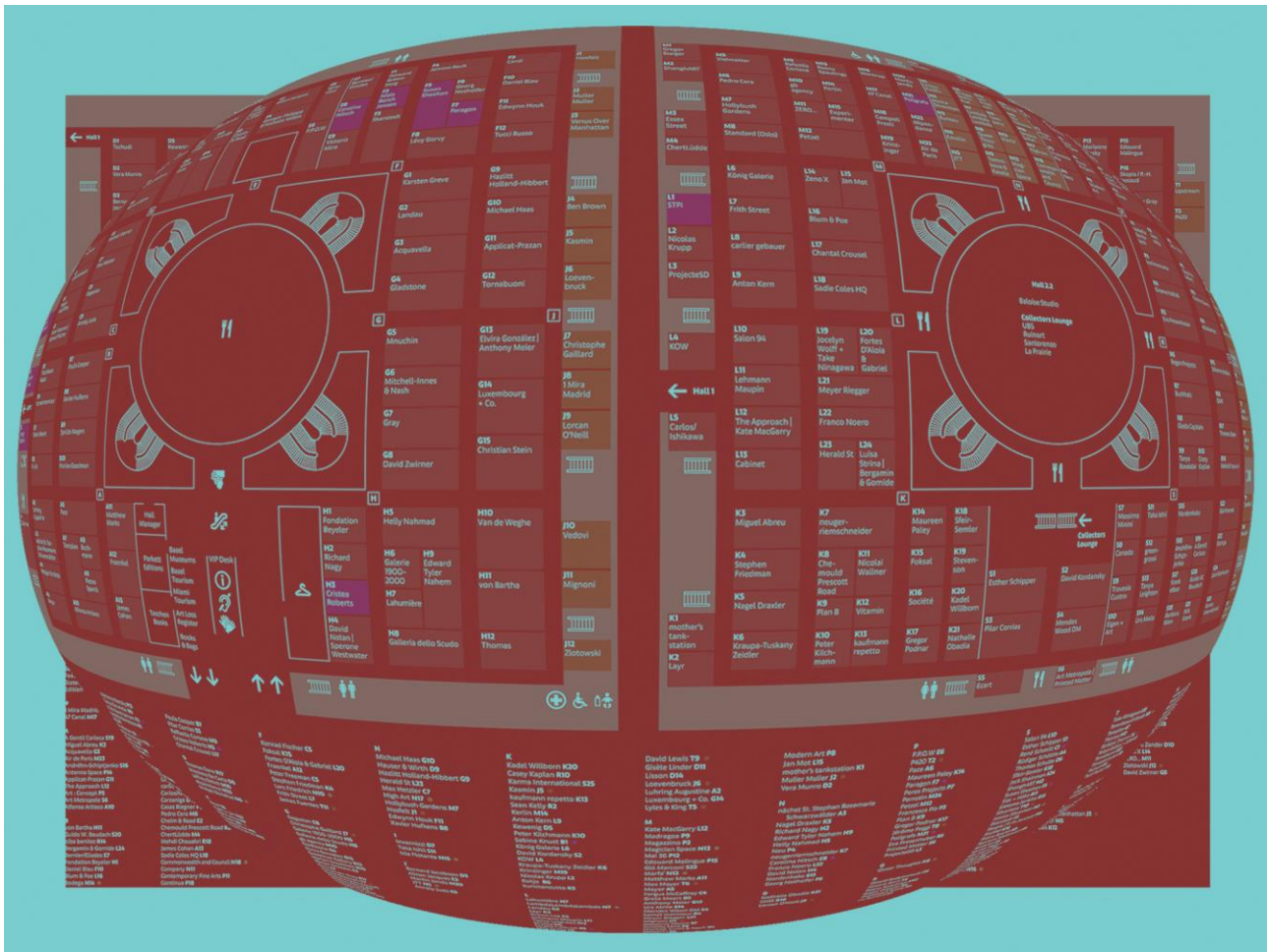


# AAVS BASEL – ART BASEL

## The Materiality of Art Fairs

13-23 June 2023



Art Basel Miami Beach, Floor Plan, image manipulation by Ibrahim Kombarji.

### DESCRIPTION

**Brief:** One of the major commonalities of international art fairs like Art Basel, Frieze London, and The Armory Show in New York, is the gigantic mobilization of materials and bodies that, from disparate parts of the globe, travel to aggregate in one place (for a week or so) before moving on to a new destination. It's an endless cycle of assembling and disassembling the material and the social components that constitute them. Through the lens of materiality, by which these events unfold, this summer school will take a critical look at world fairs, expos, biennials and triennials, and the works of artists, architects, urbanists, curators, and institutions involved in them. This will be done according to a double register of materialism: one inspired by theories and methodologies of the material turn in the social sciences, and the other one inscribed into the market logics of material consumption and accumulation that foreground phenomena of extractive capitalism and exclusionary urbanism. On the occasion of Art Basel 2023, the summer school will provide the students with visitor passes and guided tours of the exhibitions and will ask them to identify and visualize under-observed social and urban phenomena linked to the fair. After the visits, the students will be challenged to reimagine the art fair through project-based urban interventions that

hinge on the material artifacts that constitute them—from artworks to publications, exhibition spaces, museum buildings, and the cities that host them.

**Format:** The summer school will be hosted at the University of Basel, Urban Studies division, and will consist of 2 days of intensive seminars and tutorials (readings, discussions, and frontal lectures), 3 days of field research and interpretation of data (including guided tours at Art Basel), and 5 days for the preparation of the final work (texts, drawings, printed and physical works, and presentations). During the seminar, the students will address a variety of critical and theoretical literature and relevant research work by artists, architects, urbanists, scholars, and curators. Tutors will provide the students with short tutorials on investigative research, drawing techniques, photography, filmmaking, storytelling, and public speaking. The seminar will serve as a forum to discuss students' interests and ideas, and for planning the field research through which they will document and analyze "the materiality of art fairs." As a final work, the students will focus on creating and delivering proposals that forge critical urban interventions by mobilizing the material dimensions of the art fairs.

**Outcome:** The final work deliverables will take the form of print-based visualizations, publication mock-ups, exhibition concepts, artworks, short films, or a combination of them. Regardless of format, the final work should contain evidence of substantial and original research conducted during the summer school, and a physical component that can be exhibited or deployed during an art fair. Students will work in groups under the supervision of tutors in a supportive workshop environment that will hone in on each participant's research agenda and approach to "the materiality of art fairs." The course aims at providing theoretical foundations and qualitative tools of research, analysis, and representation to identify and document complex material trajectories in the city as well as to interpret and narrativize them into project-based interventions. Final works will be publicly presented.

## **PROMINENT FEATURES OF THE WORKSHOP/ SKILLS DEVELOPED**

- Critical Thinking
- Architectural/ Exhibition Design
- Explorative Urban Research
- Documentary Production
- Curatorial Methods
- Visual Essay Production
- Editorial Production
- Writing/Storytelling
- Photography/Filmmaking
- Lecture Series
- Access to Art Basel 2023

An interdisciplinary group of tutors will provide the students with short tutorials on design, research methods and multimedia practices. The program will feature guest lectures, public events, and a final exhibition.

## **RESEARCH AGENDA**

Cultural and Critical Histories

## **DATES**

Start/End: 13-23 June 2023

## **ELIGIBILITY**

The programme is open to current university students, recent graduates, and young professionals in architecture, urbanism, design, arts and related fields. Required software: Microsoft Office (or equivalent), Adobe CS, and 2D/3D CAD (for architects only).

## **VISAS**

All participants travelling from abroad are responsible for securing any visa required and are advised to contact their home embassy early. An official letter can be issued by the Programme Head(s) (international)/Visiting School Office (UK) confirming enrolment onto the programme once an applicant has settled their full fees, this letter can be used when applying for a visa (international)/ as supporting documents when entering the UK. (UK programmes)

## **LOCATION**

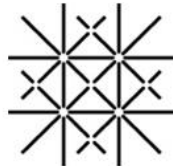
University of Basel, Department of Social Sciences, Urban Studies Division  
Spalenvorstadt 2, CH-4051 Basel, Switzerland.

## **INSURANCE**

All participants are responsible for securing their own travel and health insurance. Please ensure that your travel insurance also covers your personal belongings i.e. laptop, equipment, tools, passport etc. The AA and the University of Basel take no responsibility for lost/ stolen property.

## **IN COLLABORATION WITH**

**Critical  
Urbanisms**



**University  
of Basel**

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### Programme Head

**Fabrizio Furiassi** is an architect, scholar and educator from Rome, based in New York and Basel. He teaches architectural history/theory and design studio at The New School, Parsons School of Design, and material investigations at the University of Basel, Urban Studies division, where he is pursuing doctoral studies in architectural and urban history. Furiassi holds master's degrees from Columbia University GSAPP and La Sapienza University of Rome. He also studied at the Moscow Architectural Institute, and was a research fellow at the Strelka Institute for Media, Architecture and Design. His current research exposes the relations between urban transformations and material flows, using theories and methodologies from the social sciences, to centralize the agency of construction materials in historical change. Besides academia, he has over ten years of experience at cutting-edge architecture firms and cultural institutions in Europe, Asia, and North America. Fabrizio is the founder and co-director of Distributed Architecture, a New York-based practice versed in urban research and participatory design initiatives that connect and strengthen communities, with

ongoing projects in NYC's public housing. At the AA, Fabrizio is programme head at the visiting school in Basel, and co-leads a unit at the visiting school in Seoul.

#### Admin and Teaching Assistant

**Vinicio Altmann** is an MA student at the University of Basel, Urban Studies division. He received his BA in Social Anthropology and Philosophy from the University of Fribourg, where he served as president of the student association and as a student representative for the Social Sciences at the Humanities Faculty Council. Vinicio's research focuses on informal settlements, and employs methods and concepts stemming from varied traditions of sociology of action and cultural studies. He currently works as a student assistant at the University of Basel.

#### Tutors

**Jumanah Abbas** is an architect, writer, and curator currently working on the upcoming Qatar Museums' Quadrennial project, a multi-site art exhibition opening next year. Prior to that, she served as spatial designer at Tasmeeem Biennial 2022/ Radical Futures and collaborated with several institutions such as the London School of Economics, Birzeit University, Al Marsad, and the Arab Human Rights Center in Golan Heights. Jumanah is a graduate of the American University of Sharjah and the MS Critical, Conceptual & Curatorial Practices program at Columbia University GSAPP.

**Aleksandra Budaeva** is an architect and teaches at TU Wien, research unit "Gestaltungslehre und Entwerfen." She graduated in architecture from the Moscow Architectural Institute and worked at architecture offices including 2A+P/A and ma0 studio d'architettura in Rome, and Meganom in Moscow. Prior to join TU Wien, Aleksandra taught architectural design at MARCH Architecture School in Moscow.

**Katharina Ehrl** is an art historian and assistant curator at the Museum für Neue Kunst/ Museum of Contemporary Art in Freiburg, Germany. Her current research focuses on alternate realities in contemporary Middle Eastern art. She is the co-founder of Sumac Space, an initiative devoted to art practices in the Middle East. Katharina holds BA and MA in Art History from the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich.

**Ibrahim Kombarji** is an architect and design researcher currently based in Milan, Italy, where he leads major exhibition design and research projects at Formafantasma. He has also previously collaborated with offices in New York, Paris, and Beirut. Ibrahim's work explores the entanglements of design, ecology, and geopolitics, and his writings have been published in Bartlett Journal, Domus, Humboldt and Lampoon magazine.

**Ekaterina Wittwer-Nuzhdina** is an architect at Herzog & de Meuron in Basel. She graduated in architecture from the Moscow Architectural Institute and gained extensive experience in design and research at Meganom in Moscow, and OMA in Rotterdam, Hong Kong and New York.

**Hanxiao Yang** is a registered architect in the State of New York, a member of the AIA, and a LEED accredited professional. She has a broad professional experience as a senior design associate at The Durst Organization and design associate at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, in New York City, where she served as lead architect on several mixed-use, residential, retail, and civic projects. Hanxiao is originally from Beijing, China, received her Master of Architecture from Columbia University GSAPP, New York, and her Bachelor of Science in Architecture from Politecnico di Torino, Italy.

#### Together with Critics and Speakers

**Catherine Ahn** (AAVS Seoul), **Giorgio Castellano** (Politecnico di Milano), **Daqian Cao** (Japan Society NY), **Stanley Cho** (Outside Development NY), **Patrick Düblin** (ETH Zurich), **Luca Galofaro** (University of Camerino), **Marina Montresor** (ETH Zurich), **Stanislava Predojevic** (Architect), **Davide Spina** (ETH Zurich), **Lea-Catherine Szacka** (University of Manchester) and many more.

## **CONTACT**

Programme Head

Fabrizio Furiassi, [fabrizio.furiassi@unibas.ch](mailto:fabrizio.furiassi@unibas.ch)

Vinicio Altmann, [v.altmann@unibas.ch](mailto:v.altmann@unibas.ch)

**URL TO FACEBOOK:** [https://www.instagram.com/aavs\\_basel](https://www.instagram.com/aavs_basel)

**URL TO INSTAGRAM:** <https://www.facebook.com/aavsbasel>