

RESEARCH THEME

XLII Cycle – a.y. 2026/2027

Title of the doctoral research	Rethinking the role of the Arts in Design Culture
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Abstract

Art and design disciplines are going through a period of substantial transformation. If the increasing complexity of contextual conditions pushes design towards new fields of research and action, then reflection and production in the field of art appear equally varied.

The study originates from the awareness that this new condition questions and redesigns their mutual relations. Moreover, it acknowledges the vocation of both art and design to verify and overcome their disciplinary limits in search of relationships and comparisons with other fields. This vocation demonstrates how innovation resides in the contiguous territories: where skills mix, margins fade, and paths intertwine, research finds fertile ground for development.

The study aims to explore issues such as:

_What are the areas in which art and design can still collaborate to generate visions, environments, objects, and services?

_What themes can this renewed collaboration address, in light of the changed social and market conditions?

_What are the methods and tools for this interaction in design research and practice?

Providing answers to these questions sets an ambitious goal. First of all, it is necessary to draw a map of the reciprocal new relations between art and design, starting with identifying a series of specific in-depth studies, each of which can motivate a whole doctoral research. To this effect, the research proposes a long-term program divided into phases, with the contribution of several researchers.

Keywords	visual and performing arts, reflective practice, design theory
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