In 2014, all internal and external educational and personal activities within the Umeå Academy of Fine Arts were directed towards the development of a sustainable and inclusive environment, emphasizing a working environment characterized by equality and tolerance with ethical challenges being taken seriously.

Due to an unsuccessful recruitment of a new prefect in 2013 and after Daniel Kallos (Professor Emeritus) left his position as the Prefect, the Faculty appointed Micael Norberg (Senior Lecturer) as the Head of Department and Swetlana Heger-Davis (Professor) as his Deputy in April 2014. Gerd Aurell was appointed as the Director of Studies.

The current leadership is in a direct and regular dialogue with the Faculty and promotes open, transparent and coordinated management. It devotes the university’s resources to strengthen artistic research and development, education and dissemination.

The main focus of the new leadership was set on implementing new ideas to educate students and develop artistic research that will contribute to and challenge our society in the next years. The existing structures were carefully reviewed and in a step-by-step process updated and adapted to new strategies, visions and educational demands. The structure of the Master Program was updated to the contemporary needs and international standards, reviewing and including all residing and visiting educators and students.

Reference: Academy's strategy plan for 2015-2016


http://www.art.umu.se/media/865320/VP_2015_16.pdf

To strengthen the Academy’s international context and relevance, the students and staff were visibly profiled participants in several international projects.

MFA1 exhibition “ZUR ZEIT-Where we came from” at the Kuenstlerhaus Palais Thurn & Taxis, Bregenz/Austria (Project leader: Swetlana Heger-Davis), February-March 2014

BFA and MFA Group exhibition “Passing” at the Academy of Media Arts in Warsaw (Project leader: Micael Norberg), establishing of Erasmus exchange agreement with the Academy, December 2014

MA level, establishing of exchange program (portfolio development) with the Siena Art Institute (Project leader: Swetlana Heger-Davis) Application for a partner project within Erasmus+ will be filed in 2015.

Nordic Sound Art, a collaborative project within the KUNO network together with Norway, Finland, Denmark (Project Leader: Micael Norberg)

The Art Academy was actively involved in the cultural activities during Umeå2014 (Survival Kit, Project leader: Gerd Aurell, Maskinen Art Boat, Trailer Gallery).

In order to offer an education on the highest possible standard, the Umeå Art Academy invited and worked with lecturers and artists with high reputation:

Matt Saunders (Artist, Assistant Professor of Visual and Environmental Studies, Harvard University)
Eran Schaerf (Artist/Professor, Zurich Hochschule der Kuenste)
Ute Meta Bauer (Curator/Art Critic, Director of NTU Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapur, Associate Professor MIT)
Adrian Notz (Curator/Director Cabaret Voltaire, DADA Foundation, Zurich)
Following KU projects were realized in 2014:
A permanent mark on a physical body, Micael Norberg
Publication ISBN:978-91-981846-2-4

Freedom of Difficulty/Difficulty of Freedom, Erla Haraldsdottir

Fragmentations, Per Nilsson
Collaboration between Arkitekthögskolan and Konsthögskolan

Kite Aerial Photography, Micael Norberg
Publication ISBN:978-91-981846-1-7

Saint Paul, Francois Bucher
Movie, ready during 2015

Gerd Aurell performance “Non Serviam.” at Galleri Verkligheten, Pilgatan 16, Umeå together with Per Nilsson, 1 Dec 2014

Axe Apollo, Rasmus Nielsen
Movie, ready during 2015

Open form, Florian Zeyfang
Movie, ready during 2015

Performance Philosophy, Per Nilsson
Performance “With a Little Death Around the Eyes” at Galleri Verkligheten, Umeå Pilgatan 16, Umeå together with SU-EN, 26 April 2014

Shutter Angle 172.5°, Micael Norberg
Movie, ready during 2015

Where is my mind (Shifting Values)…, Swetlana Heger-Davis
Exhibition: National Center for Contemporary Art/Samara Russia August 2014 - September 2014
Presentation at National Center for Contemporary Art/Samara Russia och Ilya Repin Museum/Shiryaevo Russia, August 2014, Interview/Discussion on the Russian TV Channel zasekin.ru

Another goal of the Academy was the implementation of a real experience outside the educational frame and the increase of externally funded activities by offering innovative and attractive programs to society and to the business community.

In the context of Art & Entrepreneurship (Project leader: Swetlana Heger), several MA1 students took part in a collaborative project with HSB in Ålidhem where one large scaled public commission was realized and financed by the partner company. This partnership was successful and will continue in 2015.

During the Spring semester of 2014, 16 students graduated at Bachelor level and 14 students at Masters level. In the Fall term, 16 students were accepted for the Bachelor program and 13 for the Master program. There were 3
exchange students participating in our programs in 2014. There is an ongoing collaboration between the Art Academy and the Bildmuseet, Nordic Sound Art and the Siena Art Institute.

Courses Fall 2014

Konstnärligt gestaltningsarbete inom kandidatprogrammet A 1FK040  
*Guest teacher: Erla Haraldsdottir and Carin Ellberg*

Introduktion till kandidatprogrammet i fri konst 1FK038  
*Junior Lecturer Trygge Lundberg, Junior Lecturer Gunno Bengtsson, Guest teachers: Henrik Ekesioö, Mattias Ericsson, Ann Edholm, Brit Hillbom, Henrik Ekesioö and Billy Davis*

Den Fria konstens teori och historia A 1FK039  
*Senior Lecturer Micael Norberg, Senior Lecturer Anna Rådström*

Konstnärligt gestaltningsarbete inom kandidatprogrammet C 1FK044  
*Guest teacher: Julia Peirone*

Den Fria konstens teori och historia C 1FK043  
*Senior Lecturer Gerd Aurell*

Konstnärligt gestaltningsarbete inom kandidatprogrammet E 1FK049  
*Guest teacher Magnus Wallin*

Konstnärligt arbete i dagens samhälle 1FK047  
*Guest teacher: Fanny Carinasdotter*

Kreativt skrivande 1FK048  
*Guest teacher: Mara Lee Gerden*

Artistic work on master level A, 1FK053  
*Professor Florian Zeyfang*

Art and artistic work in today’s society A, - 1FK051  
*Guest teacher Dennis Dahlqvist, and Professor Swetlana Heger Davis*

Artistic processes and research methods A, - 1FK052  
*Professor Florian Zeyfang, Professor Swetlana Heger Davis and Senior Lecturer Per Nilsson*

Artistic work on master level C, 25.5 credits - 1FK059  
*Professor Swetlana Heger Davis*

Art and artistic work in today’s society B, - 1FK057  
*Guest teacher: Adrian Notz, Angela Rosenberg, Montse Badia, Andreas Schlaegel and Corinne Charpentier.*

Artistic processes and research methods B, - 1FK058  
*Teacher: Phd student Francois Bucher*

Personal:  
Employees in 2014:  
Micael Norberg (Head), Swetlana Heger (100% professor), Rasmus Nielsen (50% professor) Florian Zeyfang (50% professor), Per Nilsson (Senior Lecturer), Gerd Aurell (Senior Lecturer/Director of Studies), Trygge
Lundberg, (Junior Lecturer), Gunno Bengsson (Junior Lecturer), Susanne Andegras, Jeanette Nilsson, Monica Granberg, Robert Djärv

Rasmus Nielsen (Professor 50%) did not extend his contract as expected. Since Florian Zeyfang’s (Professor 50%) contract is ending in October 2015, the Faculty and the leadership of the Art Academy decided to combine the two 50% positions and call for a 100% professor, based in Umeå for 2015.

**PhD Candidates:**
Francois Bucher, Janna Holmstedt, Cecilia Parsberg