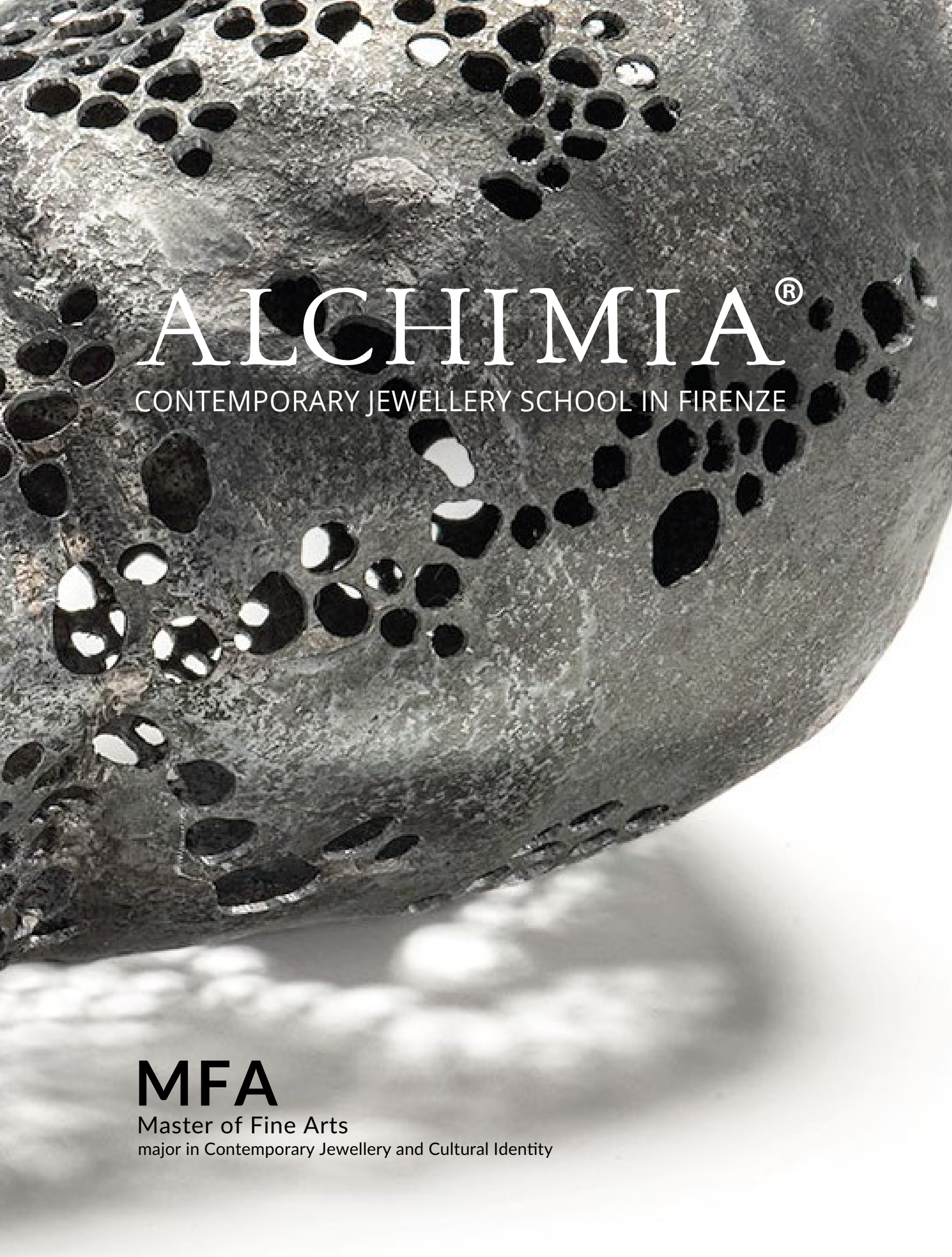

ALCHIMIA®

CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY SCHOOL IN FIRENZE

MFA

Master of Fine Arts

major in Contemporary Jewellery and Cultural Identity

Credits on the cover
Sayaka Ito
Weiki Mao

Photographs
Janai Trejo
Lorenzo Michelini
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ALCHIMIA®
CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY SCHOOL IN FIRENZE

Piazza Piattellina 3/r, 50124
Firenze, Italy
www.alchimia.it

ALCHIMIA®

CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY SCHOOL IN FIRENZE

MFA
IN CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY AND CULTURAL IDENTITY

2 YEARS PROGRAM
1275 HOURS
1 EXCLUSIVE WORKSHOP
1 ON 1 TUTORING
120 ECTS CREDITS
1 SOLO SHOW

+

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL
FAIRS, CONTESTS AND AWARDS

ALCHIMIA
CROP 13

ALCHIMIA

CHALLENGING CONVENTIONS, CELEBRATING DIFFERENCE

Master Studio at Via San Giovanni

A SCHOOL IS EXPECTED TO EDUCATE, TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL LIFE, AND TO GUIDE THEM TOWARD THE FUTURE. ALCHIMIA GOES BEYOND THIS HORIZON, HOLDING THE DEEP CONVICTION THAT EDUCATION MUST BE ROOTED IN THE PRESENT, INFORMED BY KNOWLEDGE OF THE PAST AND ORIENTED TOWARD THE FUTURE.

LEARNING AT ALCHIMIA UNFOLDS THROUGH MAKING, DIALOGUE, AND INTUITIVE, CREATIVE, AND INTELLECTUAL EXPLORATION. WE CULTIVATE EACH STUDENT'S INDIVIDUAL ARTISTIC LANGUAGE, IDENTIFYING THE STRENGTHS OF THEIR CREATIVE VOICE IN RELATION TO THEIR UNIQUENESS AND CULTURAL ROOTS. COMING FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, CULTURES, AND MARKETS, OUR STUDENTS ARE SUPPORTED IN EXPLORING THEIR OWN BOUNDARIES THROUGH CREATIVE STIMULI THAT FOSTER THE DISCOVERY AND EVOLUTION OF A PERSONAL CREATIVE LANGUAGE.

ALCHIMIA

More than just a school, Alchimia is a place alive with encounters and exchanges, with friendship and conflict, endings and beginnings. It is a place to reflect on yourself and open up your horizons, both real and ideal. Situated in the heart of one of the most admired cities in the world, Florence, it is hard not to idealise a place like Alchimia, a contemporary jewellery school with almost thirty years of history.

Over the course of Alchimia's almost thirty-year history, the school has built a vibrant community of people from around the world, all curious and courageous enough to challenge conventional approaches. By working across disciplines and exploring new perspectives, students are encouraged to think differently and broaden their creative vision.

Alchimia's approach to contemporary jewellery is unique in Italy. It combines technical expertise with intellectual reflection, seeking to question and expand the conventions of artistic craftsmanship. The school's hybrid nature fosters a constant exchange of skills and ideas, celebrating the dynamic relationships between objects, performances, installations, and craftsmanship, as well as creative processes, interactions with the body, and conceptual inquiry.

Central to Alchimia's ethos is the act of making connections. The real challenge is to link research and ability, innovation and knowledge, while keeping individuality and the sharing of experiences at the heart of learning.

We aim to help students understand who they are, nurturing their individuality and abilities through collaboration with teachers from diverse fields, united by a principle of sharing. This approach cultivates an artistic education that celebrates difference and highlights nuances, rather than smoothing them out.

While artistic research in contemporary jewellery often focuses on the aesthetics of everyday or found objects, or on conceptual and technical reflections, Alchimia goes further. The very meaning of its name Alchimia, or alchemy, inspires an educational imperative: to transform and elevate your perspective, not just in how you see the world, but in what you are able to achieve.

Alchimia embodies challenges to overcome and battles to face, while also offering a home and a place of friendship, where students can meet, experiment, make mistakes, and evolve. Perhaps this is the best way to understand Alchimia: as a refuge, and at the same time, a place where you fight for your own creative freedom.

FLORENCE, ITALY

ALCHIMIA IS UNIQUELY LOCATED IN SAN FREDIANO, ONE OF THE MOST ARTISTIC AND AUTHENTIC NEIGHBOURHOODS IN FLORENCE, WIDELY REGARDED AS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CITIES IN THE WORLD AND RENOWNED FOR ITS CRAFTSMANSHIP.

FLORENCE: The Heart of Craft and Art in Italy

You may know Florence as home to one of the highest concentrations of artworks and museums in the world, but did you know it is also a place where traditional craftsmanship, using skills and methods passed down through generations, is alive and thriving?

Alchimia is located in the heart of the San Frediano neighbourhood, in the lively Oltrarno district, where workshops and businesses continue to reflect the best of Italian artisan creativity. From the oldest silk workshop, still active after 400 years and using weaving machinery designed by Leonardo da Vinci, to master inlayers of wood and semi-precious stones, to goldsmiths, restoration workshops, and leatherworkers crafting bespoke shoes and accessories, everything here celebrates the art of making. Join us at the centre of it all.

Oltrarno, south of the Arno River, can be experienced both as a living open-air museum and as a true ecosystem where tradition and innovation thrive in harmony, in continuous exchange.

Imagine a magical place where antique glass is reconstructed, new jewellery is created, and historic pieces are lovingly restored. Alchimia is a nexus where all these influences converge, where the air is infused with the art and beauty surrounding the school, and where people from different nationalities and cultures meet. It is a BEATING HEART where curiosity and the desire for knowledge make the personal and artistic development of each student not only possible, but entirely natural.

WE ASK OUR STUDENTS TO BE EXPLORERS: PATIENT, CURIOUS, AND RESOURCEFUL.

You will learn traditional goldsmith techniques alongside lessons in theory, critical analysis, conceptual thinking, and creative processes. Our classes attract students from all over the world, each supported in ways that allow you to express your unique creativity and develop the skills to bring new works to life.

Through collaboration and cultural exchange, we discover new energies and ideas, pushing the boundaries of our own creativity.

We see our students as artisan artists who are technically skilled, intellectually engaged, and capable of redefining the line between Applied Art and Art itself.

Our goal is to help you find your own individual artistic style, as the first step on your journey into the contemporary creative world.

Yi Chen Tsai

Alessia Prati

Federica Sala

Sarah Ordoñez

Enrica Pazzoli

Carla Movia

Kristin Knoll

ALCHIMIA®

MASTER OF FINE ARTS
major in CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY AND CULTURAL IDENTITY

2 YEAR DURATION

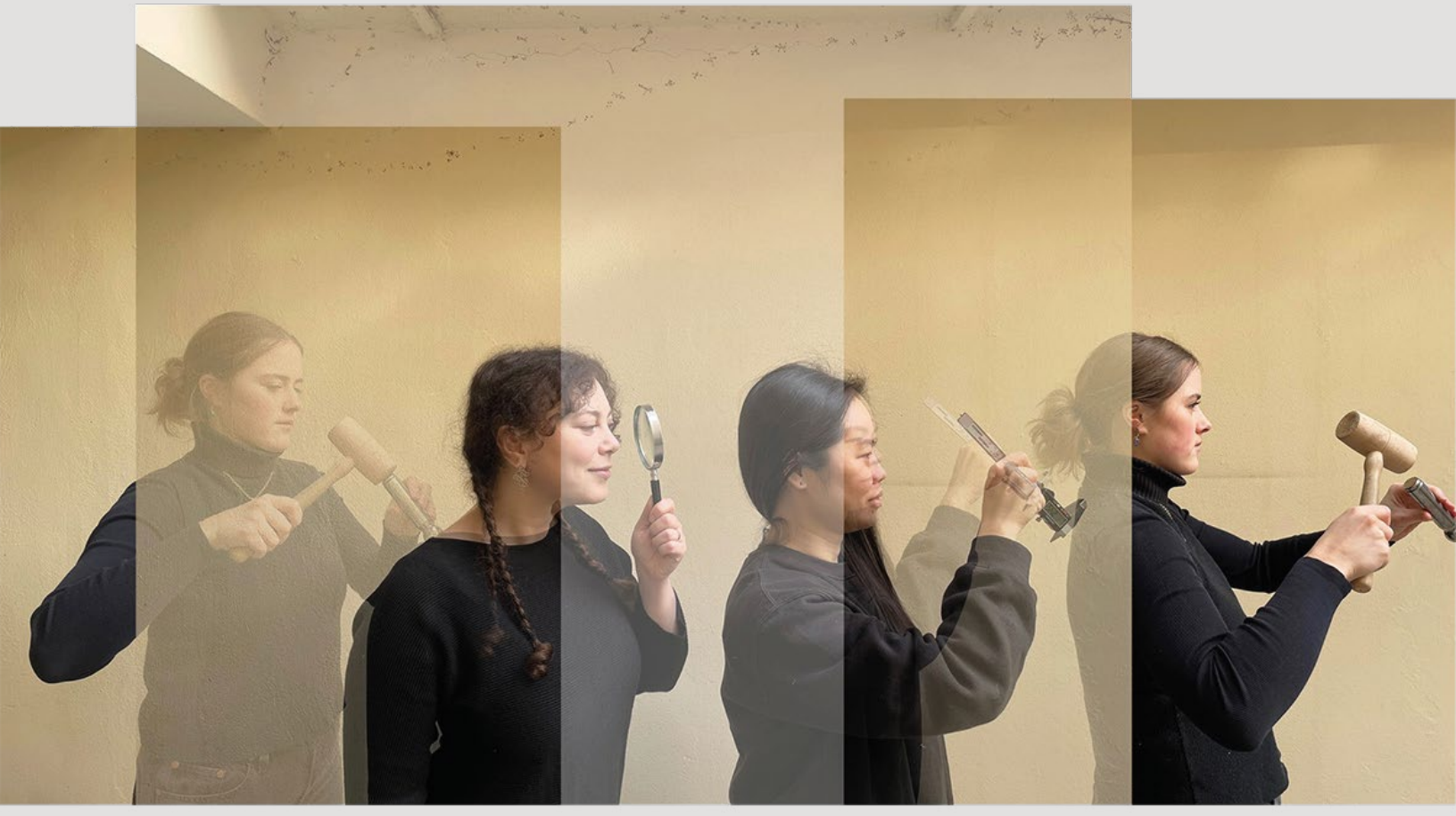
120 ECTS CREDITS (60 CREDITS PER YEAR)

1275 HOURS

APPLICATION
NO PREVIUOUS EXPERIENCE IN JEWELLERY MAKING IS REQUIRED

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF STUDENTS PER CLASS: 8

COURSE LANGUAGE: ENGLISH



MASTER OF FINE ARTS
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ALCHIMIA MFA PROGRAM

Alchimia Contemporary Jewellery School is an independent private institution that is not formally recognised by the Italian Ministry of Education (MIUR). Our program is structured at the level of international BFA studies; however they carry private accreditation through E.A.B.H.E.S. (European Accreditation Board of Higher Education Schools).

The MFA is a two-year degree program focused on the exploration, development and realisation of an individual project in contemporary jewellery. It guides students through a wide range of creative approaches while developing analytical and communication skills. The program aims to foster a deeper critical understanding of the discipline, strengthen individual artistic approaches and positions, and explore new possibilities for marketing and promotion.

A limited number of students is admitted in order to preserve focus and intensity, and to ensure meaningful, personalised interaction between the students and our international tutors, who provide guidance and support through one-to-one tutoring throughout the course.

The Master's thesis comprises a theoretical written component and a jewellery collection, presented in a final solo exhibition curated in every aspect by the student.

During the first year, students work in the main workshop in Piazza Piattellina; in the second year, they have access to the Master studio, located a few steps from the school's main building and reserved for Master's students.

Every student is granted full access to
- the school's facilities and equipment
- an exclusive workshop

Each student is assigned:
- Personal workbench
- Personal torch

Students' work is promoted through participation in exhibitions, international fairs and competitions, fostering a broad professional network in the field of contemporary jewellery and maintaining close ties with alumni, who often continue to collaborate, including by establishing jewellery studios together.

Graduates go on to work with prestigious international jewellery companies, as well as establishing their own brands, working as entrepreneurs, and opening galleries, workshops and schools worldwide.

MASTER OF FINE ARTS
major in CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY AND CULTURAL IDENTITY

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

FIRST YEAR • MAIN MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER • DECEMBER
Orientation Day
1st Meeting with Tutor David Clarke
Introduction + workshop on research methodologies
Curatorial practice and creative writing with Benjamin Lignel
2nd Meeting with Tutor David Clarke
Technical workshop with Patrick Davison - Forging

JANUARY • JULY
3rd meeting with Tutor David Clarke
Technical Workshop with Patrick Davison
Curatorial practice and creative writing with Benjamin Lignel
4th meeting with Tutor David Clarke
5th meeting with Tutor David Clarke
6th meeting Tutor + Examination + Exhibition - David Clarke
Final Exam
End of the year Exhibition

TO BE DEFINED ON THE SCHEDULE

Critique sessions and Follow Up (Lucia Massei and Roberta Consalvo), Cultural Analysis (Carolina Gestri), History of Contemporary Art (Carolina Gestri'), History of Contemporary Jewellery (Carla Movia), Photography and Digital Processing (Federico Cavicchioli), Web Development (Arianna Carletti), Goldsmithing and Technical Lab (Paolo Bernardoni and Sayaka Ito)

MAIN VACATIONS
Christmas Vacation: 3 weeks
Easter Vacation: 1 week

*Please note that the course schedule may be subject to changes. Classes held by the School Coordinator will be added throughout the year. You will be informed in due time of any variation.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

SECOND YEAR • MAIN MEETINGS

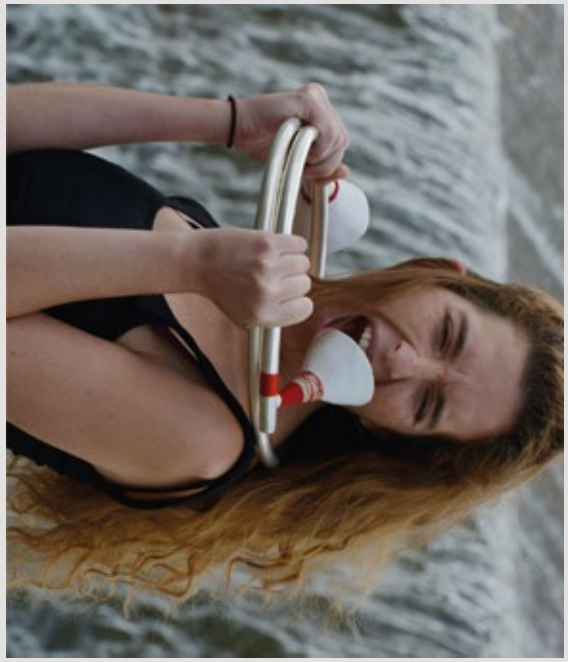
SEPTEMBER • DECEMBER
Introduction to the program by Lucia Massei
1st meeting with Tutor Evert Nijland
Curatorial practice and creative writing with Benjamin Lignel
2nd meeting with Tutor Evert Nijland
Conceptual workshop - Installation Art by Matteo Coluccia

JANUARY • JULY
3rd meeting with Tutor - Evert Nijland
Technical Workshop - Akis Goumas
Curatorial practice and creative writing with Benjamin Lignel
4th meeting with Tutor Evert Nijland
Curatorial practice and creative writing wiht Benjamin Lignel
5th meeting with Tutor Evert Nijland
6th meeting with Tutor + Examination with Tutor Evert Nijland
Final Exam
Master Graduation Show

TO BE DEFINED ON THE SCHEDULE
Critique sessions (Lucia Massei), Cultural Analysis (Carolina Gestri), History of Contemporary Art (Carolina Gestri), Marketing and social media (Lorenzo Migno), Web Development (Arianna Carletti)

MAIN VACATIONS
Christmas Vacation: 3 weeks
Easter Vacation: 1 week

*Please note that the course schedule may be subject to changes. Classes held by the School Coordinator will be added throughout the year. You will be informed in due time of any variation.

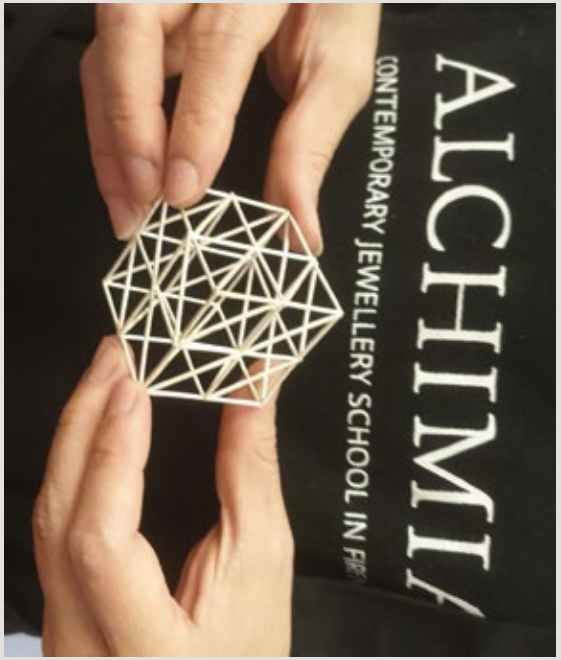


Maria Walker

Anastasia Kandaraki

kristin knoll

Hiu Tung Yip



Yi Chen Tsai

Demma Murad

MASTER OF FINE ARTS
major in CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY AND CULTURAL IDENTITY

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

All credits (ECTS) are designated by a course code composed of letters and numbers (corresponding to the semester study). These course codes will appear on the yearly transcript sent by E.A.B.H.E.S. to all students.

1° YEAR CREDITS

CODE	COURSE UNITS	ECTS CREDITS
MCA-1	MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART HISTORY	9
GTL-1	GOLDSMITHING & TECHNICAL JEWELLERY LAB SPECIALIZATION	12
JP-1	PHOTOGRAPHY & DIGITAL PHOTO PROCESSING	6
ME-1	MATERIAL EXPERIMENTATION	15
RMP-1	RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES & PROCESSES	15
CJH-1	CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY HISTORY	3
	TOTAL CREDITS	**60**

2° YEAR CREDITS

CODE	COURSE UNITS	ECTS CREDITS
CA-2	CULTURAL ANALYSIS	6
EC-2	EXHIBITION CURATING	6
AP-2	ARTICULATION OF PRACTICE	6
GPR-2	GUIDED PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH	15
RA-2	REFLECTIVE ANALYSIS	6
MSM-1	MARKETING & SOCIAL MEDIA	3
DB-2	DIGITAL BRANDING	3
THE-2	THESIS	15
	TOTAL CREDITS	**60**

MASTER OF FINE ARTS
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APPLICATION PROCEDURE

• **Application form:** Download, complete, sign, and return the form together with the entry requirements listed below

• **Evaluation:** The Alchimia Board of Direction will review your application. Please note that, in some cases, a decision cannot be made based solely on the application form. In such instances, you may be invited to a meeting, if you are near Florence, or to an online interview.

• **Result and enrolment:** You will be informed of the outcome. If selected, you will receive the Enrolment Form to complete your registration.

• **Acceptance and visa:** Alchimia will issue the Acceptance Letter and provide the necessary documents to obtain your student visa. From this point, you are officially enrolled in Alchimia's Bachelor Program.

DOCUMENTS TO SUBMIT

Please submit the following documents along with your MFA Application Form to info@alchimia.it

- Recommendation Letter
- Letter of intent
- Creative Portfolio (15 pages maximum)
- Bachelor official transcript (English version)
- Detailed CV (pdf format)
- English Language Certificate (Upper B2/C1)

Yara Diaz

PORTAFOLIO TIPS

When creating your portfolio, think carefully about the impression you wish to convey.

Approach your portfolio as an artistic work in its own, ensuring a natural and coherent flow from beginning to end. You are encouraged to include written notes, concepts, sketches, illustrations, videos, short texts, and a selection of works that you are prepared to discuss.

Do not feel restricted by the conventions of a standard portfolio.

Your digital portfolio should be submitted as a single PDF file, with a maximum size of 50 MB and no more than 15 pages.

THE WORKSHOPS / STUDIOS

Alchimia · Piazza Piattellina

Master 2 Studio, Via San Giovanni

THE JEWELLERY WORKSHOP IS NATURALLY LIGHT-FILLED AND WELL-EQUIPPED, PROVIDING AN IDEAL SPACE WHERE STUDENTS CAN COMBINE NEW TECHNOLOGIES WITH TRADITIONAL ANCIENT TECHNIQUES.

FACILITIES

The workshop at Alchimia is furnished with Italian jewellery benches, butane torches, lamps and flex shafts. The common workspace includes all essential stations and equipment, as well as all basic tools and machinery crucial to jewellery making. It features:

4 Workshop Zones, 2 Hammering Stations, Forging Station, Melting station, Sand-Casting Station, Polishing Station,External Station For Experimentation, Microscope Stone Setting and Engraving Laboratory, Theoretical Classrooms, Library, Vitrine Installation Space, Garden and Terrace.

The Master 2 Studio is also very well-equipped and will be available for the students even on the weekends.

Every student has access to their own individual jewellery bench, for the entire duration of the program, ensuring they can develop their creative projects and ideas. Knowledgeable technical instructors are always present to provide guidance and support during the week

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Additional opportunities for conversation and exchange occur during breaks in the private garden overlooking the workshop.

Classes are held in the morning and afternoon, from Monday to Friday.

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MASTER FACULTY

David Clarke
MFA 1st Year Tutor

Evert Nijland
MFA 2nd Year Tutor

Lucia Massei
Founder, Director and MFA 1st Year
Critique sessions and Follow Up

Benjamin Lignel
Teacher of Creative Writing and Curating

Carolina Gestri
Teacher of History of Contemporary Art
and Cultural Analysis

ALCHIMIA AROUND THE WORLD

JOIN THE ALCHIMIA COMMUNITY AND ENGAGE IN EXPERIENCES THAT WILL SHAPE YOUR PRESENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

ALCHIMIA TRAVELS AROUND THE GLOBE, TAKING AN ACTIVE PART IN IMPORTANT EXHIBITIONS AND FAIRS, IN ADDITION TO ORGANIZING LECTURES AND SYMPOSIUMS.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

Alchimia's active and growing network of artists offers current and former students valuable professional experience and ongoing support. It also keeps them informed about the latest developments, announcements, competitions, Artist-in-Residence programs, open calls and other opportunities designed to nourish their talent.

As our student, you are encouraged and supported to broaden your experience and forge life-long connections that enhance your career prospects, both now and in the future.Our website and social media platforms serve as active tools to share news, spark dialogue and foster connections.

Alchimia maintains strong international ties that enable students to engage with diverse artistic communities around the world. These connections open pathways to cultural exchange, exposure to different working contexts and a broader artistic outlook, enriching both personal growth and professional development.

A ring is a ring is a ring London Design Week

Galerie Marzee, Nijmegen · The Netherlands

Melting Point, Valencia · Spain

im-mà-gi-nà, Taipei · Taiwan

ALCHIMIA
Contemporary Jewellery School in Firenze

CURIOUS ABOUT OUR COURSES? MORE QUESTIONS ON YOUR MIND?

We are happy to talk more.
Start the conversation by sending us an email:
info@alchimia.it or calling us at +39 055 2396154.

ARE YOU IN FLORENCE?

Get in touch by email to book a free school tour.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9:30am -12:30pm I 2:30pm - 5:30pm

OUR LOCATION

Piazza Piattellina 3/R, 50124. Florence, Italy

Alchimia Contemporary Jewellery School in Firenze

@alchimia.jewellery

@infoalchimia8563

alchimia-jewellery-school-580b762a

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