab. 7.2 Mobility of Students, Academic and Other Staff by Country (regardless of source of funding) (The Faculty only completes the table with the relevant data)

Tab. 7.3 Graduate Mobility (share of completed studies)

Tab. 8.1 Conferences (Co-)Organised by the Higher Education Institution (number)

Tab. 8.2 Experts from the Application Sector Participating in Teaching and Practical Training in Accredited Study Programmes (number)

Tab. 8.3 Study Fields with a Mandatory Internship of at Least One Month Included in the Curriculum (number)

Tab. 8.4 Knowledge and Research Results Transfer into Practice