

THE STUDY PROGRAMME

CIRCUS ARTIST. CREATOR/PERFORMER. RESEARCHER. ENTREPRENEUR.

To become a high level circus artist with a distinctive artistic profile, a broad and intensive study programme is vital.

The study programme of Codarts Circus Arts is built on four pillars: the circus artist, the creator/performer, the researcher, and the entrepreneur.

Year 1 and 2

Year 1 and 2 are the foundation years of the study.

In group classes, the students are trained in several basic circus techniques: object manipulation, handstand, trampoline, ground acrobatics, and group acrobatics.

In the first semester, introduction classes in several circus disciplines are offered. In the second semester, students – in agreement with the specialization teacher and the head of the school – choose the specialization in which they want to excel. If needed, students can choose to use some of their specialization hours for another circus discipline that supports their main discipline.

Apart from the circus group classes, there are group classes in the artistic areas of theatre, dance, music, and movement improvisation/composition.

Circus Arts students have to learn to create their own work, develop stage presence, and present their work in front of an audience. In 'own work', students are given assignments for a solo or duet. The presentations take place in a safe setting within the school.

Aside from their individual project, circus students will learn to work together in a group production, which is directed by a dance choreographer (year 1) or a theatre director (year 2). The performances take place either in the main hall of the circus building or in an external theatre.

Physical preparation

To prepare for a day of physical training, students start with a Physical Preparation class, which can be a ballet training or a circus-based training. Flexibility classes are offered at the end of the day.

The first and last week of the training programme are focused on physical preparation for the school year or the maintenance of a reduced training programme and physical fitness during the summer holiday.

Theoretical subjects

A circus artist needs to reflect on their own profession and the relation to the external world and has to develop research skills.

In the theoretical classes of Circus History & Professional Orientation and Culture World Wide & Art Orientation, students will reflect on their own profession and the broader art world.

Nutrition, performance preparation, injury prevention, anatomy, and physical fitness are taught in the modules Health and Wellbeing.

Laban Movement Analysis, with the basic elements of Body, Space, and Effort provide the useful tools to analyze, create, and improve movement in combination with Circus skills.